

# The Wolf HOWL



Chandler High School || November 2023

## Wolves triumphant in this year's Battle of Arizona Avenue

By Kiley Jacobson, Staff Reporter



photo by Kiley Jacobson

The Wolves were hungry for a win on Friday night when they pulled out the biggest win of the season against Hamilton when they battled for Arizona Avenue.

The Battle of Arizona Avenue is the most highly anticipated game of the season for players, teachers, and students. This game has the most attraction with stands being packed on both sides of the field.

This rivalry game has been played for the last 24 years and Chandler has lost the last two years in a row. On November 3, they finally broke that streak and obliterated Hamilton 49-13. Chandler has rightfully taken back its title and has reclaimed the beloved tro-

phy.

Chandler Students were excited before the big game. Kaela Forti, a sophomore at Chandler said, "This is the game that is the most relevant and everyone is psyched to cheer and be at." Tori Cave, another sophomore at Chandler, said, "This game is the most popular and we're seeded to win so that makes everyone want to show up to come support."

This week is always marked on everyone's calendars for both schools. Each school hosts a 'Rivalry Week' spirit week in preparation for the big game. This year Hamilton's theme of the week was Mean Girls, while Chandler's was Chandler vs. Everybody. At both

schools, the spirit week was participated in schoolwide, with everyone showing off their best outfits.

An important part of this rivalry week is the philanthropy that goes along with it. During half-time of the game, while the score was 28-3, Lexi Moreno and Brooklyn Tallman, STUCO presidents of their respective schools, presented the Make-A-Wish foundation with \$3,378. Both Chandler and Hamilton raised money for this cause. At Chandler, our portion of the money was raised by selling event merchandise for the big game, visiting classrooms asking for donations, and holding Spirit Week lunchtime activities. Raising Cane's Chicken

also generously donated roughly \$2,000 to our cause which greatly helped. All money made from these fundraisers went straight to Make-A-Wish foundation. The donation from both schools symbolized that even though we're rivals, we can still work harmoniously and give back to the community.

This game was a huge success with the Wolves gaining confidence going into the playoffs. Students had an amazing time with one another celebrating the win, and both schools came together to have some competitive fun.

## Rep. Mike Johnson assumes US House leadership amid shutdown

By Lexi Moreno, Features Editor

After 22 days of stalemate, the House of Representatives elected Mike Johnson (R-La) as speaker. Johnson has been serving his fourth term since 2017, representing Louisiana's 4th congressional district. He has made history as the first speaker from Louisiana and the first from the South since Newt Gingrich in the 1990s. Previously unknown by a majority of Americans and other congressmen, the new speaker has already begun making an impression after winning by secret ballot.

Mike Johnson's positions are notably conservative, particularly when it comes to contentious issues such as abortion, same-sex marriage, and LGBTQ+ rights. His past affiliation as a lawyer with the Alliance Defending Freedom, a group that opposes privacy rights, abortion, and contraception, has made headlines recently. The ADF is credited with legal arguments in the case of 303 Creative v Elenis, which resulted in a Supreme Court ruling that allowed a wedding website designer to decline service to same-sex couples. In 2020, Johnson led a Texas lawsuit against President Biden's win in four battle ground states; Pennsylvania, Georgia, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Though the lawsuit never gained any momentum, it gained Johnson President Trump's attention.

Speaker Johnson's first

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Photo by Victoria Montenegro

## Arizona's water problem could leave state dry by next century

By Victoria Montenegro, Reporter

Arizona is currently facing a difficult issue concerning one of our most vital resources: water. It started in 2015 when the Saudi-Arabian company, Fandomonte Arizona, purchased about 3,500 acres of land in the Butler Valley just west of Phoenix to grow alfalfa used to feed cows all the way in Saudi Arabia. But in order to cultivate this water-intensive crop which requires a water supply of about 10 gallons per minute for every acre, they pump unlimited amounts of groundwater from an area marked as a possible future source of water for Phoenix and other metro areas. So on Tues-

day, October 3rd, Arizona Governor Katie Hobbs decided to terminate one of Fandomonte's land leases and is not planning on renewing three other leases when they expire in February 2024.

