

WRANGLER NEWS

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5-0!

What's up at Corona?

Corona del Sol's Quade Swearingen goes up to defend a pass intended for Mountain Pointe's Jason Ramirez in Corona's 45-9 rout of the Pride on Oct. 30 that lifted the Aztecs to 5-0 and No. 10 in 6A with three games to go.

Story, Page 15.

*— Photo by Billy Hardiman
for Wrangler News*



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City's resiliency during pandemic highlights State of the City

Tempe Mayor Corey Woods, in his first State of the City address on Oct. 30, focused on the community's resiliency in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and how Tempe is attempting to help businesses, residents and non-profits. The public can access the one hour program on YouTube, or at tempe.gov/Tempe11 or on Cox Cable Channel 11. The address, hosted by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce and presented by Edward Jones, was viewed live by a virtual audience of about 800 people.

— Photo courtesy Tempe Chamber

Cosmetics firm's opening provides job seekers a way to nail new opportunities

Staff report

Nail polish doesn't dry fast enough? VB Cosmetics Inc. has the solution and West Chandler residents may snag new jobs in the bargain.

The manufacturer creates and sells cosmetics and personal care products. It is also the inventor of Dazzle Dry, a quick-dry, award-winning and proprietary nail polish system that is revolutionizing the multi-billion dollar U.S. nail salon and spa industries.

VB Cosmetics has signed a 40,000 square-foot lease to expand and relocate their corporate headquarters, R&D and manufacturing operations in West Chandler. The company will be moving into the Lotus Project, one of Chandler's premier industrial developments, located near Kyrene Road and the Loop 202.

Chandler Mayor Kevin Hartke was quick to offer a warm welcome to the company.

"VB Cosmetics is in a premier location for continued growth and success," Hartke said. "We are thrilled they found a new home in Chandler that will allow them to take their innovative cosmetics enterprise to the next level." Construction for the project is expected to start immediately with VB Cosmetics targeting to be fully

— JOBS, Page 17



SCAN ME

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'Soldier's Best Friend' pairs PTSD-affected veterans with canine Battle Buddies. **Story, Page 4.**



M.V. Moorhead reflects on the passing of Sean Connery, his pick for the inarguably best Bond. **Story, Page 19.**



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Touching 2 lives at once

How military veterans and shelter dogs save each other

By Janie Magruder

David Campbell II tries to forget many of his days B.C. — Before Caleb. The Chandler man, as no doubt others in Tempe and nearby cities, was bitter, angry and mistrustful, felt betrayed and “alone in the universe,” as he describes it, and was plagued by substance abuse and suicidal thoughts.

Campbell, a U.S. Army private during operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield in Iraq, sustained a traumatic brain injury from a grenade blast in 1991.

Just 19, he came home with physical and mental disabilities from post-traumatic stress disorder.

“I didn’t want to be labeled PTSD,” said Campbell, now 48. “I didn’t want to be called crazy, and I didn’t want any help.”

But years later, following an ultimatum from his wife that he turn things around, Campbell accepted help from a recovery center for addicts. He gave his life to God and has been sober for nearly eight years.

Figuring prominently into his success is Caleb, a beautiful, shiny-coated black Australian sheep dog/Labrador mix who, at just a year old, had been sheltered at the Yavapai Humane Society in Prescott.

Caleb and Campbell were paired through Soldier’s Best Friend, a nonprofit that since 2011 has matched nearly 300 U.S. military veterans and active-duty service members in Arizona with shelter dogs. Its mission is to help those living with combat-related PTSD or traumatic brain injuries and to impact the state’s pet overpopulation problem.

Soldier’s Best Friend adopts dogs from 15 rescue groups and shelters and relies on volunteers to foster the animals for 2-4 weeks before the qualified veteran and dog begin living and training together. The dogs are spayed, neutered, vaccinated and receive veterinary-recommended preventative medications before placement.

Depending on the needs of the applicant, the dog is trained and qualified as a service dog or a therapeutic companion dog/emotional support animal.

Training, which includes basic obedience, public outings and tasks specific to each veteran’s symptoms, occurs for at least six months at facilities in Phoenix, Tucson, Sierra Vista, Prescott and Flagstaff. Dogs already owned by veterans also may be qualified for training, and routine veterinary services, most supplies. Placement and training fees are free to eligible applicants.

In 2019, Soldier’s Best Friend provided 2,400 hours of training to person/dog teams, and rescued 179 homeless dogs in Arizona.

There isn’t enough research to demonstrate that dogs help people with PTSD, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ National Center for PTSD. Its study on the issue is due to be released in January, a spokesman said.

However, Brenda Muir, executive director of Soldier’s Best Friend, is a believer — countless veterans have told her about the difference dogs have made in their lives.

“Some say they wouldn’t be here if they hadn’t gone through the program and didn’t have service dogs,” said Muir, noting a recent spike in Vietnam War vet applicants who “powered through life with busyness and distractions, but once they retired, things started bubbling to the surface.”

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The trained dogs can perform tasks some veterans cannot do independently, such as retrieving dropped objects. They can remind them to take medications, and assuage panic attacks, anxiety, flashbacks and irritability.

