



**WRANGLER  
NEWS**

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***Congratulations  
Class of 2023***

**Graduation Commemorative  
Section Pages 13 - 21**

Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowski





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# For hometown grad, curiosity paved way to historic advances in cancer care

By Janie Magruder  
Special for Wrangler News



**W**hen Bukola Obayomi was younger, she wasn't thinking about dissecting weevils, rewarding rodents for running through mazes or reproductive problems in uterine horns.

Nevertheless, this creative, curious child, wearing three watches on each arm, navigated her way through Kyrene Aprende Middle School and Corona del Sol High School with a thirst for knowledge.

It made sense — Obayomi's family is well-educated. Her dad, Jacob, a first-generation American born in Nigeria, is an aerospace engineer, and her mom, Janet, works in organizational management. Brother Ade is a professional dancer in Los Angeles.

Last month, the 31-year-old Chandler woman was awarded a doctorate in biology, with a specialization in reproductive physiology, from ASU. Graduation was early in the morning, and she was nervous, just hoping she didn't trip and that she was smiling at all the cameras.

"I didn't feel anything until my graduation party, and it hit me that I'm finally done with school," said Obayomi, referring to her ASU experience that spanned 10 years and involved work in seven laboratories.

And now, she is working on cancer treatments at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Phoenix, in the Department of



Following in her parents' academic footsteps, doctoral grad is uncovering new treatments for advanced cancer care.

TranslationalNeuroscience.

"I think cancer research is where I want to be for the rest of my life," Obayomi said. "I'm excited to see what comes next."

## Exploring science careers at ASU

When she started classes a decade ago at ASU, Obayomi pursued biology and initially planned to go to medical school. She shadowed doctors and volunteered for research, dabbling in entomology, sorting and cutting open beetles and watching mice perform for treats in a behavioral neuroscience lab.

"That was very exciting for me," said Obayomi, who eventually discovered she preferred working with rodents over physicians. "Insects were cool, but not translatable to humans."

Obayomi earned a bachelor's degree in biology, with a specialization in animal physiology and behavior, then pursued a master's degree. Her world opened up while working in a lab where mice reproduction was under the microscope.

"I just fell in love," she said. "Reproduction is obviously so important, but not a lot of people study it."

— Please turn to Page 10



# Longtime Tempe exec Inchausti named interim city manager after Ching's departure

Rosa Inchausti, a three-decade city of Tempe staff member whose history spans a series of successive "firsts," is replacing departing City Manager Andrew Ching on an interim basis while a search for Ching's fulltime replacement gets under way.

Inchausti's 30 years with Tempe have included an impressive history of pioneering endeavors, both for her and city governance.

She began her career as the first bilingual marriage and family therapist, followed by forging Tempe's diversity efforts as the first diversity director.

This role led to yet another first as strategic management and diversity director.

During this time, Inchausti was responsible for transforming the organization into a data-driven municipality and aligning the City Council's priorities into an actionable strategic plan.

As co-chair of the city's Technology and Innovation Steering Committee, Inchausti identified and recommended the adoption of new technologies and innovations designed to advance the quality of life for residents and businesses.

Two notable projects that stemmed from this role was the creation of a roadmap for the integration of autonomous vehicles into a municipality, as well as the launch of wastewater epidemiology via municipal infrastructure.

All of these firsts have led her to become the city's first female deputy city manager, where it is said she will continue to strive toward improving the lives of those who live, work, and play in Tempe.

Inchausti was raised in Southern California and received a Bachelor's degree in psychology from Loyola Marymount University.

She then moved to Arizona and received a Master's in Counseling from Northern Arizona University.

She has been a resident of Tempe for over 25 years, during which time she raised daughters Alexia and Andrianna.

Areas of her responsibility include the departments of Community Development, Human Services, Information Technology, Economic Development and Strategic Management and Innovation.

Ching, who began serving as city manager in April 2013, followed his appointment as interim city manager in January 2013.

He will start his job as town manager for the Town of Paradise Valley later this month.



Rosa Inchausti — Courtesy city of Tempe



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**Offices:** Warner Century Plaza  
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## Senior prank results in police, CdS lockdown

Senior pranks are often an annual tradition at Corona del Sol, just like most other high schools, with seniors sending their final hurrah with shaving cream, sparkles, silly string and other gag-gift party items.

However, during the second-to-last week of classes before summer break, a pair of separate incidents led to an increase in security presence and a “modified lockdown” for roughly 50 minutes on May 18.

According to Corona del Sol Principal Nathan Kleve, an alleged senior prank involving water balloons and silly string got out of hand, causing Tempe PD and additional school resource officers to show up to regain order.