"The decision of the prior administration to allow foreign corporations to... pump unlimited amounts of groundwater to export alfalfa is scandalous," said Democratic Attorney General Kris Mayes. The results of a study conducted by Katie Hobbs' administration revealed that Fandomonte's water consumption "is equivalent to that of a city of more than 50,000 people" (The

Washington Post). And due to scarce rainfall, water pumped from the basin is essentially mined, with no replacement. Not to mention that groundwater in parts of the Phoenix area has actually been predicted to be insufficient to meet projected demand over the next century.

"With the amount of water shortage we are already facing with the Colorado River, I think that kind of exploitation here is not right," said CHS Environmental Club teacher Simone Richert, "water... should be going to the people who actually live in Arizona."

## US House Speaker Drama

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full week featured a bill providing \$14.3 billion in aid to Israel after Ukraine and Israel requested aid; however, President Biden vowed to veto the bill should it reach his desk. Prior to assuming the role of Speaker, Johnson had voted against Ukraine aid packages alongside his conservative House colleagues. However, in a meeting with senators, Johnson reassured them of his ability to provide aid to Ukraine, specifically highlighting a pairing of aid and border security policies.

Johnson must avoid a government shutdown. This week, the House approved two appropriations bills that provide funding to the legislative branch, the Department of the Interior, the Department of the Environment, and other necessary agencies. Both bills were

overwhelmingly approved across party lines, paving the way for a spending battle with the Democratic-led Senate before the deadline of November 17.

Two weeks before federal funding expires, the House has passed seven appropriations bills overall, surpassing the halfway point toward passing all 12 of its annual spending legislation. The House has yet to announce a plan for preventing a government shutdown, despite Johnson's announcement that he intends to move forward with some sort of temporary funding bill to give legislators more time for discussions with the Senate on its appropriations bills. Johnson has stated that he would prefer a quick fix that would last until mid-January, but it is unknown what that plan would look like.

## Taylor Swift's "Eras Tour" film hits theaters nationwide

By Viana Artuz, Staff Reporter

The new Taylor Swift Eras Tour has recently blown up around the world, surpassing \$100 million at the global box office in Presales alone. Not only that but advance ticket sales in the U.S. surpassed \$37 million in the first 24 hours for AMC and Cinemark. This broke AMC's U.S. ticket sales record, the previous highest-ticket sales revenue being \$26 million.

Through a special distribution deal, about 57% of the box office goes to Swift and AMC's distribution fee, with the other 43% going to theaters' coffers. This is beneficial for Swift, already knowing she made more than \$1 billion in gross profits from the Eras Tour itself.

AMC also had benefits from its deal too, with its theaters accounting for 40.5% of the domestic total when the market share is

typically 22% to 25%. Theaters will also make more in concession sales, promoting collectible popcorn tubs for \$14.99 and cups for \$11.99.

The tickets for the Eras Tour were priced at \$49 to \$450, with VIP packages

starting at \$199 and reaching \$899, though at the secondary market many of the tickets sold for thousands of dollars each. Thankfully for fans, tickets for her filmed concert start at \$19.89 for adults and \$13.13 for kids.



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## Enjoy the colors of Arizona this fall season

by Victoria Montenegro, Staff Reporter

The fall season is here! Fall is one of the best times to explore the beautiful scenery our state has to offer. There are several exciting activities to try out and many interesting places right here in Arizona to visit, all within a day or half-day of driving.

The weather during the fall is great for hiking. There are numerous beautiful trails in which you can enjoy a nice hike and also the stunning fall foliage. For example, the Aspen Nature Lollipop Trail in Flagstaff is just 2.7 miles long. Here you can delight in the breathtaking colors of the brilliantly yellow aspens. Mr. Kagen Croswhite, the CHS hiking club supervisor, says that in the Phoenix area, the best time of year for hiking is “from fall to early spring.” Croswhite also expressed that hiking has “a social component. If you hike with others it’s a way to build community. It is also a way to test your limits and know how far you can push yourself.” So don’t hesitate to bring a friend or family member along on a hiking trip to make it even more enjoyable.

Another trail you could try is the West Fork Trail in Sedona. According to Katie Lawrence, an avid hiker, “This 7.2-mile adventure

features some of the most striking fall colors across the entire state, in a vast array of breathtaking colors.”

If you are still hoping to enjoy the plethora of colors from fall leaves but are not into hiking, you might consider the Verde Canyon Railroad’s Fall Colors Tour in Clarkdale. This amazing ride on board a historic train tour takes place in October and November. The autumnal colors of the trees “offer a stark contrast to the lofty red rocks surrounding them,” a truly remarkable sight says Lawrence.