For Campbell, Caleb is his "battle buddy," a good listener and lifesaver for not only his owner, but also for the homeless and incarcerated people whom they visit to share their inspirational story. They speak at churches and schools, too, and received the 2017 Volunteer of the Year award from the Mesa Chamber of Commerce.

"Before I got him, I didn't talk to you, I had a mean look on my face, I wouldn't leave my house," Campbell said. "He broke down that wall in me. He's truly a miracle."

The 80-pound canine can wake Campbell from his persistent nightmares by pressing his weight

into him, and he gives hugs by placing his front legs around his owner's neck.

Because Campbell also suffers from hypervigilance, a common PTSD symptom causing a person to be on alert and in protection mode, Caleb stands guard between his owner and the person behind them in line, say, at the grocery store or bank.

Campbell, who lost his left leg in an auto accident, also can use Caleb safely as a brace to get in and out of his wheelchair.

When Campbell is experiencing anxiety while in traffic, Caleb knows to put his wet nose on his owner's cheek. "That brings me back to where I am supposed to be," he said.

To learn more about applying for, donating to or fostering a dog in the program, visit soldiersbestfriend.org or call 623-218-6486.



Desert Storm and Desert Shield veteran David Campbell with his Battle Buddy Caleb.

— Photo courtesy Soldier's Best Friend

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Commentary . . . by Jennifer Adams

Tempe GAINed by Giving in 2020 Area families will still need help in coming holiday season

In a year when we have been kept physically apart from family, friends and neighbors and in-person social activities have paused, residents across Tempe made extra efforts to safely and virtually come together for good causes on GAIN Night, which was Oct. 17. They showed resilience in adapting to the times and compassion in organizing food drives for those in need.

On one night each year, residents across Tempe gather for outdoor parties as part of GAIN (Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods), which has long been Arizona's version of the National Night Out tradition. In 2020, that was not as easy.

Due to COVID-19, the City of Tempe encouraged neighbors not to hold physical gatherings this year, but to come together in other creative and virtual ways. And did they ever! Many neighborhoods throughout Tempe held food donation drives to benefit various agencies.

Resident Ron Tapscott, an organizer of Tempe Neighborhoods Together, came up with the catchphrase "Tempe Gains by Giving" to capture the spirit of a very different kind of GAIN Night for 2020. His neighborhood and many others donated a total of 3,400 pounds of food to the Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA) food pantry. That equates to more than 4,000 meals for people in need.

TCAA Executive Director Deborah Arteaga said the donations were very needed right now, due to the economic impacts of the pandemic on families.

On behalf of the city, sincere thanks to all the creative and generous neighborhoods who made this year's GAIN Night even more special through food donation drives, including Alta Mira,

Broadmor, Mitchell Park, Wilson Art & Garden, Meyer Park, Warner Ranch, Hughes Acres, Rural Geneva, Camelot Village, Indian Bend, Papago Parkway, Papago Parkview, Estate la Colina, Corona del Sol, Pheasant Ridge, Raintree and more!

To learn more about GAIN, and to see a slideshow of GAIN Night 2020 happenings, visit tempe.gov/GAIN. If your neighborhood has photos to share of how you spent GAIN Night 2020, send them to Neighborhood Services Manager Shauna Warner at shauna_warner@tempe.gov.



TCAA expects that donations of food and cash will continue to be needed this holiday season. People who have never before relied on food pantry assistance are coming forward now. TCAA is holding several drives this fall – check their website for details at www.tempeaction.org. Instead of accepting donations of turkeys and gift items, because of the pandemic, they are requesting donations of cash so TCAA can provide gift cards to families who need to purchase turkeys and other items.

Please feel free to reach out to me anytime with comments, questions and ideas. You can reach me by calling 480-350-8835, emailing jennifer_adams@tempe.gov or visiting JenniferAdamsTempe on Facebook.

Jennifer Adams is a member of the Tempe City Council.



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Let's Talk: Making a difference when new moms need it most



By Joyce Coronel

The pictures on Facebook prove it: Having a baby is the most perfect, joyful, amazing event in a woman's life. But life isn't really like that, is it?

Gia Snooks of Dignity Health is well acquainted with the disconnect between real life and what it's like to actually bring a baby home from the hospital.

She helps coordinate "Let's Talk," a therapeutic program for pregnant and postpartum women.

Thanks to a \$14,200 grant from Mercy Care Community Reinvestment, the popular program has been expanded.

"What we hear from society and social media is that this is the best time of our lives. And we're going to be able to do it and we're going to be able to do it flawlessly," Snooks said.

'Crucial difference'

"Once a mom comes home or a family comes home and they start struggling, they realize, 'What I'm seeing on social media is not necessarily the reality of it.'" That's where Let's Talk can make a crucial difference.

The expansion of the support program comes at a time when perinatal mood disorders are the number-one medical complication of childbirth. Statistics show that 1 in 7 mothers and 1 in

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10 fathers suffer from postpartum depression, though perinatal mood disorders come in many forms. Depression, anxiety, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, panic disorder, PTSD and psychosis can also occur during pregnancy.