“This quickly escalated into a large-scale incident with several fights breaking out and students refusing to go to class after the bell rang,” Kleve said in an email to CDS parents.

“A plan was put into place to have an organized release of students for the remaining two periods,” he said, adding that “the school day finished without further incidents.”

Kleve went on to say that he and the Corona administration was deeply disappointed in the student behavior.

The senior paper toss, another high school tradition where seniors toss all of their notes, assignments and papers into the air signalling the completion of classes, was canceled as well.

Corona was able to swiftly take care of the senior incident due to what officials said was an already increased security presence relating to “a social media rumor of a threat that has caused concern in the Corona del Sol community.”

The supposed threat was reposted by students online and investigated by police, said Kleve in an email. Although, no mention of Corona or any Tempe Union high school was specifically mentioned.

“We have notified police and they determined it appears to be a hoax, but will continue to investigate the matter,” the email read.

“Out of an abundance of caution,” Kleve said, “there will be additional security presence tomorrow (May 19). No additional incidents have occurred since, with the possibility of participation in graduation ceremonies being revoked for any senior who caused further disruption . — Andrew Lwowski



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## COMMENTARY

### Tempe Maker District benefits us all

By Randy Keating

Your priorities become your accomplishments. The success of the Tempe Maker District is an example of how the investment of time, community involvement and effort can transform an area that was a little worn into something that is highly desired.



Tempe Maker District is a 600-acre area of primarily industrial, commercial and manufacturing uses that runs from Priest Drive to Mill Avenue, from Broadway Road to Southern Avenue.

In 2018, the 1-mile area had an industrial property vacancy rate of about 11% - more than twice that of the rest of the city. The buildings were getting older and some didn't have the kinds of amenities that newer warehouses do, like extra high ceilings and bigger bay doors.

The area was ripe for rebranding and reinvestment by the City of Tempe. We named it the Tempe Maker District to honor the many small, creative manufacturing businesses in the area. Makers like Laura's Gourmet Granola, Mayan Tortilla Factory, Crockett Honey, Sun Orchard orange juice and the United Dairymen of Arizona were already there. Encouraging more of those kinds of companies to locate in the area would be natural. It would contribute to a real community atmosphere.

To help, Tempe City Council adopted plans in 2019 that would allow for greater density and mixed uses in the area, such as apartments. More housing would help attract workforce to the area and, in turn, more companies. It would contribute to a 24/7 retro vibe, so desirable by many.

As a city, we have the ability to shape public spaces. We have been

diligent in improving the streetscape in the Tempe Maker District. Significant investments in paving and landscaping have been made. We are almost finished with the Refresh Tempe Alameda Road Improvements from Rural Road to 48th Street. The bike lanes are beautiful. We planted trees. Last year, after listening to residents and businesses, we adopted design guidelines that will integrate art, gateways and more.

We've seen amazing results! In just five years, the vacancy rate went from 11% to just 2.9%. Here are some of the success stories:

- Parc Broadway Apartments opened with more than 300 units and a dedicated suite on the ground floor to be used as a community maker space.
- The Boulderling Project is opening a climbing facility this month.
- Lucid Motors took over long-empty warehouse space and plans to expand.
- A new chicken and waffle drive-thru is coming to a former bank building.
- 21st Century Healthcare added about 200 jobs and occupies five buildings

The area definitely has more curb appeal.

South Tempe benefits from these successes with locally loved products and services. I personally love Laura's Gourmet Granola and can't wait for some chicken and waffles. New revenues raised from formerly empty spaces fund services for the entire city, including south Tempe.

I invite you to explore the Maker District. See what planning, investment and community care can do.

Please reach out to me anytime with your thoughts about Tempe Maker District or any other matter. I can be reached by phone at 480-350-8916 or by email at [randy\\_keating@tempe.gov](mailto:randy_keating@tempe.gov). You can follow me on Facebook ([facebook.com/keatingforcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/keatingforcouncil)) and Twitter @randykeating.

*Randy Keating is a member of the Tempe City Council.*

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## Tackling a global public health issue

Worldwide, an estimated 15 million babies, more than one in 10 births, are born prematurely, according to the World Health Organization. More than 1 million of them die shortly after birth, and countless others suffer lifelong physical, neurological or educational disabilities.

Reducing preterm birth is a public health priority in the U.S., where the rate rose from 10.1% in 2020 to 10.5% in 2021.

In most cases, preterm labor, occurring from 20 through 36 weeks of pregnancy, begins unexpectedly. The causes are unknown, but Obayomi contributed to a growing body of research while at ASU. She earned a master's in biology, with a specialization in reproductive physiology, in 2017, then began pursuing her Ph.D.

