

# The Wolf Howl



Chandler High School || December 2024

## Chandler’s Homecoming Parade blends tradition, modern school spirit

by Bella Dana, Editor-In-Chief



BSU club, photo by Bella Dana

Although Chandler High School has many treasured Homecoming season traditions, new students may have many questions. Who created the first Homecoming parade? When did we start holding a parade? Why do we continue this tradition year after year? The lore of the CHS Homecoming Parade is deep, and we set out to dig into the details.

Ms. Amanda Austermann, CHS Student Council sponsor, explains that Chandler High School has held an annual Homecoming Parade for almost half a century: “The parade used to be held on Arizona Avenue during the 40 or so years it’s been around.” Years ago, the Homecoming Parade included members of the Chandler community and surrounding neighborhoods, but these days, participation is limited to mostly students, parents, and alumni. Although the parade has changed over the years, the same school spirit still shines: “The Home-

coming parade is still useful for clubs, sports, and activities to connect more with others,” said Ms. Austermann. Now, the annual Homecoming Parade is a chance for new students and underclassmen to see the true colors of Chandler High and a spirited event that caps off one of the most memorable weeks of the school year.

This year’s Homecoming Parade was an opportunity for clubs and athletics teams to participate, including Black Student Union, Unified Soccer, Auto Club, Marching Band, ITS, Latinx Student Union, and more.

Principal Greg Milbrandt shares similar thoughts as Ms. Austermann. “The Homecoming parade is a great activity for our students,” he said. “It’s exciting for all the groups in the parade, and it’s exciting for the community members who come out and watch it.” In the last few years, many of the events held during Homecoming Week were planned with

students in mind and designed to balance fun and safety. Mr. Milbrandt’s favorites are the Homecoming football game and dance.

“This is a great school with a great school spirit,” Mr. Milbrandt said. “It’s amazing to see activities like this because everyone gets involved and has fun with it.”

The parade is an opportunity for students of different clubs and groups to show off their true colors. This year, members of LSU built an astounding club float featuring bright colors to represent Mexican culture. They worked on their float for almost two weeks to proudly represent their cultural heritage.

Sofia Armenta, a senior who is a fourth-year member of Latinx Student Union, explained that although it can be scorching hot in Arizona, the parade should not be missed: “It’s a lot of fun! I know many students don’t like coming out here due to the heat, but

it’s something special that I’ve done all four years of high school.”

Tamiah Briggs, a junior and a member of Black Student Union and BSU Step Team, agreed with Sofia. “I like how involved the students get to be, like planning out what their float’s going to look like,” Tamiah said. “I’m happy to be a part of it.”

BSU also worked on their float for two weeks and even planned a dance performance during the parade to share with the CHS community. “We wanted to express our creativity. We weren’t following an exact theme, but we wanted a lot of elements to express our creative side,” Tamiah explained.

Although the Chandler High School Homecoming parade has evolved in many ways over the years, it is an annual tradition that matters a great deal to students, teachers, and community members.

## Almost Monday’s debut album takes you on a trip through summer nostalgia

by Ipshita Chowdhury, Reporter

Picture this: salt in the air, sand stuck to your legs, the tang of sunscreen lingering as the sun dips below the waves. That’s *DIVE*, Almost Monday’s debut album, an album that’s like flipping through Polaroids of late summer nights. This Southern California trio—Dawson Daugherty, Cole Clisby, and Luke Fabry—has crafted an album that’s not just a great listen but a nostalgic experience, packed with 11 tracks that blend surfy guitars, irresistible hooks, and that special kind of summer warmth.

The title track “Dive” opens like the beginning of a dream, channeling a retro feel reminiscent of ‘50s and ‘60s choruses. Its lyrics (“Hoping you’ll remember me / Hoping it’s not just a dream”) set a wistful tone before the band jumps into the vibrant, sun-drenched world of “Is It Too Late?,” where guitars echo and the upbeat tempo feels like racing down a coastal road.