The COVID-19 crisis has pushed those numbers up sharply. Recent data from Postpartum Support International has found that perinatal mood disorders have increased by up to 30 percent as a result of the pandemic. In addition, Women's Health Innovations of Arizona is currently reporting 1 in 3 Arizona moms are experiencing perinatal mood disorders and have a subsequent need for coaching and support.

And while 80-90 percent of women experience Baby Blues—it may be as high as 1 in 5 with the pandemic—perinatal mood disorders are different. Baby Blues is a mild adjustment and usually happens within the first three days of giving birth, though it can happen at some point afterwards as well. Symptoms include crying, irritability and lack of interest in normal activities “but they're really mild and for a limited amount of time, not more than a couple of weeks,” Snooks said.

20 years of successful intervention

“When it becomes more severe and interferes with daily life and lasts beyond two weeks, that's when we start to consider that it will start looking a little bit more like depression or something else more significant than just Baby Blues.”

Women who suffer from these more significant issues have found support through the Let's Talk program offered by Dignity. After nearly two decades of success hosting the hospital system's weekly pregnancy and postpartum support group, experts at Dignity Health in the East Valley identified that some women would benefit from a more intensive program.

In January 2018, Dignity Health began working with Women's Health Innovations of Arizona to provide a therapist specializing in perinatal mood disorders to lead a therapy program called “Let's Talk.” Mothers who participated in these intensive, two-hour, expert-led sessions showed improvement in symptoms and overall outcomes. Offered five times each year at Dignity Health Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, the six-week program as free, capped at just 10 moms and required registration.

As a result of the Mercy Community Reinvestment program grant, Dignity Health is now able to offer these support

sessions online and while being mindful of the current pandemic.

“Mercy Care commends Dignity Health's hospital in the East Valley and Women's Health Innovations for their important support of women after childbirth,” said Christi Lundeen, Mercy Care Chief Innovation Officer. “We are proud that our funding can help extend these classes to an online platform to ensure additional support for more new moms who may feel isolated due to the pandemic.”

The social isolation due to COVID-19 has had an impact on many new moms.

“A lot of the moms right now are having to deliver with one person in the room,” Snooks said.

“There are some areas where moms haven't even been able to have one person. So she's been having to go through this alone.”

Extra anxiety minimized

As exciting as it is to bring a tiny life into the world, “not being able to have your normal support system with you during that process can create a lot of extra anxiety for the mom,” Snooks said.

Once home and trying to adjust to the role as a new parent, not being able to safely bring in friends and extended family members can also be challenging, she said.

Facing those feelings is important. “Reach out and get some connectedness. Find some family in a similar situation virtually. Don't be alone. Don't hide it. Don't be ashamed of it,” Snooks said. “Talk about it. Reach out to me.”

Connecting with others helps. Going to a professional based therapy group like Let's Talk or one of the peer groups Dignity has can help.

The peer group meets Tuesdays and Wednesdays and “moms come together virtually and talk about what they're going through, support each other, and offer words of encouragement.”

To find out more about motherhood classes and support groups, email gia.snooks@dignityhealth.org. A statement from Dignity Health regarding visitation noted that “visitation guidelines are constantly assessed to ensure they meet standards to protect the health and safety of our patients, staff and those we serve in the community.

“At this time, women admitted to OB at Chandler Regional Medical Center are able to have one adult visitor throughout their stay and also a certified doula may be present during the birthing process.

“Visitors are screened upon entry to the hospital and must wear a mask.”



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It's just 'Goofy' how friends remain close after 40-plus years

Up Close . . . by Lee Shappell

The friends we make and the relationships we nurture along life's journey feed us, fulfill us and sustain us.

If the bond is sincere, we never let go.

There is no better example than a group of Arizona State alums from the 1970s, many of them high school friends before college, some now living out of state, who have maintained a close connection while they started their careers together, became successful businessmen, or educators, or a psychologist or a physicist. There is a retired a Navy Commander among them. One guy keeps track of the power grids in California.

They've been through everything together: the birth of their kids, friends dying, businesses going up and down. They've gone on family vacations together.

Yet there is something about this group that is just . . . Goofy.

They're also the embodiment of arrested development, where grown men with a frat-boy mirth serve up large sums of money to live and die with the weekly performance of professional football players.

They've maintained their union for more than four decades largely because they all are members of the A-Hilt Football League that is based in South Tempe and operated by Randy Wood, 65, who has lived with his

family in the Corona del Sol High School neighborhood since 1984.

"We became the best of friends who liked to hang around each other all the time," Wood said. "They're not just people we've picked up and grown acquaintances with. These are old buddies."

So what, exactly, is A-Hilt?

Wood and his buddies used to hang around the Canlan House apartments in college, drinking beer, talking sports and watching Goofy reruns on TV. After enough beer and/or Southern Comfort, the Disney character's antics proved especially hilarious to them. They began to imitate his silly laugh.

"And," said Wood, "what did Goofy always say? 'A-hilt! A-hilt! A-hilt!' So that became the name of our fantasy football league, the A-Hilt Football League."