Obayomi's advisor, Page Baluch, assistant director of biosciences in ASU's Knowledge Enterprise, described her as a dedicated student who always wanted to learn and to try new

techniques.

"During the past eight years, Bukola learned and mastered the use of many complex instruments such as electron and scanning confocal microscopes, as well as many genomic and analytical tools," Baluch said. "She also became proficient in many histology-based techniques which also requires a lot of patience and skill."

Obayomi's focus for her Ph.D was potential causes of preterm labor involving a novel molecule called tyramine. Among her discoveries was that it is present in the uterine muscle of mice and in the process of ovulation.

Because tyramine is involved in and important to other processes, however, Obayomi had to explore ways to degrade it over time, but not block it altogether.

"It was six years of me trying to figure out a way to degrade this molecule, and it was amazing that we found another molecule involved in the reproductive process," said Obayomi, whose doctoral paper is entitled, "Investigating Tyramine's Role in the Mouse Uterine Horn."

For now, she said, it is up to more seasoned reproductive scientists to pick up the research and apply it to humans.

## What's next for Dr. Obayomi

This spring, Obayomi began setting up a new lab at the UA's Department of Translational Neuroscience.

Her team will research the development of different targets for existing drugs and treatments for neuroendocrine cancer.

"I want do something new to see if the expertise I've gotten is transferable to a completely different system," she said. "The goal is to more successfully treat cancer."

Baluch said Obayomi brought many new technologies to the ASU lab that are still used today. Her future is bright, she added.

"I am certain that she will be successful in her future career goals because she has the drive, perseverance and enthusiasm to make it happen," Baluch said.





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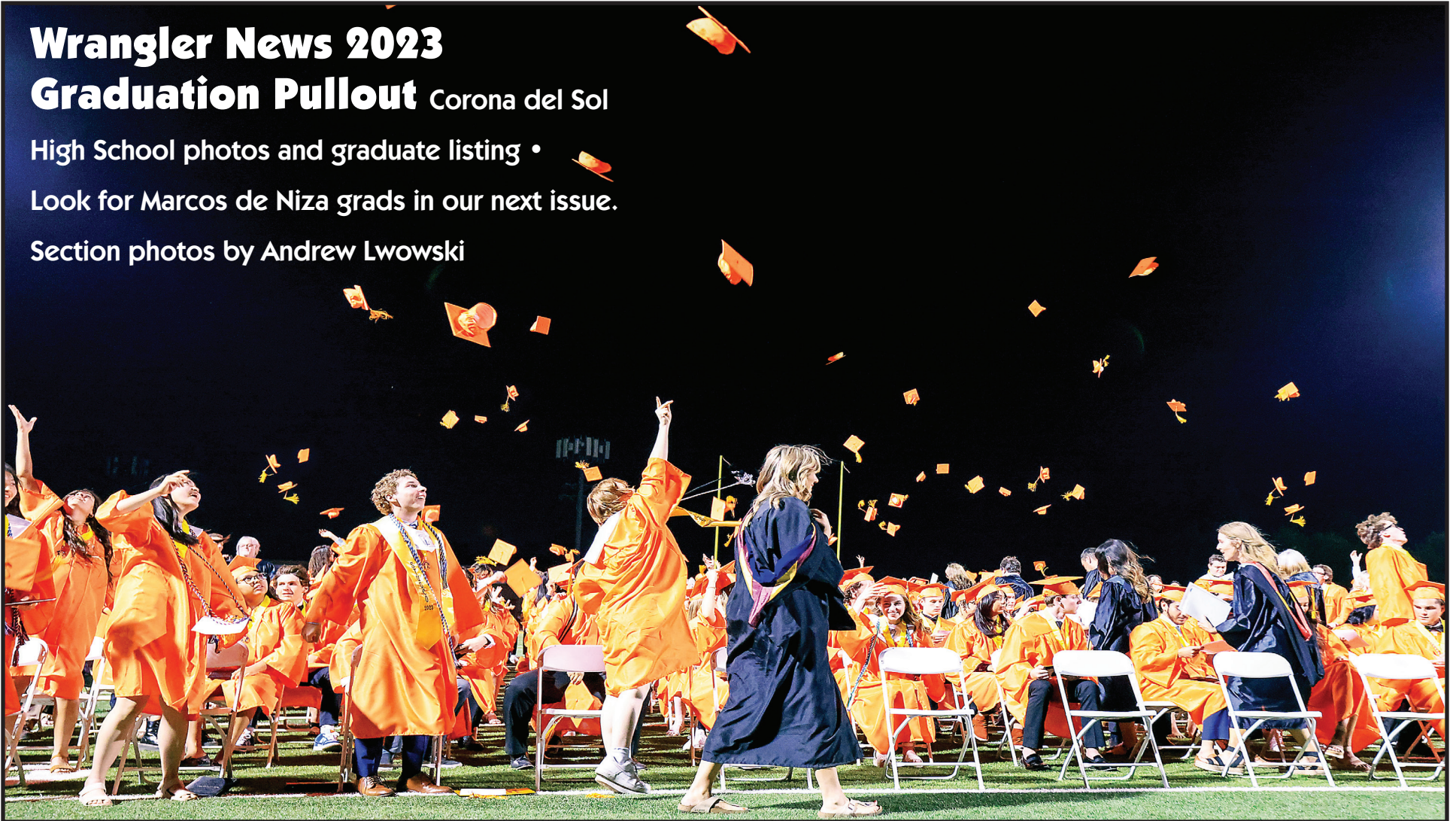