Do you want to take part in delightful traditional fall activities? Go to Apple Annie’s Orchard in Wilcox. You can pick your own apples from the 10 varieties grown there and take them home. They also have a pumpkin patch and a 20-acre corn maze, the biggest corn maze in Arizona! Additionally, you can enjoy delicious treats such as the sweet and tart caramel apples or apple cider donuts made from freshly picked apples.

You can also have a beautiful and relaxing experience at Carefree Desert Gardens in Carefree, Arizona. It is a 4-acre, city-owned garden where you can admire the desert flora. It is free to visit and there is

even a farmers market on Friday mornings. But if you are looking for something more thrilling, a kayak trip in the Emerald Cave in Willow Beach would be a good idea. The walls lining the cave are 5,000 to 7,000 feet high and the water is a green tint due to a mixture of the cave walls’ sunlight, algae, and brown tints. You can even choose a guided tour if you would like to.

What about some nice travel destinations near the Phoenix area? Globe, Arizona is about an hour and a half from Chandler. Here you can enjoy the captivating architecture and walk through this iconic mining town’s Historic Downtown District. Or learn more about Arizona by visiting the Besh-Ba-Gowah ruins at the museum a mile away. Another great travel destination and a perfect place to explore the outdoors is Payson. You could go biking, fishing, camping, or wildlife watching. And since it is at an elevation of just over 5,000 feet it is a great place for stargazing.

Overall, Arizona is home to remarkable places and infinite entertaining activities for you to experience this fall. So don’t be afraid to head outdoors and delight in these charming experiences.

## CHS Staff Spotlights



**Mr. Greg Milbrandt** is Chandler High’s new principal. Having been an educator for 28 years, Mr. Milbrandt has worked at schools all over Arizona. He was the principal at Desert Mountain High School and Mountain View High School for 8 years each before working at the Chandler Unified district office. He is super excited to be a part of Chandler’s elite academic programs, like being an IB World School, as well as the incredible academic opportunities that Chandler offers. He plans on enacting a program called Character Counts, something that he has carried over from his time at other schools. To Mr. Milbrandt, being a Wolf means being a part of a community that supports and helps each other and also being a Champion.

-- written by Kate Rogers



**Mrs. Stormy Haffey** has been a Freshman English teacher at Chandler High for the past two years. Mrs. Haffey believes that children are the future. She loves helping students grow and teaching them to be critical thinkers. One of Mrs. Haffey favorite things about teaching is the personal relationships between teachers and students and seeing the students progress and grow through all four years of highschool. Mrs. Haffey sponsors Wolf Crew, which handles freshman events, such as orientation and the freshman mixer. She sponsors Wolf Crew because she believes freshmen are some of the most important people on campus and she wants to help set them up for the rest of their high school career. She said, “I went to highschool here and I’ve always wanted to come back and teach here. The campus is beautiful, the students are the exact type of students that I love working with, and truly it’s just one of the best places to work at.” Mrs. Haffey said if she wasn’t a teacher she would want to be a lawyer because she enjoys arguing and would want to help people.

-- written by Lily Eaton

## Are this season’s fall drinks a ‘gourd’ time, or do they ‘fall’ short?

by Andrew Phillips, News Editor

As October creeps up on us, the temperature falls and Halloween-themed decor populates the storefronts. The real indicator of fall, however, is not the changing hue of leaves or Spirit Halloween: it’s Pumpkin Spice. While the pumpkin spice drink genre has been largely associated with Starbucks since any of us can remember, a multitude of fast food places have attempted to replicate this popular drink, with varying levels of success.

While the rest of the reviews in this will be variations of the PSL, I had to try Wendy’s slightly more innovative approach to the autumnal addition: The Pumpkin Spice Frosty. I was slightly apprehensive coming into this, as the sickly orange color doesn’t exactly inspire confidence, but I was blown away.

There are undeniable notes of nutmeg, cinnamon, and ginger, and the combination of these spices is incredibly reminiscent of apple pie. It’s safe to say that this take on a fall treat was executed incredibly well, and I was more than willing to finish the entire thing. Is it the same format as the Pumpkin Spice Lattes we

all love? Not hardly, but is it worth a try? Absolutely!

Onto a more traditional example of a fall drink: McDonald’s Pumpkin Spice Latte. The franchise as a whole gets a bad rap in my opinion, and some of their food can be quite good. That being said, I can’t extend that compliment to their Pumpkin Latte.