Nobody, as far as we know, ever fell off a cliff, as their cartoon hero was prone to doing, however they screamed "A-hilt!" as a greeting whenever they'd see each other across campus in Tempe. Word is, they still do.

And if you think Wood is a bit over the top in his love of fantasy sports, consider that his wife, Susan, 61, like Randy an Arizona native and ASU alum, is in her seventh season running her own league with a bunch of book-club girlfriends and former Little League and Corona del Sol moms.

And their 25-year-old son, Trevor, is in his 13th season running his league with buddies, much the way

his dad started A-Hilt.

"The world is football crazy, and fantasy football is to the point now where women love it and they're involved," Wood said.

Being commissioner of a fantasy football league can be time-consuming, but it hasn't caused Wood to retire from his day job. He owns Woodshed 2, a sports bar near Dobson Road and University Drive in Mesa. He sold his original Woodshed at Baseline and Mill in 2016 after 37 years.

A-Hilt proved to be an ingenious mechanism created in 1978 to keep the small group of high school and college friends together, for life – in two cases until death did them part.

Wood proudly proclaims that his 14 championships are the most in league history.

And?

"We have a big trophy that has every winner on it," Wood said, "and one of the things that's a little unusual about that is the trophy has a couple of drawers in it. Over the course of 42 years, we've had two members pass away. We put some of their ashes in medicine bottles and keep those in a drawer in the trophy. It's little remembrances of each one as we go by."

A-hilt.

A-Hilt is believed to be the longest continuously operated fantasy league. Anywhere. No less of an authority than "The Swami," ESPN's Chris Berman,



Fantasy football runs in the family for Randy Wood and his wife Susan. He has operated a league for 42 years, she for eight.

And, as much as we love and respect each other, we still have a bloody rivalry when it comes to who wins that trophy . . . it's kept us all together and communicating with each other for 42 years, which is awesome.

— Randy Wood

At the conclusion of each season, they kick in another \$250 each and the cumulative winner is declared Super Bowl champion, taking home \$2,500.

"So there's money to be made," Wood said. "And it gets us all together a couple of times a year for our drafts as we all age."

The A-Hilt Football League's rules set it apart from most fantasy football leagues today. It is a scoring-only league. There are no bonus points for passing, rushing or receiving performances.

"It's a keeper league, so it's as much like the NFL as we can make it," Wood said. "By having a 'B' season it keeps everybody's interest up if you're out of it by the end of the 'A' season."

If an A-Hilt team owner wants a star player, his best bet is to draft him coming out of college and keep him on his roster, for instance a young quarterback like Tua Tagovailoa or Justin Herbert.

"Then you hope they develop as time moves on, just like the NFL does," Wood said. "It's really been fun, and exciting."

"And, as much as we love and respect each other, we still have a bloody rivalry when it comes to who wins that trophy," Wood added. "It keeps our full attention. But even better, it's kept us all together and communicating with each other for 42 years, which is awesome."

believes it to be just that, according to Wood, who added that nobody seems able to produce evidence to debunk his claim.

When created in 1978, it cost teams 5 bucks a week to play. The Super Bowl winner got to take a date out for dinner with wine, and bring back the tab for the group to split.

Now it's \$100 a week. The weekly winner in the 10-team league gets \$600, the runner up \$300 and third-place \$100. They split the NFL season, the "A" season being the first eight weeks and the "B" season being the final nine. There is a draft after each season. Each roster has 17 players and team owners may protect seven players at draft time. The remaining 10 go back into the draft.

Lease of West Chandler parcel should generate millions for Kyrene

Kyrene School District Governing Board has approved a deal that has the potential to generate more than \$100 million in revenue for the district over the next 75 years.

The board entered negotiations to lease a 28-acre parcel along I-10, between Chandler and Ray roads.

The board has been working with a brokerage firm for the last two years in an effort to either sell or lease the land in the most advantageous way, according to a press release.

Voters authorized the board to lease the property in 2013, and state statute permits leases

of 20 years or more. The district received multiple competitive offers, and on Oct. 27, the board accepted a letter of intent from ViaWest, a commercial real estate company, to lease the property for development.

Kyrene Governing Board President Mike Myrick says the deal gives Kyrene the most flexibility.

"A sale may provide a one-time cash infusion for the district, but a lease will be a steady revenue stream for years to come," Myrick said.

"The other advantage of a lease is that the property will revert to the district when the lease is up, providing opportunities for future decision makers to sell or develop the land, depending on the district's needs at that time."

Information: kyrene10.com

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Street beat

The Chandler Police Department helped with crowd control as festivities got underway during a spooktacular celebration that featured kids in costumes, pumpkins, colorful lights and even a fire truck piloted by someone with, dare we say, a little backbone but no skin in the game.

— Photos by
Billy Hardiman
for Wrangler News







Jeff Lambert (25) and Jack Farley of Corona del Sol bring down Mt. Pointe's Tykaden Surrell during the Aztecs 45-9 win Oct. 30 that lifted Aztecs to 5-0. — Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

Analysis . . . by Lee Shappell

5-0 start gives Aztecs hope of reaching 6A playoffs

It seems that Corona del Sol High's football team is a playoff threat once in a blue moon. But after the Aztecs demolished cross-freeway rival Mountain Pointe on the eve of a blue moon and moved to 5-0, the "P" word is beginning to become a real possibility.