# Wrangler News 2023

## Graduation Pullout Corona del Sol

High School photos and graduate listing •  
 Look for Marcos de Niza grads in our next issue.  
 Section photos by Andrew Lwowski



Tempe's high schools have once again sent their best and finest on to the next step of their future — a time when these outstanding young people, the Class of 2023, will go forward into a new world full of opportunity and rewards. This year's almost 2,700 (depending on final tallies) TUHSD grads were offered more than \$66 million in scholarships, a compelling piece of evidence that their education represented a valuable investment.

We at Wrangler News have worked with and personally know many of these students — teens who have contributed not only to us but to their friends, families and community—and, not to be overlooked, to a future that we're sure will be better because of them. Based on what we read and see in today's media, some of us occasionally ask where our world is headed. If we answer that question by looking at the young people who are celebrating their high school graduation this year — students who have made their way through four challenging years at one of our Tempe Union High School District campuses — we can feel confident that this world of ours indeed will be a better place.

**To them we say Congratulations — Go Forth, Make Your Mark**  
*And what we believe is important parting advice: Carpe Diem.*





As the class of 2023 flipped their tassels and tossed their caps into the night sky, they will embark on their next chapter of life — although the sweet memories and friendships of high school will last a lifetime.





# Corona del Sol High School Class of 2023

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Laurel Phuong-Ha Doan  
Andrew Bryan Dominguez  
Paul Leo Donithan  
Megan Macy Dosch  
Jaxon Volney Darwin Douglas  
Kwame Toure Draggon  
Abigail Lynn Drollinger  
Daytona Pearl Duggan  
Chastin Samuel Dunn  
Cy David Durfee  
Ajla Dzambegovic  
Marcus Christopher Echerivel  
Abby Lauren Edens

Trinity Nichole Elson  
Amanda Rae Encinas  
Ella Hope Erickson  
Anna Sophia Erlick  
Madison Mia Escarcega  
Payton Grace Escarcega  
Andres Enrique Esparza  
Marcus Angel Espinoza  
Alijandra Marie Estrada  
Derek Isaiah Estrada  
Calvin Matthew Evans  
Mikel Anthony Faccio  
Trey Kaio-Isopo Fanene  
Kennedy Joy Farnsworth  
Gavvin Jamie Fernandez  
Mackenzie Lyn Ferris-Tinker  
Tyler John Finger  
Ashton James Flanagan  
Cassandra Ann Flanagan  
Bryce Conlan James Follmer  
Brenna Maeve Louise Foreman  
Diego Frausto  
Jayden Frazier  
Angelo Mataio Free  
Joseph Lawrence Freed  
Brandon Alexander Freer  
Isabella Marie Freund  
Mason Andrew Gable  
Peyton Kristine Gaither  
Kaelah Mackenzie Gallagher  
Zijun Gao  
Kennedy Grace Garcia  
Licia Francesca J Garcia  
Mia Taylor Garcia  
Sky Celeste Garcia  
Aran Noel Garza  
Marcos Rose Garza  
Hunter Wade Gastelo  
Brandon Armani Gavins  
Cameron Jeremy Gdowski  
Tyler Allen Gerace  
Sean Patrick Geraghty  
Lanette Pearl Geren  
Lauranna Mary Gertenbach  
Sofia Grace Ghosh  
Kailee Brielle Gibson  
Caleb Aidan Gilby  
Haley Anne Gill  
Michael Romero Gillespie  
Erick Gil-Mayer  
Garrett Benjamin Luis Gloria  
D'Artagnan Alexander Gomez  
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Gabriel Andreas Gonzales  
Blake Mitchell Gonzalez



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CLASS OF

# 2023

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## Congratulations!