The cloyingly sweet pumpkin mixture left an imprint on my taste buds that I wasn’t soon to forget. Dense syrup gathered on the bottom of the cup, and it took vigorous stirring to reincorporate the ingredients back into one mediocre concoction. If I was too subtle, let me say that I do not like this drink. I could tell you any flavor in the world, and the jumbled flavor profile of this drink would match it. No aspect of it even resembles fall, let alone pumpkin, and it’s a huge step in the wrong direction for this fast-food conglomerate.

The final, and sweetest, entry into this fall drinks foray is Dutch Bros’ Caramel Pumpkin Brulee Freeze. I got the chance to interview one of the baristas, and she commented, “The Caramel Pumpkin

Brulee Freeze is probably our most popular fall drink right now,” and I can see why. The crunch of the raw sugar pieces combined with the nuttiness of the pumpkin drizzle creates my absolute favorite drink on my list. There is one major drawback with this treat, however: the sugar content is staggering. Over 135 grams of sugar are packed into a large version of the freeze, far exceeding the daily recommended amount of sugar. It’s clear why the drink is so delicious with numbers like these, but just keep it in mind before you go digging into a 32 oz.

Did any of these treats match the well-deserved hype surrounding Starbucks’ Pumpkin Spice Latte? I would gladly try the Frosty and the Freeze again and again, and I honestly think they put up an incredible fight against the powerhouse PSL. McDonald’s rendition, on the other hand, is a nauseating excuse for a drink that has far too much flavor and far too little direction. At the end of the day, all of these drinks are fall-themed, but I can only recommend Wendy’s and Dutch Bros as suitable competitors to Starbucks.

# WHAT IS THE WOLF HOWL STAFF THANKFUL FOR THIS YEAR?



All the new people I got to meet this year.  
-Viana

I am able to go to school  
-Perrin

My baby brother  
-Bella

Books  
-Lexi

Friends and family  
-Lily

My friends, family, and the fact I'm alive  
-Tyler

All of my supportive and kind friends  
-Kiley

Laughter  
-Sophia

My family and the inspiring staff members at CHS  
-Victoria

My cat, Skittles, who always meows and jumps on me  
-Andrew

Public libraries and art museums  
-Claire

I was able to move here and be around great people  
-Ethan

My dogs  
-Kate

To be alive and the experiences I've been given  
-Sif

## Foods I'm thankful for

By Emily Dominguez, Entertainment Editor

As the leaves begin to fall and costumes get stored away everyone's favorite family feast begins to roll around. Thanksgiving is a holiday about sharing and being grateful. The holiday honors tradition and a part of that is food. There are so many foods people look forward to each year that bring families together. Different families have different foods they bring to the table but every year the same discourse occurs: What are the best Thanksgiving foods?

Starting off with the most traditional plate at the table, turkey. Families have been eating turkey every November for centuries. It makes the main centerpiece for this grand meal and is easily share-

able for families. What truly makes a Thanksgiving meal though is the sides that come with it. Sides are typically brought by the guests as a contribution to the meal whereas the Turkey is made by the host. Sophia Fajardo, a senior, enjoys the mac and cheese her family makes the most. Usually mac and cheese on Thanksgiving is different from your regular bowl, it's better. Everyone has a different recipe, but it is always homemade. Another student, Kyle Derosier, says his favorite Thanksgiving dish is Stuffing. He explains that, "it is exciting because it is the one part of the meal every year that is always different." Stuffing can be made with so many different techniques and ingredients it is what makes it so unique.

Nothing says fall like cranberries. A side of cranberry sauce brings the perfect mix of sweet and tart to your family's meal. Speaking of sweets, special desserts like pie add a perfect taste for the end of the meal. Thanksgiving pies include classic's such as pumpkin and apple, along with pecan and cherry pie. A slice of pie with a choice of whipped cream or ice cream is the perfect way to end the filling holiday.





Sophia Medal, Staff Reporter

Since their founding in 2002, Crocs has been a shoe company that's risen to the top of the market with little to no delay. With an astonishing revenue of \$3.6 billion per year being gained from the sales of these comfortable shoes, Crocs has established itself as a leading shoe seller. While they may be a household name of notorious comfort, however, they have one downfall: the shoes are distasteful to say the very least. Over the years, Crocs has presented many variations in shapes and colors, with the only attractive ones being the ones that look distinctly different from the standard and could be mistaken for another brand overall. A select few collaborations, however, remain at the pinnacle of hideous shoe design.