Corona last made the playoffs in 2012. It is No. 10 in the state in MaxPreps' 6A rankings.

Corona has three games remaining. It will be heavily favored in its next two, both at home: Nov. 5 vs. Dobson (2-3) and Nov. 13 vs. Westwood (0-5).

If the Aztecs get through those as expected, it would set up a huge season finale Nov. 20 at Mountain View (5-0) with playoff seeding at stake. The Toros play Mountain Pointe and Basha before the Aztecs visit. Like Corona, the Toros are expected to enter the clash 7-0.

The Aztecs, for years an also-ran, are on their longest streak in five years.

Their only close game was a 28-24 come-from-behind thriller over Basha on Oct. 9 when Bryce Douglass caught a 20-yard touchdown pass with less than a minute left from quarterback Quade Swearingen.

Corona's success, however, is tempered by the reality

that its schedule is not the toughest. Its first seven opponents are a combined 8-27. The only foe with a winning record is Basha (3-2).

Twenty-five of the 38 schools in 6A have more-difficult schedules than the Aztecs. Among the 12 that do not is Mountain View.

Corona does not play No. 1 Chandler or No. 2 Hamilton in this pandemic-shortened season.

When they dispatched winless Mountain Pointe, 45-9, it marked the second time in 12 months they've topped the team that once routinely beat them by five or more touchdowns.

Coupled with a season-opening shut out win over Desert Vista, Corona rolled the Ahwatukee schools by a combined 73-9 this season.

Corona is yielding an average 8.0 points a game. The past two games, the offense joined the parade, scoring 52 and 45 points.

Corona's balanced offense averages 207 yards rushing and 176 yards passing.

As the Aztecs position for a playoff run, Swearingen must continue his 73.5 percent accuracy. Jake Schmitt,

a senior, is the receiving leader with 17 catches for 273 yards (16.1-yard average) followed by fellow senior Douglass, with 14 catches for 187 yards (13.4).

Anyale Velazquez (705 yards, 7.8 a carry), a junior, is the team rushing leader. He gets support from senior Scott Musgrave (125 rushing yards, 6.3).

The stingy defense that yields 8 points a game starts with senior Tudor Georgescu (team-leading 32 tackles, including four for lost yards). He also leads the Aztecs with five sacks.

Jack Farley, a senior, is the interceptions leader.

It's time to separate reality from hype. While Corona might not be quite as good as its gaudy record and statistics suggest, a 6A playoff berth is realistic.

Marcos de Niza

Marcos de Niza at 3-2 likely will need to win out at powerful Mesquite (4-1) on Nov. 6 and home vs. winless Seton Catholic (0-4) on Nov. 13 to have even a remote chance of making the playoffs.

Sports Notebook . . . by Alex Zener

Corona harriers tuning up for sectionals, state

Corona del Sol's boys and girls cross country teams have competed in several races this fall, including the Chandler Invitational in September followed by the Western Equinox XC Festival, the Desert Daylight XC Invite and more recently the highly touted Desert Twilight XC Festival, Oct. 1-2 with more than 100 teams from as far away as El Paso.

The Aztecs then raced at the Casteel Invitation on Oct. 16 before finishing the regular season at the Phoenix Classic on Oct. 23, in preparation for the AIA Sectionals on Nov. 4, and the State Championships Nov. 12-13.

Highlights include the boys taking ninth place among 17 teams in the 5,000-Meter High School Championship race at the Twilight XC.

Sophomore **Tyler Tisinger** was Corona's first runner with a time of 16 minutes, 48.5 seconds for 18th place among 127 runners in that division.

Behind him were sophomores **Grant Murad**, 61st place, and **Diego Frausto**, 64th, followed by freshman **Zackary Wiesner** and junior **Diego**

Diaz.

In the Twilight 5,000-Meter Large-School Open race, the Aztecs took 13th place among 25 teams with senior **Robbie Wright** the top finisher for Corona, 54th among 223 runners with a time of 19:18.8.



Alex Zener

Next to cross the finish line earning points for the Aztecs were seniors **Nathan Smith**, 64th place, **Carter Mendoza**, 72nd, **Nathaniel Goodman**, 96th and junior **Colton Hutchins**, 136th.

Corona's freshman team finished in the middle of the pack at the Twilight, eighth place among 16 teams.

Sean Waters led the Aztecs in 20th place, followed by **Felipe Jue**, **Stephen Brown**, **Pablo Frausto**, **Aidan Weber** and **Valin Verma**.

Two weeks later, at the Casteel Invitational at

Mansel Carter Oasis Park in Queen Creek, Tisinger once again was the lead runner for the Aztecs in Boys 5K Run Varsity, taking eighth place with a time of 16:39.4, shaving 9.1 seconds off his Twilight time.

In the Casteel 5K Fun Open, Jue took seventh place and Waters took eighth place, just 2.2 seconds behind Jue.