Through tracks like “Never Enough” and “You Look So Good”, Almost Monday delivers catchy tunes that balance the sweetness of new love with all its uncertainties. In “Never Enough”, the lyrics, “You’re my favorite part of every day / No, I never really say it enough,” capture a simple, heart-on-your-sleeve confession.

With this album, Almost Monday delivers an audial trip that transports you back to your best summer memories.

*DIVE* is available on multiple streaming platforms, including Spotify, Apple Music, and more.



CHS Swim prepares for state meet  
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Minecraft Movie trailer faces backlash  
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## CHROMAKOPIA is Tyler, The Creator's most personal project yet

by Tristan Ortega, Reporter

Music lovers across the world eagerly awaited the release of Tyler's *CHROMAKOPIA* on October 28, 2024. Despite having spent the latter half of his life within the public eye, garnering both admiration and resentment throughout his simultaneously beloved and notorious career, the artist born Tyler Gregory Okonma, now 33, has maintained a surprisingly reserved personal identity. Throughout his projects thus far, Tyler grapples with the tension between nurturing his musical passion and finding something beyond his creative endeavors as he ages.

The opening track is "St. Chroma", which begins with the voice of Okonma's mother, reminding him: "Don't you ever... dim your life for nobody." Tyler's understanding of his self-worth is a recurring theme throughout the track list, but it is only half of the double-edged sword slicing apart the album's concepts. The proceeding songs "Noid" and "Darling, I" explore the sense of alienation festering within Tyler as a result of his ever-heightening success. In "Noid", Tyler muses over the dangers of fame and celebrity, while "Darling, I" explores his seeming inability to maintain a long-lasting relationship with anyone but himself. Tyler addresses this again in "Hey Jane", structured as a conversation between "T" and a woman named "Jane" about a positive pregnancy test and the possibility of parenthood.

As the album nears its final few songs, "Take Your Mask Off" reflects the initial message of finding pride in one's identity. Within its verses, Tyler addresses those who hide their true selves away, whether it be gang members attempting to prove their manhood, mothers who sacrifice their dreams for their children, or closeted men who deny their sexuality. In the closing track, "I Hope You Find Your Way Home" Tyler ultimately leaves the struggle between his pride and maturity without a clear winner.

In the weeks before the album's debut, a rapid onslaught of promotional material was released to accompany it. By far the most exciting announcement to come from the leadup to *CHROMAKOPIA* was the unveiling of *CHROMAKOPIA: THE WORLD TOUR*. Tyler, alongside artists Lil Yachty and Paris Texas, will be traveling around the globe in 2025. If you're one of the millions of listeners who helped *CHROMAKOPIA* smash records across numerous charts, you can sing your heart out alongside Tyler, The Creator at the Footprint Center on the 12th of March 2025.

*CHROMAKOPIA* is available for streaming now on multiple platforms, including Spotify, Apple Music, and more.



## Fans react to long-awaited Minecraft movie trailer release

by Hugo Ortega, Reporter

Since its 2009 release, Minecraft has reached millions of players worldwide and is now the best-selling video game of all time. Fans were excited when the game's creator, Markus Persson, and Warner Bros. Pictures announced a movie adaptation back in 2014. However, an entire decade has passed since the initial announcement, as a result of multiple staff changes, script modifications, and major production changes.

The first trailer for Minecraft was released on September 4, 2024. Fans of the franchise have already reacted negatively to this trailer.

Many fans are disappointed that the movie is live-action rather than animation. Nathan Beeswy, a CHS junior, stated, "I was kind of weirded out because it was all live action." Beeswy argued that choosing to make a live-action movie was a terrible decision. He believes that the film's visual style should focus on the unique, cartoonish aspects of the game rather than taking a realistic approach that doesn't make the adaptation look accurate to the games.

During the Minecraft Live 2024 stream, director Jared Hess explained that the live-action style was purposely intended to set the movie apart from

the wide range of fan-made animation entertainment that are already available online. "Creators have made such amazing stories, and short films, and content in the animation space," said Hess (MovieWeb 2024). A live-action style, in his opinion, would separate the film from the community-driven content that already dominates websites like YouTube.