## Crocs: Comfort, But At What Cost?

Market Studios, formerly known as Chinatown Market, has over five collaborations with Crocs, ranging from collections of their famous shoe decorations, Jibbitz charms, to variations of the iconic shoes. In 2019, their first collaboration aired and started the downward streak of atrocious shoes from this company: the astroturf shoes. These shoes are plain, even lacking the iconic holes for charms, simply because the inside and outside is coated with artificial grass to create a miserable wearing experience. For those who enjoy the scratchiness of astroturf and wearing shoes that look like two small bushes, look no further.

In 2020, Crocs paired up with Kentucky Fried Chicken to make the most confusing pair of shoes out there. They released standard Crocs and platform Crocs with the top appearing to look like an abundant amount of chicken while the sides carry the iconic white and red striping of the chicken buckets. Their website

claims that the shoes "make your dreams of wearing a bucket of chicken finally come true", and I for one would like to know who fantasizes about wearing shoes that look and smell like a bucket of fried chicken.

In 2021, the next one up to the plate of working with Crocs was the famous condiment, Hidden Valley Ranch. Despite the strange collaboration between a shoe company and a sauce company, the Hidden Valley Ranch Crocs possess some semblance of normalcy in design, with Jibbitz that look like food and a standard white shoe with green specks, replicating the design of the ranch.

The following year, in 2022, another collab sent their steadily increasing streak of cute shoe designs spiraling downwards, as Jimmy Kimmel decided to collaborate with Crocs, releasing a mysterious pair of pizza-patterned shoes with strange pizza themed Jibbitz to match. While Jimmy Kimmel has an infamous recipe for margherita pizza floating on

the Internet, releasing it a year following its peak popularity creates mystery over what connection Jimmy Kimmel has with pizza.

To continue off their undoubtedly infinite streak of odd shoes, k-pop group aespa spent this year designing their own Crocs, which seem to be teetering on the line of unlikable and somewhat cute. With purple and blue fur lining inside and out on these unique platform shoes, I feel that the faint sense of enjoyment I get looking at them comes from their resemblance of Sully from *Monsters, Inc.*

From years past to this very day, Crocs still has an unredeemable streak of creating shoes that are a perfect clash between undeniable comfort and painstaking design choices. With their pattern of how their shoes drastically change in design, the Crocs of 2024 are still a mystery until someone steps up to the task of making a half-decent collaboration.



Ethan Quezada, Staff Reporter

Thanksgiving is overrated. From the food to the excess amount of family who you barely know, Thanksgiving is a holiday that shouldn't be as appreciated as it already is. It isn't a holiday that many people even get excited for, rather it's just any other family gathering with some extra little activities.

Hazel Quezada, a sophomore at Chandler High, agrees. She says, "Personally, I think

## Why I Think Thanksgiving is Overrated

that Thanksgiving is overrated because the food is mediocre and the turkey cutting is dramatized. It is also made to think that eating so much food is normal and fun because it is a special day." She questions why we can't eat normally like any other day. It is not only the food that is a dealbreaker for an enjoyable experience, but it is also family that contributes to why it is overrated. Hazel adds, "I think that the people you're surrounded by make a huge difference. I'd much rather be with my friends and immediate family. Being around family members who are practically strangers doesn't make the experience very fun." Since family is the main focus of Thanksgiving, I think

it should be emphasized more. Most people will celebrate one or the other of mom's or dad's side of the family which separates immediate family, as Hazel had mentioned would be a greater alternative.

I also wonder why Thanksgiving is made to be such a big deal for many people. Eating food and watching football for hours on end isn't really that fun and it becomes socially draining.

On a more serious note, Thanksgiving arises many different feelings in people, such as frustration through the history of the holiday. Through personal experience and the viewpoint of Gigi Noriega, a freshman at Chandler High, Thanksgiving is a

holiday that hides its history. She says, "I think that Thanksgiving is a non-inclusive holiday that is taught that it includes indigenous people." She notes how the celebration shows a lack of acknowledgement of its history of settlers and indigenous people of America's land.

Overall, Thanksgiving has changed a lot in the past few years, and many people feel very differently about it, whether they enjoy it or not. For me, the idea of celebrating Thanksgiving with mass amounts of food and family is overwhelming and doesn't mean much.