At the Phoenix Classic, in the 5,000 Meters Division 1 & 2 Open Boys, **Bennett Gunning**, **Gian Martinez-Richard** and Goodman placed 28th, 29th and 30th.

Smith was 33rd and **Logan Sywak** 49th to give Corona a fifth-place finish.

In the 5,000 Meters Division 1 & 2 Varsity Boys, Tisinger once again was the lead runner for the Aztecs, 21st among 98 runners.

He was followed by Murad, 40th, Diaz, 42nd, Frausto, 43rd, and **Callum Rohrer**, 53rd, resulting in an eighth-place finish among 17 teams.

— ZENER, Page 16

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Corona's girls team competed in the 5,000 Meters Large School Freshman race at the Twilight XC Festival where **Paige Davies-Boerner** crossed the finish line in fourth place, racing against 93 runners, with a time of 21:38.1.

Maria Gonzales was next in 19th place followed by **Mia Brannon**, 38th, **Lauren Luscombe**, 62nd and **Avry Scholl**, 71st.

At the Casteel Invitational, highlights for the girls' team included an eighth-place for Corona's lead runner, freshman **Angelina Hickey**, in 19:21.1 in the 5K Run Varsity race, where the Aztecs finished fifth among 10 teams.

Senior **Dalee Higgins** placed 19th, sophomore **Kimberly Musgrave**, 23rd, senior **Peyton Burnside**, 27th and junior **Ashley Lutes** 30th among 81 runners.

In the Girls 5K Run Open, Davies-Boerner won with a time of 21:02.7, followed closely by teammate Gonzales in third place to help Corona to second place behind Mesa Mountain View.

At the Phoenix Classic 5,000 Meters Division 1 & 2 Open Girls race, the lead runner for Corona was junior **Sachiko Devine**, 20th, followed by sophomore **Kelsey**

Gunning, 31st, senior **Audrey Ritzert**, 32nd, senior **Clara Schaeffer** and sophomore **Ella Erickson**, 41st.

In the 5,000 Meters Division 1 & 2 Varsity Girls race, the lead runner for the Aztecs was Hickey in 27th place with Burnside close behind in 29th, followed by Davies-Boerner, junior **Ashlinn Aguayo** and Musgrave.

Marcos de Niza cross country

The Marcos de Niza boys and girls teams had runners compete in the Twilight XC Festival Oct. 1-2 at the Links Golf Course in Queen Creek.

Four Marcos runners took part in the 5,000 Meters Small School Varsity race, where sophomore **Luke Sieveking** was the first Padres runner to cross the finish line, 57th among 183 runners from 26 schools.

Senior **Justin Malpica** finished 89th, followed by freshman **Michael Rowley**, 149th, and freshman **Shane Ellette**.

The boys placed 15th in the 5,000 Meters Small School Open, where senior **Noa Lopez** was the lead runner for Marcos.

He was followed by sophomore **Aspen Koch**, senior **Eduardo Melgar-Centeno**, junior **Juan Cawaling**, freshman **Caleb Lumbr**a and senior **Gabriel Tortoles**.

Senior **Esthere Richards** ran in the 5,000 Meters Small School Open for the Marcos de Niza girls, placing 46th among 92 runners.

Four Padres runners competed in the 5,000 Meters Small School Varsity.

Junior **Ximena Daniel** was the first Marcos runner, followed by seniors **Crystal McCoy**, **Gabrielle Ramirez** and junior **Vanessa Vargas**.

Both the boys and girls teams will be competing AIA Sectional XC Meet on Nov. 4 at Crossroads Park.

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Jobs

From Page 3

moved into their new headquarters, designed to efficiently process and manage materials, by April 2021.

The relocation and facility expansion will allow them to meet the increased product demands with new automation and continued innovation as they aim to grow their employee headcount from 50 employees to 120 over the next three years.

Vivian Valenty, founder of VB Cosmetics, lauded the city's continued cordiality toward the firm.

"It was important for us to not only keep the company growing here in Arizona, but specifically in Chandler

where it all started; the city is most welcoming and where we have so many personal roots," Valenty said.

"The new building at the Lotus Project truly is a symbol of the next phase of VB Cosmetics—one where our newly established and nurtured working community members can help each other be successful to create and enjoy opportunities and take the brand into the next level with manufacturing developments that will best serve both our local community and all customers nationally and



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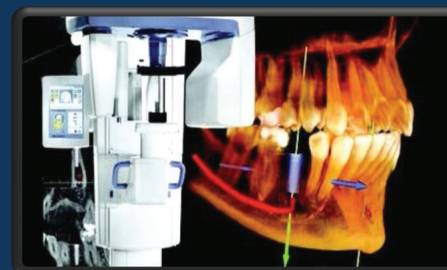
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Corona del Sol's stellar, undefeated football season has drummed up growing support for the team as they continue to shut out opponents. Members of the pom line were all smiles beneath their masks as they cheered the team's success on the field.

– Photos by Billy Hardiman for Wrangler News

Shappell

From Page 14

The 4A Padres have a defense that has 16 quarterback sacks and five pass interceptions and an offense that averages nearly 400 yards a game.