As the fans get ready for the film's premiere, now slated for April 4, 2025, their first impressions might not accurately represent what is to come. Only time will tell if the film can live up to the expectations of its loyal fan base.

## Three Restaurants Worth Checking Out in Chandler

by Roselyn Johnson, Reporter

We all know that one craving you get every once and a while for a mouthwatering cheeseburger or some fresh tacos. Many of us have that special spot we go to when the cravings hit, but have you ever been interested in other students' favorite places? If you're looking to switch things up, here are some local spots that are trending today.

bb.q Chicken is an authentic Korean fried chicken restaurant now located close by on Chandler Blvd and Dobson Rd. Their chicken is made using the traditional Korean method of double-frying and tossing in a spicy and sometimes sweet sauce. While their chicken is exquisite, the service is also outstanding. We recommend the Hot Mala sauce, a mix of sweet and hot all in one. This unique restaurant is a

hidden gem definitely worth checking out.

If you're looking for more of a breakfast spot, Downtown Chandler Café & Bakery is certainly the way to go. This bakery is a family-operated and owned restaurant, serving breakfast and lunch daily. Their European-style pastries are perfect for a quick bite or a sweet treat before school or on the weekends. This café gets busy in waves, but the lines move smoothly. Try this place to enjoy their laid-back ambiance and sweet sense of community.

Besides being a great source for healthy eating options, Original ChopShop is also a cozy place to go get some school work done. Students are loving their selection of smoothies for breakfast and chopped salads for lunch. Original ChopShop's downtown

Chandler location is a great place to refuel your body while enjoying a relaxing environment.

The Chandler area offers lots of places for our students to enjoy a bite out this year. If you are looking for some new, trendy, and delicious spots for you and your friends, I recommend checking out these restaurants.



## The Silent Epidemic: The Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

by Ava Peterson, Reporter

Imagine a world where violence against women is three times more likely than any other crime. What if a person had double the chance of being raped? And what if a specific ethnic group was ten times more likely to fall victim to murder than any other? Behind each statistic is a life lost, a community fractured, and a demand for justice that echoes through generations.

Have you heard of MMIW? It stands for Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women. MMIW is a movement to end violence against Native women. It also sheds light on the disproportionately high rates of disappearances and murders of Indigenous women and girls. The MMIW highlights an ongoing crisis that spreads across the U.S. and Canada. Some consider it to be one of the most significant issues affecting Native American communities across the United States. Indigenous women face violence at alarmingly rates, experiencing murder rates more than ten times the national average in some areas. This crisis is further impacted by issues such as underreporting, faulty data collection, and limited media coverage, which make it challenging to understand the full scope of the problem and take action to fix it.

According to data from the Urban Indian Health Institute, Indigenous women are murdered at a 10 times higher rate than the national average. However, due to a history of systemic neglect, cases involving indigenous women often go unsolved or are not

even reported in mainstream media. The lack of visibility compounds the issue, with many victims becoming forgotten names on long unsolved case lists.

Many factors contribute to this crisis. For one, jurisdictional complications often arise on reservations, where local Tribal law enforcement has limited resources and jurisdiction to prosecute non-native perpetrators. Poverty, inadequate healthcare, lack of housing, and high unemployment rates also impact many indigenous communities, leading to an increased vulnerability to violence. Additionally, stereotypes and prejudice against Native Americans can create an environment where these cases are not given the attention they deserve.

Organizations have worked tirelessly to bring attention to these cases. Many of these organizations provide support for the families of missing women, raise awareness, and push for policy changes. One such initiative, the REDress Project by artist Jaime Black, has become a powerful visual symbol, with empty red dresses displayed in public spaces to represent the lost lives of Indigenous Women and raise awareness about the crisis.