Bella Dana, Staff Reporter

Every year, people all over the world get together to celebrate Christmas. Many people start to get into the Christmas spirit in November, but some start to get into the Christmas spirit even as early as August. In my opinion, if anyone starts to get into the Christmas spirit any month

## Save Your Christmas Spirit for After Oct 31

before October or November, they're delusional. The debate of when people should start getting ready to celebrate Christmas has been around for years. Of course, deciding when you should start celebrating Christmas is up to you, but I happen to have a preference and an argument as to why you should celebrate Christmas no more than two months in advance.

A junior at CHS, Dice Iniguez, argues that people celebrate Christmas way too early. Dice says that Halloween should

be celebrated first, then after Thanksgiving, you can start celebrating Christmas with the Christmas spirit and decorating your house. Dice recalls many times when they "saw posts on Instagram where people are fantasizing about Christmas presents, snow, Christmas trees," and more. Dice agrees that mid-November, it is appropriate to start celebrating Christmas because "nobody really cares about Thanksgiving." I agree with these statements because people do celebrate Christmas way too

early and not a lot of people decorate for Thanksgiving.

I believe Christmas should be celebrated after October because Halloween is such an awaited holiday, too, but saying that we should start decorating for Christmas before Halloween is just delusional. Halloween is a holiday that is just as popular for many people as Christmas, which is why Christmas should be encouraged or celebrated after October is over.

# Mortal Kombat's newest release breathes new life into the series

by Sif Woolf, Staff Reporter

Fighting games are some of the oldest video games to date, and arguably the most recognizable. NetherRealm's *Mortal Kombat* was the first franchise to come out in 1992, with Capcom's *Street Fighter* being released to directly compete with it just two years later.

Now, *Mortal Kombat 1*, the twelfth game in the series, has been released for PC and all major consoles. This latest installment sees a lot of triumph for the series as a whole. That includes getting Jean Claude Van Damme, whose movies inspired the creation of *Mortal Kombat*, to be included in the game as well as including beloved pop culture icons as playable characters—like Alien or Predator from their respective movies, who were featured in past games. *Mortal Kombat 1* also features a brand new story, new environments, and an entirely revisited fighting system. Overall, it looks like this iteration in the series is top-of-the-line, surpassing every version before it.

*Mortal Kombat*, as a series, has a reputation for threading the needle of playing off itself and doing something completely new. *Mortal Kombat 1* is no different, instead taken further. With the fact that *Mortal Kombat 11* finished off a trilogy in the series, *Mortal Kombat 1* acts as a soft reset. Characters are given new context and

backstories, some even in different roles than before, and the universe's lore is remade nearly from scratch. There's an in-universe reason for this, but in reality, NetherRealm most likely wanted a new direction for the game series. This is for the better, considering the very little amount of material they had after *Mortal Kombat 11*. With a new perspective on the world of *Mortal Kombat*, the developers were able to deliver a breath of fresh air for the fans.

The new takes on the realms in *Mortal Kombat* certainly prove this. Earthrealm, of course, hasn't changed much, but Outworld and the Netherrealm were reworked from the ground up. Instead of barren wastelands and empty deserts featured in the preceding trilogy, *Mortal Kombat 1* dresses its alien realms in ethereal textures. You'll battle through lush forests and city festivals more often than you will be in a dank cave or dungeon. This not only offers a nice juxtaposition for the players, but also stands as a testament to the amount of attention paid to the little details of the game. Backgrounds are active, and people and elements are moving around and reacting to the fight going on. Characters are rendered beautifully and movement is fluid, not abandoning the

motion capture and well-made transitions of previous games.

The movement in the fights themselves hasn't lost any of the reactivity or ease of previous games either. The combo and combat systems of *Mortal Kombat 1* are quite more streamlined and toned down compared to the game just before it. As opposed to the complicated button-mashing and environmental interactions of *Mortal Kombat 11*, *Mortal Kombat 1* instead focuses more on reactive and fast-paced gameplay. Aerial combat was also overhauled, letting players keep their opponents in the air for much longer and in more creative ways. On top of this, *Mortal Kombat 1* features online combat options, allowing players to fight others all around the world.