Quarterback Antonio Hernandez has passed for 845 yards and has a 102.1 rating. Jayden Calderon is the rushing leader with 505 yards (6.4 a carry). Nico Updyke's 27 catches for 405 yards lead the team.

Jacob Irick leads the Padres with 45 tackles. Isaiah Williams is the sacks leader with 7.

Valley Christian

The bubble burst for 3A Valley Christian. After a 4-0 start, all routs, the Trojans dropped a hard-fought 7-0 game Oct. 30 to Arizona College Prep that left both teams 4-1.

Coming down the stretch, VC finishes at Payson (2-3) on Nov. 6 and home vs. Fountain Hills (2-2) on Nov. 13, giving the Trojans reasonable hope of advancing to postseason play.

Quarterback Jadon Hanzal has passed for 924 yards, Kaden Majercak has rushed for 530 (8 yards a carry) and Andrew Hanzal is the receiving leader with 340 yards.

Seton Catholic

It's been a tough year for 4A Seton Catholic, which dropped all four of its games by lopsided scores before Game 5 at Youngker (0-3) on Oct. 30 was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That might have been the Sentinels' best chance to pick up a victory this season.

They finish at Marcos de Niza (3-2) Nov. 13 and host Coronado (0-2) in the Nov. 20 finale.

Diversions . . . by M.V. Moorhead

"This is hard for a Scotsman to admit, but I now think Daniel Craig is the best Bond."

This is what a Scottish friend of mine reluctantly called to tell me, after seeing Craig, an Englishman, play the role of 007 in the 2012 movie Skyfall.

The reason for his reluctance, of course, is that as a Scotsman, he felt disloyal to Sean Connery, the Scottish actor who became an international star playing the part in the first five films in the 007 series, and two more times after that.

My friend is perhaps a more objective person than I am, and I'm of Scottish descent myself, which may be why I couldn't agree with him. I'm easy where the Bond films are concerned; I've enjoyed every actor who has played the role, from the posh English Roger Moore—much to my friend's horror—to Timothy Dalton to Pierce Brosnan, to the indeed excellent Daniel Craig.

I didn't even particularly mind the bland but affable George Lazenby in On Her Majesty's Secret Service.

But Sean Connery, who departed last week at the age of 90, is still the best Bond. The son of a factory worker

and a cleaning lady, Connery was born in Edinburgh in 1930. He was a milkman when he was a young; my friend once observed that if everyone in Edinburgh who claimed that Connery delivered milk to them really did, then he must have had the largest milk route in the history of the dairy industry.

A big, strapping bodybuilder, Connery broke into acting after service in the Royal Navy, with bit and supporting parts onstage and in movies and TV.

He landed a lead in the charming, too-little-remembered 1959 Disney fantasy Darby O'Gill and the Little People before being chosen to play Ian Fleming's creation James Bond in 1962's Dr. No.

It was Connery, for my money, who set the standard for the role, and who balanced the character's aspects the most effortlessly—he was plausible as both the debonair, sophisticated gentleman and the



ruthless killer.

And, of course, he had a nice, dryly witty way with a line and an amusingly above-it-all manner, which may have derived from his reported indifference to the role; he quickly became exasperated by his association with it.

Even so, he was never a cold fish; he always brought a subtle touch of warmth to Bond's persona.

Happily, he also eventually overcome his association with it, or at least proved that his range as an actor far surpassed secret agent antics.

Excellent as he was as Bond, Connery didn't become a really interesting actor until he branched out from it. This started early with appearances in Hitchcock's Marnie and later, in the '70s, with movies like Murder on the Orient Express and John Huston's The Man Who Would Be King, opposite his friend Michael

Sean Connery 1930 - 2020

Caine (it's said to be both his and Caine's favorite of their own films).

Even the hilarious red loin-cloth-and-suspenders costume he wore in John Boorman's bizarre 1973 sci-fi flick Zardoz didn't defeat him.

But as he grew gray-bearded and majestically bald in the '80s and '90s, his career grew even richer. He appeared in favorites like Time Bandits (as Agamemnon) and Highlander and The Hunt for Red October and The Rock, and in interesting, overlooked misfires like Cuba and Wrong is Right and Medicine Man and A Good Man in Africa, and he brought a degree of authority to all of them. He even played the bookish Dad of the title character in 1989's Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom.

And he won an Oscar as the brutal Chicago-Irish cop in Brian De Palma's The Untouchables.

These are only some of the highlights of Connery's post-Bond work.

I think he'll be remembered at least as much for this fine, mature phase of his career as for driving Aston Martins and deploying double entendre and teasing Q and flirting with Miss Moneyppenny.

Even so, he is the best of the Bonds.



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Announcements appearing in our Neighborhood Services section are placed by local business owners who want to be a reliable go-to source that you can trust now and in the future. Ads in this section appear in 6 consecutive issues at a cost of \$150, plus tax, which includes an accompanying classified ad at no additional charge. Call 480-966-0837 for information.

