

Community Commentaries

Chandler Police is part of ICAN's roots

BY SHELBY PEDERSEN
CEO, ICAN: POSITIVE PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

ICAN is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year; 25 years of serving Chandler's most at-risk youth with programs that teach them real-life skills to set a track for their future. We have enjoyed many amazing partnerships over the course of those 25 years, but none quite as special as the one we have with the Chandler Police Department.

Chandler PD was there from the beginning. When Henry Salinas, a concerned resident, took it upon himself to start working with teens and keep them off the street, he sat down with the police chief. He not only got their blessing, he got their involvement. Edward Upshaw, who was the sergeant of the gang unit at the time, was assigned to sit on ICAN's board. He was a little hesitant at first as Chandler had a very serious gang problem at the time and he wasn't sure ICAN was the answer. But his opinion changed quickly after spending a little time with Henry and the kids. In fact, ICAN often quotes Upshaw, who is now a commander. He credits ICAN in helping with Chandler's current low crime statistics.

Over the years, Chandler PD has always supported ICAN. When ICAN started the Coalition on Youth Substance (CCYSA) abuse in 2005, Chandler PD was ready to be a part of the cause. Chandler PD chaperones CCYSA teens when they do their outreach programs in the community and always have multiple officers on the taskforce. The partnership with ICAN and CCYSA spearheaded the Social Host Ordinance that passed in 2014.

It should be no surprise that Chandler PD is so active with ICAN. In May, the police chief shared a new report on 21st century policing that stemmed from a taskforce appointed by President Obama. The report offers recommendations to determine where improvements could be made to their procedures and policies to strengthen their partnerships in the community and demonstrate the highest standards of performance. The report outlines four pillars of focus for the department, the first of which is building trust and legitimacy. They



Shelby Pedersen

strive to treat people with dignity and respect and to be transparent. This new document is a strong statement to their commitment to keeping our community safe and doing so in a dignified manner. Those of us that have been working with ICAN for a number of years know that this has always been the case.

It's not just about sitting on a board or taskforce either; Chandler PD is involved in the everyday activities at ICAN. It recently helped with our 25th anniversary coin drive, giving lots of high-fives to youth as kudos for staying on the right path. The police personnel serve dinner every year at our family Thanksgiving dinner. They even stopped our community salsa night and spent a good portion of the evening playing bean bag toss with the youth.

Chandler PD officials are friendly faces who take the time to get to know the youth coming to ICAN programs. They know that building a relationship with these kids now will have such a positive and lasting influence on them well into the future. ICAN is so grateful to our men and women in blue; we look forward to another 25 years of working together and making Chandler the best place to live!

It's time for Arizona to fulfill its true potential

BY JENNIFER PAWLAK, CANDIDATE FOR
STATE REPRESENTATIVE, LD-17
STEVE WEICHERT, CANDIDATE FOR
STATE SENATE, LD-17

The 2007 recession hit our state hard. But while most of the country is well on its way to recovery, Arizona continues to flounder. Unemployment is significantly higher than the national average; economic growth is in the bottom half of the country; and per capita income has fallen from 33rd in the country in 2005, to 42nd today.

As the Democratic candidates for State Senate and State House in Legislative District 17, we're committed to helping Arizona fulfill its true potential.

We believe that prosperity begins with education. While Proposition 123 passed, we must remember that it did not provide any new money to our schools. The proposition was a settlement that repays only 72% of the money that was owed to schools. We must continue to invest in creating world-class educational opportunities for children and adults. This includes providing full-day kindergarten and making smart investments where it matters most: the classroom. It means investing in community and trade colleges so that people can learn marketable skills. And we must attract, retain and fairly compensate great teachers.

It's vital that we provide Arizona's children with basic human needs so they can be successful in school and in life. Children will

thrive if they live in a stable environment and have access to food, healthcare, and shelter. That's why we must work to extend Arizona's participation in the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program beyond the one-year term we have today. Most states provide this support for two to five years.

Many of Arizona's children suffer from inadequate health care, and 26% live in poverty. Earlier this year, the federally funded Kids Care program was finally extended to the 30,000 children in Arizona who desperately need this program, but our opponents Steve Yarbrough (Senate), J.D. Mesnard and Jeff Wening (State House) all opposed this common-sense bill.

Finally, we believe that Arizonans deserve and demand complete transparency from their politicians. But we're going backward. The last few years have witnessed an influx of "dark money" into our state political system. We were disappointed earlier this year when Republican lawmakers—including Yarbrough, Mesnard and Wening—united to pass SB 1516, which will make it easier for special interests to influence our politicians.

That's why both of us have chosen to run as Clean Election Candidates. Our only obligation is to the voters of LD-17, not anonymous special interests. Our campaigns are motivated first and foremost by a desire to see Arizona fulfill its potential, and to enable every child in our state to live a safe, healthy and prosperous life.

We believe that ambition and compassion are not mutually exclusive objectives. That's why we humbly ask San Tan Sun News readers for their votes on Nov. 8.



955 W. CHANDLER HEIGHTS RD, CHANDLER AZ 85248 | 480-394-0769 OR 480-236-6807

\$9.99 Eyebrow threading

\$49 Massage for one hour with medical massage therapist

\$49 Facials - new super enhancer radio frequency lifts, tones and tightens. For anti-aging/acne

\$55 Thermo herb-mini face lifting - all natural

€70 Mandelic almond peel - Vitamin

\$60 Microdermabrasion with facial

\$130 Brazilian blowout - smoothing treatment

\$140 Permanent hair straightening - lasts 5-6 months

\$18 Wash and style

\$65 Cut and color

\$15 Men's cuts

Victoria Nails has moved