As much as all these improvements better the game, players have seen issues in their experiences. For one, it wasn't released on all consoles at the time of release. This is fair, some platforms take more priority than others, but the biggest problem with this is the appearance of glitches between platforms. Players have noticed a significant lack of damage output, others being outright prevented from performing certain combos, and generally a lack of polish on non-AAA consoles. This surprised many, but it is

important to keep in mind that the developers are still actively updating the game!

What has yet to be explained, however, is the shocking lack of quality on the Nintendo Switch port of the game. Graphics are subpar, at best, and the framerate is laggy and unpredictable. This naturally floored and outraged players. *Mortal Kombat 1* is just as expensive on the Switch as it is on the PS5, running a steep \$70. This price and the abysmal quality of the game have left players upset and confused. Why was this allowed to happen? It seems that the PS5 port was simply moved onto the Switch, but the Switch doesn't have the hardware or computing power to handle all of the game's material—resulting in all the problems players have seen. Thankfully, NetherRealm has been putting in the work to troubleshoot issues and improve every version of the game. The first updates have helped with problems, but it still seems like a long way to go for the Switch port.

Keeping in line with tradition for the series, *Mortal Kombat 1* will feature paid DLC characters for players to purchase. This time around, the newcomers will feature a mix of characters specific to the *Mortal Kombat* series and recent pop culture icons like previous installments. The first of the characters to release is Omni-Man, from

the hit series *Invincible*. Already, from the trailers that have been released, fans of both *Invincible* and *Mortal Kombat* are thrilled with the first look at DLC. Omni-Man's fantastic model and movement have caused ripples of positive traction among all forms of fans. "I think it does add some novelty to it," One long-time fan stated, "I think that it helps in the marketing of it, and helps draw in people with that, while still sticking to that kind of theme." Suffice it to say, that a lot of hype has been built for the first group of DLC characters.

*Mortal Kombat* has been a pillar in the video gaming industry for ages. It's inspired hundreds of other games and has subverted tropes of all kinds. It's refreshing to see such a beloved in this new form. NetherRealm has made an effort to pay attention to what the fans want, while still creating something entirely new. Compared to other video game reboots, *Mortal Kombat 1* makes the case, just like the iterations before it, that old characters and stories can be brought back to life with enough care placed into them by the developers. Not every reboot has to be a cheap cash grab, and *Mortal Kombat 1* certainly proves that ten times over.

# "Five Nights at Freddy's" arrives in theaters after years-long wait

by Andrew Phillips, News Editor

It isn't a stretch to say that the *Five Nights at Freddy's* Movie is one of the most anticipated flicks in recent memory, especially seeing as the film was first announced in April 2015. What would follow this initial announcement date, however, may very well be one of the strangest strings of incidents to ever plague a movie: massive script changes, production overhauls, and crew change-ups are just a few of the issues that pushed the anticipated release back almost a decade.

The animatronic-obsessed fan base of *Five Nights at Freddy's* is matched only by the dedication of the series' creator, Scott Cawthon. While audiences everywhere were clamoring for a rapid adaptation of the video game onto the silver screen, Cawthon was far more scru-

tinuous when it came to the script. Jason Blum of Blumhouse Productions was keen on making the film, but Scott didn't feel quite the same way, saying, "I had a different idea for it, one that I liked better." Freddy's creator was set on ensuring that, if a movie was to be made, it would be one true to both his own desires and the fanbases.

Not all delays were caused by such overt changes to the filming process, but rather by the incredibly complicated lore that would be developed by the long-running series. Filming the movie in the midst of the games' heyday was certainly going to be fraught with difficulty, seeing as new information surrounding the story would come out and consistently make what was already filmed obsolete. For

example, since 2017, four *FNAF* games have been released, each with their own incredibly complicated story and character development.

This perfect storm of unfortunate circumstances would result in an unprecedented eight-year delay, but as of October 27, 2023, the wait is finally over. The reception was extremely mixed, however, as the movie currently has a 29% critic score compared to an 88% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes. Diehard fans enjoyed the faithful sticking to the source material, while the general public was not a fan of the lack of horror present in the film. With a 10-day total of \$40.9 million, the *Five Nights at Freddy's* film has more than doubled its \$20 million budget and finally ended the near decade-long postponement.



courtesy of Universal



photos by Kiley Jacobson and Lily Eaton

## Girls Flag Football: The Future of High School Sports

by Lily Eaton and Kiley Jacobson, Staff Reporters

The flag football team at Chandler High School has grown a lot since the sport first started at school, with the team having over twenty players on it. The 2023-2024 season went amazingly, with their record being 11-1 going into playoffs. This is the third season of the Lady Wolves flag football team but their first official AIA season. Their first playoff game was on Tuesday, October 24, where they unfortunately lost 20-18. Overall, The Lady Wolves had an amazing season with so many victories, and we can't wait to see what next season brings.