In 2021, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced the creation of the Missing and Murdered Unit within the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This unit is tasked with investigating cases of missing and murdered Indigenous people, marking a significant step to-

ward addressing the MMIW crisis at a federal level. The hope is that increased attention and resources will lead to justice for more victims and their families.

For the families of victims, the path to justice is often a long and devastating one. Many families have resorted to investigating on their own. Cierra Toledo, a junior at Metropolitan Art Institute and a member of F.I.N.A.L. Youth Council in Phoenix, expressed her own story: "My own relative was abducted and murdered, and seeing her children grow up without a mother was devastating." From organizing vigils to participating in marches, families and friends of victims have transformed their pain into activism, refusing to let their loved ones become statistics.

The MMIW crisis is a long-standing issue, rooted in a history of colonialism, violence, and systemic neglect. While recent policy changes and increased awareness represent steps in the right direction, there is still a long way to go. Advocates are calling for better funding for Tribal law enforcement, improved data collection on MMIW cases, and more thorough investigations into missing person reports involving Native American women.

There is hope that lasting change will emerge. For now, communities continue to demand justice for those who can no longer speak for themselves, honoring their memory by fighting for a future where Indigenous women are safe, protected, and seen.



# Opinion: The Case for a Colorful Christmas Season

by Nick Hernandez Romero, Reporter

Imagine you walk into your home and all you see is a white tree and white ornaments. Though you'll probably still know it's Christmastime, it won't be as fun as a colorful tree with multi-colored ornaments. We all know Christmas is meant for a lively, colorful feeling, but a new minimalist-inspired "aesthetic" growing in popularity online feels like it's trying to get rid of the life of Christmas.

Although social media influencers would make you believe it's cooler to have an aesthetic, beige-tinged holiday season, Christmas is meant to be its natural colors: red, green, brown, and gold. Read more for my argument for bringing the color back to this holiday season:

**Why is the "Minimalist Christmas" trend so appealing?** We tend to associate subdued, understated colors with the upper middle and high class—think the "quiet luxury" or "old money" trend you see on social media related to clothing and hair. Influencers or people who want to be internet-famous have applied to this home and seasonal decor, often posting photos of an "all-white" Christmas for likes or reposts.

**Who's most likely to fall for the "Minimalist Christmas" trap?** People who are chronically online. Influencers on TikTok, Instagram, and Facebook can give us an unrealistic vision of the world. It's important to look up from our screens and look around us to see what the world really looks like before being staged, cropped, and filtered.

**What's the problem with having a "Minimalist Christmas"?** In my opinion, the aesthetic of white and beige is skewing our perspective of colors in design overall. Color psychology tells us that our brains and emotions are affected by color even at a subconscious level, especially young children. What message might be we sending to kids (and each other) about the purpose of the holiday season?

Although white can be appealing to the eye throughout the year, it's ok to embrace the natural and traditional colors of the season: red, green, and gold. Christmas is meant to be a joyful and jolly time for society. Why make it so bland?

Don't limit your seasonal expressions of joy for a silly social media aesthetic. Fill your space with the things you love and don't hold back. Let's focus more on spending time with the people we love, not curating a perfect feed aesthetic. The holiday season is a time for enjoyment, so do the things you love and have fun!

# CHS teachers, students celebrate abundance of Thanksgiving traditions

by Lily Eaton, Editor and Melanie Harris, Reporter

Thanksgiving is a festive holiday where we traditionally give thanks for the blessing and harvest of the past year. In America, we also celebrate it with a variety of food. The food that's mostly known for eating on Thanksgiving is turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and pie. Although many of us gather with their loved ones for Thanksgiving on the same day, lots of families celebrate it differently. People like to celebrate Thanksgiving not only with food, but also with friends, family, games, or football.