Chandler Businesses! Apply for a free “I Choose Chandler PPE Kit”

**Must meet program qualifications*

\$240 value—Kit includes:

- 2 boxes of 50 non-medical surgical masks
- 1 automatic hand sanitizer standing dispenser
- 1 gallon of hand sanitizer

To see if your business qualifies, visit:

www.ChandlerChamber.com

Call 480-963-4571



“Protecting public health has been Council’s top priority throughout the pandemic. The I Choose Chandler PPE Kit Program is another way the City continues to create innovative programs to keep employees and patrons safe, while providing much needed assistance to our business community.” ~ Chandler Mayor, Kevin Hartke

Chandler businesses must meet the following criteria to be eligible for a PPE Kit:

- Be a registered business with the City of Chandler
 - Have 100 or less employees
 - The following are excluded from qualifying: Non-Profits, home based businesses, vacation rentals, rentals of commercial property, internet based businesses, kiosks or vending businesses, car service provider (i.e. Uber, Lyft, other taxi service)
- Visit www.ChandlerChamber.com to fill out the application.

TCAA launches holiday giveaway to Tempe's neediest

As the holidays approach, everyone can agree it's been a difficult time but hope is on the horizon thanks to Tempe Community Action Agency. Now all that's needed is for Tempeans to step up to help.

Living through a pandemic has created unthinkable hardships for many of the city's residents, according to TCAA Executive Director Deborah Artega.

As TCAA plans for the upcoming holiday season, it's with the knowledge there will be hundreds of families in the community who will rely on the agency to help them through the holiday this year—many of them for the first time ever. Want to get involved? Following are a few ways you can make a difference in the lives of others who are struggling this holiday season.



Deborah Artega

Giving Tree Program — This year, TCAA is offering a unique holiday giving option for adults and children enrolled in TCAA programs. We are seeking donations in increments of \$25 for gift cards that TCAA will purchase on your behalf. TCAA will distribute gift cards to enrolled families and clients during a drive-through Giving Tree Event. Participants will be able to select from one of three options for their household: local eateries, family fun experience, or shopping for basic needs. Each \$25 contribution will be applied to an adult or child in

need. Information: tempeaction.org/giving-tree

Turkey Fund Drive — You can assist TCAA with meeting its goal to provide 500 families with a Thanksgiving meal by making a \$20 donation towards the purchase of a large turkey for a local family in need. To preserve the health of our visitors, staff, and volunteers, we ask that you consider donating \$20 towards a turkey that TCAA will purchase, instead of donating a pre-purchased turkey.

Information: tempeaction.org/tcaa-turkey-drive-2020

Thanks for Giving Drive — Kick off the holiday season by logging into the Downtown Tempe Holiday Special on Thanksgiving evening. TCAA and the Downtown Tempe Authority are partnering to launch the Thanks for Giving Drive. During this Live Holiday Special viewers will be able to donate to TCAA and help us raise \$5,000 towards fighting food insecurity in Tempe. Information: tempeaction.org/thanks-for-giving-campaign

Holiday Lights — Light up and bring holiday cheer to homebound older adults in Tempe this holiday season! We need volunteers to disperse across Tempe for 2-3 hours on Saturday, December 5th. Volunteer groups will hang holiday lights on several homes belonging to clients of TCAA's Senior Independence programs. TCAA provides maps and supplies.

Want to sponsor or volunteer at this event? Email Deb Bacorn, Community Engagement Supervisor, at DebraB@tempeaction.org



Mary Contreras, Agent
2145 E Warner Road
Tempe, AZ 85284
Bus: 480-775-7788
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Who are the New Arizonians!

We have all heard about those elusive "California buyers". They sell their 1500 square foot home in California that was built in 1953 for \$1,500,000 and head Eastward. Well it is true, In LA county, properties on the market for sale have INCREASED 25% year to date. Those Californians are headed to Arizona. This shift is fueled by working at home, as well as the need for space and more FREEDOM from regulation! Working from home allows more homeowners to choose where they want to live instead of living where their job is located. Couple that with the closure of most museums, the theatre, restaurants and sport venues, there is less reason to live in these expensive California cities. Welcome the NEW ARIZONIANS!

So, how do these California buyers find your Tempe home? They can look on the Internet, but do they see the lifestyle offered in your great neighborhood? They can look at photos but does that tell the real story of our community life and great schools. It takes knowledge of what buyers are looking for to be able to present your home to that buyer sitting in their LA living room.

At the Carol Royse Team, we are experts in connecting our Arizona home sellers with these California buyers. As a result, we get our sellers more money and a faster sale. Call me today and take advantage of my knowledge and marketing to get these buyers to your Tempe home.

If you are still not sure, you can order one of my free reports,
*27 Tips on How you can Sell Your Home Fast and For Top
Dollar.*

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I am here to serve you and the needs of our community at the highest level.

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remodeled. Glass pocket doors
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entertainment.
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suite, pool w/water feature.

\$550,000



Amazing Home with a 5+ Car / RV Garage

Beautiful mountain views &
Sonoran aceage! Unique home
with an open floor plan, craft room,
an office, and game room.

\$515,000



Awesome South Tempe Home

Desirable corner lot, spacious island
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large backyard. Wonderful
subdivision w/parks. Kyrene Schools.

\$315,000