Girls flag football is quickly becoming a popular sport in hundreds of high schools, but how did this sport soar to popularity?

According to Sutori, flag football originated back in the early 1900s when men at military bases found a fun way to play football without risk of injury through tackles. This sport has now progressed into an exciting and inclusive sport open to players of all ages and genders.

According to USA Today, there are 15,000-plus girls playing flag football at more than 700 high

schools across America. Girls' flag football is rising in popularity for many reasons, one of which is how much it benefits women as a whole. Flag football helps improve hand-eye coordination and uses many different muscles which makes them faster and stronger.

Lei Fulilangi, a sophomore at Chandler High School, gave insight as to what this team is like. She states that the team's dynamic was rocky at first, with the girls not quite getting along, but as the season progressed they truly bonded. In addition to flag football, Lei is also a rugby player. Rugby is a very competitive sport, mentally and physically. Lei chose to do flag football while she was not doing rugby to keep in shape, and she ended up enjoying flag football way more than she thought she would. When asked what the appeal was to join the flag football team she says, "I joined so I had something to do in my [rugby] off-season, and I'm enjoying being on the team so far." With the season coming to a close, Lei feels very fortunate to be a part of a team as amazing as this one.

Danae Lilavois and Avalyn Ro-

den, both seniors at Chandler High School, share the role of team captain on the Lady Wolves Flag Football team. Both captains were on the team last year and said that compared to last season, they played amazingly, which shows in their outstanding regular season record of 11 wins to 1 loss. The captains said that the players took the season much more seriously, with everyone putting their all into every game and practice. During their regular season games, these girls were the number one team in the division. The team's fan base is small; people tend to underestimate the sport and dismiss it as a fake sport, but Danae says, "You don't know about it until you watch it." They hope that the fanbase will grow because flag football is a very fast and entertaining sport, and flag football has now become an official Olympic sport.

The girl's flag football team is a team that deserves a lot more attention. The fan base will surely grow over the years to come, so make sure to show up for the girls in future seasons.

## Rivalry Week Pep Assembly Highlights

photos by Perrin Bell, Bella Dana, Victoria Montenegro, Claire Jones



## Diamondbacks' Stunning Postseason Journey Ends in World Series Heartbreak

by Lexi Moreno, Features Editor

The Arizona Diamondbacks had an incredible run in the postseason. After losing their final four regular season games, they narrowly secured the sixth and final playoff spot in the National League. Despite this, the team survived in the playoffs. Many anticipated their exit in the wildcard round against the Milwaukee Brewers, but the Diamondbacks emerged victorious in both games. The surprises continued as they faced rivals Los Angeles Dodgers and shockingly swept the series.

In the NLCS, their run was sure to end against the Philadelphia Phillies. Down 2-0 in the series, the Diamondbacks came back, pushing to game seven and winning. All season long, the young team's inexperience was viewed as a worry

rather than an asset. However, third baseman Evan Longoria pointed to the team's youthful energy as the driving force behind their success.

In the World Series, they were unable to rally a comeback. Star pitcher Zac Gallen held a no-hitter through six innings, giving up a single to Corey Seager in the seventh, followed by a double from Evan Carter and a single by Mitch Garver in consecutive at-bats, putting the Rangers up 1-0. This set the foundation for a 5-0 loss in game 5, handing the Rangers their first World Series title.

Despite the loss at home, the team is optimistic for next season. Reliever Joe Mantiply stated, "I think the future is super bright. That's obvious. I think it's going to take

a little time to ease the sting. But with hindsight, we lost in the World Series. Obviously we want to win, but that kind of eases my mind a little bit. I feel like we accomplished a lot."

The Arizona Diamondbacks' postseason journey was a testament to the unpredictability of baseball. Starting as underdogs who barely secured a playoff spot to a dramatic victory in the National League Championship Series, they exceeded every possible expectation. While their World Series dreams ultimately eluded them, the Diamondbacks remain steadfast in their goal towards another title, which will surely arrive in years to come.