Mr. Esparza, Geometry and Algebra 1 teacher, likes to celebrate with his family: "I like having big traditional family Thanksgivings like with my brother and sisters, but if I could [only] have my wife and kids, I'm okay with that [also]." Mr. Esparza's Thanksgiving tradition is baking pumpkin pie. Other than pumpkin pie, he also likes to bake

a sweet treat involving sweet potatoes on the bottom followed by marshmallows on top and pecans as a crunchy topping. When hosting a Thanksgiving dinner, he often has around 30 people who attend, including his wife and kids, family from California like his brother and sisters, and their kids and spouses. Mr. Esparza likes to celebrate not only with his own family but his wife's extended family as well. Some years, he celebrates with his wife's family, and other times, he will travel to California for his family.

Sophomores Aldo Delgado, Ruben Mendoza, Jaiden Villanzana Flores, and Carlos Paz all celebrate Thanksgiving in their own unique ways. A tradition they all have in common is spending time and enjoying a meal with their families. Aldo shared that Thanksgiving for him is about

the people: "We all come together as a family, and we just enjoy each other's company. It's not about the food; it's about family." A tradition specific to Jaiden is that he spends a lot of time with his cousins. Both Aldo's and Jaiden's families share the tradition of making s'mores after dinner. Ruben said his Thanksgiving consists of not only family but friends as well, and that helps create a sense of togetherness and community. All four students enjoy many different dishes of food at Thanksgiving, but a few of their favorites include mashed potatoes, chicken, macaroni and cheese, rolls, and hot chocolate.

Thanksgiving means different things to different people. Everyone is able to enjoy Thanksgiving however they please, with family or with friends, with ham or with turkey. Unique traditions are what make this holiday so special.



# How does Homecoming season compare in high school versus college?

by Kiley Jacobson, Editor

Homecoming in high school is commonly associated with dancing, rivalry games, and spirit weeks. Is that the case in college?

In high school, homecoming is a highly anticipated event that brings the entire student body together. At many schools, it's a week filled with spirit days, where students dress up according to different themes, and the excitement builds up to the big football game. The game is a central part of the celebration, with the homecoming court being announced and the crowning of the senior king and queen at halftime. After the game, there's often the homecoming dance, where students get dressed up and enjoy a night of music, dancing, and making memories with friends. It's a cherished tradition, often reflecting the tight community of a high school.

In colleges and universities, homecoming often takes on a completely different vibe. Homecoming is a time for alumni (graduates and former students) to return to their alma mater, reconnect with old friends, and relive their college days. The festivities often span an entire weekend. "The events are way more event-based and last longer than just a night," said Makena Colihan, a freshman at Northern Arizona University and CHS Class of 2024 graduate. In Makena's experience at NAU, there are tailgating parties, parades, and various

reunions. The football game remains a highlight, but the scale is often much more significant, with a more giant stadium and intense rivalry. College homecoming weekends often include various activities beyond the game, such as concerts, comedy shows, and other entertainment options, catering to a diverse student body and alumni network. Claire Jones, also a CHS Class of 2024 graduate and freshman at NAU, stated, "The carnival and entertainment was something people were excited for because there were actual rides and activities, and it was free to enter if you are an undergraduate student." Some universities still hold a homecoming dance, but it is often less formal and more about enjoying the college experience with both current students and graduates.

Overall, while high school homecoming is about school spirit and creating lasting memories with classmates, college homecoming is a blend of nostalgia and celebration, offering a chance for everyone in a university community, both current students and past graduates, to come together and celebrate their shared connections.

"Enjoy the [high] school's efforts around special events like homecoming and prom. Time goes by faster than you may think, and before you know it, it'll be over," advised Claire Jones.



Photo courtesy of Claire Jones, CHS Class of 2024



Kiley Jacobson, Junior and Aleana Sanchez, Senior



# CHS Swim and Dive Prepares for State Competition

by Kiley Jacobson, Editor

Chandler High Swim and Dive team’s season has officially ended, and here’s how they prepared for the biggest event of the year, State Championships. The AIA Swim & Dive State Championships are the season’s highlight for many of the competitive swimmers on the team. They work the entire season to drop times and improve their stroke for the year’s final meet. Coach Brenda Wilson, head girls coach, has helped to establish a new practice schedule this season to help the swimmers get the times they want. Although it may be challenging for the swimmers, the specialized sets have helped tremendously. The coaching team of five has created sets for specific days. Mondays have become freestyle and breath control days; Tuesdays focus on all strokes, while Wednesdays and Fridays are when swimmers enter breakout groups. These breakout groups help the swimmers get more one-on-one time with the

coaches, practicing the stroke of their choice. From more challenging practices to specialty days, these changes have paid off. On the girl’s team, three relays and three individual members qualified and swam, while for the boy’s team, three relays and four individuals reached the qualifying time and swam at state this 2024 season. While preparing for the big race, this meant it was time for the workouts to change, “Starting on Halloween, the taper for State will begin,” said Coach Brenda. Taper is what swimmers do when preparing for state championships or other big events. Taper is when an athlete has modified practices that decrease the amount of training and increase their rest. According to teamunify.com, “A good taper should result in a 2-3% improvement in performance.” Chandler High’s swim team has traditionally done taper as they get ready to take on State, which has historically paid

off in better performance at the championships. Swimming is very competitive, especially in high school, due to the high number of schools with swim teams. Chandler High’s swim team is a no-cut sport and prides itself on having a team that treats each other as family. They have team bonding events, a team car wash, and always have some friendly competition.



Madeline Johnson, Junior



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# Freshman Football highlights CHS’ future stars

by Morrissey Cervantes, Reporter

Although Wednesday night games at Austin Field don’t bring as many fans as Friday nights, Freshman Football is just as interesting as JV or Varsity. Chandler’s 2024 Freshman Football team is off to a great start this year. With a brand new roster of players every season, each year’s players bring a sense of freshness and lots of potential to improve over the rest of their football careers.

Anthony Cervantes chose to play football because he has the most experience with it and wanted to be a part of something great. Anthony stated, “If you live among wolves, you have to act like a wolf.” Anthony admires former Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald, whom he called the “best nose guard in the league.” He explained that when he gets nervous before a game, he listens to music to help him get mentally focused.

His friend Manuel also said, “For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack,” echoing a slogan that is popular with many of Chandler High School’s athletics teams. The Freshman team’s recent 46-6 win against the Basha Bears on October 23, 2024, demonstrated that players like Anthony and Manuel were ready to be on the field to dominate. The fans in the stands were energetic and loud.

The cheerleaders did not disappoint and the game was very interesting to watch. Fans of Chandler Football should not miss the opportunity to watch our future stars sharpen and strengthen their game. Come to Austin Field on a Wednesday night and get ready to have a fun time!



Freshman Boys Football at Basha High School on October 23, 2024.

## Wolf Howl Holiday Word Search

E	W	G	I	N	G	E	R	B	R	E	A	D	W
L	W	S	P	O	R	T	S	S	T	E	O	R	O
U	I	L	E	S	H	H	U	C	E	N	L	F	L
I	N	S	S	L	Y	O	E	R	C	U	F	I	V
D	T	L	H	R	E	L	R	U	S	N	Y	N	E
V	E	F	S	U	E	I	N	F	R	I	E	A	S
U	R	T	F	S	T	D	A	F	H	T	P	R	T
S	H	S	T	A	E	A	N	Y	S	Y	T	N	P
N	R	W	E	P	N	Y	S	S	Y	N	A	D	E
O	S	H	S	G	N	P	A	S	R	E	E	A	S
W	N	E	W	S	P	A	P	E	R	U	W	R	N
M	W	I	W	R	R	T	I	W	D	A	R	I	E
A	R	R	N	H	C	N	I	R	G	N	A	C	W
N	I	A	F	R	O	S	T	B	I	T	E	F	T

SPORTS  
UNITY  
HOLIDAY  
HEAT  
GINGERBREAD  
FROSTBITE  
WINTER  
NEWSPAPER  
SCRUFFY  
SNOWMAN  
GRINCH  
WOLVES

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