Tempe High



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# THE 23/24 SCHOOL YEAR STARTS WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2023!

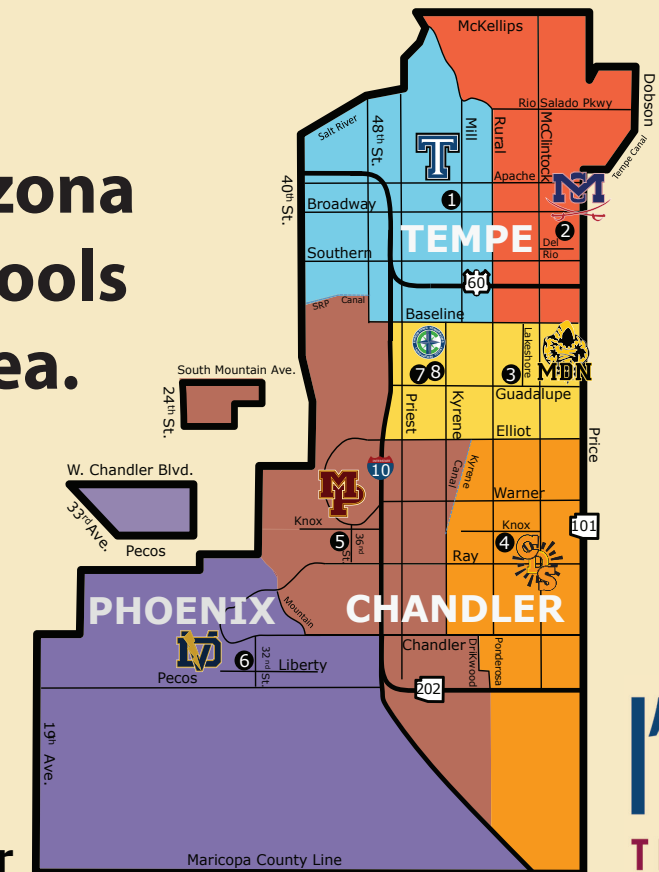


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-  6.) Desert Vista
- 7.) District Office
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Rhiannon Marie Goodman	Rachel Elizabeth Johnson	Ethan Russell LoCascio	Adrian Martin Miranda
Trinity Paige Goodwin	Sayer Dax Johnson	Dylan Zerrick Locke	Brianna Joy Mitchell
Atzel Grau-Pavia	Avery Jillian-Francesca Jones	Lindsay Nicole Locklin	Madelyn Rose Mitchell
Kalen Ty Green	Noah Daulen Jones	Ella Ann Loguda	Nitya Sri Miyyapuram
Christopher Ryan Guerrero	Zachary Lee Jones	Damon Paul Lohoff	Walter James Moffatt
Kelsey Marie Gunning	Ethan Grey Joralmon	Nicholas John LoJustice	Cenelia Laura Molina
Aleena Ranae Gutierrez	Courtney Emma Jordan	Ella Lomigora	Cole Edward Montei
Jacob Ernesto Gutierrez	Ana Nikolina Jovanovic	Antonio Lorenzo Lopez	Edward Martin Moore
Vanessa Elisabeth Gutierrez	Luna Violette Athena Juery	Elizabeth Melanie Lopez	Yanset Alexandra Mora
Brooke Madison Guy	Madelynn Michelle Kamolz	Justin Emil Lopez	Jose Alonso Morales
Tyler Jacob Hamm	Erin Nicole Karlin	Samantha Alexis Lopez	Dakota Jordan Moreno
Jabreel Morris Hania	Riley Mae Kasuse	Serenity Ksieyva Loretto	Donovan Richard Morgan
Brooke Annalise Hanna	Cabhan Robert Kelleher	Emily Ann Lott	Ariana Michelle Morrison
Lori Elizabeth Hardy	Sean Christopher Kellogg	Xitlali Katherine Loy	Carissa Arlene Morrison
Abbie Elizabeth Harlow	Tatum Riley Kemp	Joneshea Loyo	Nicholas Tyler Morrow
Kendra Lee Harrell	Charlene Lu Khuu	Reed Christian Lucero	Matthew Mateen Mowlazadeh
Brenna Lee Harvey	Carston Charles Kieffer	Alexander Dequan Lutz	Raina Elizabeth Mueller
Koby Alex Haskie	Kennedy Jayne Kienlen	Cameron Malachi Lutz	Lucah Riley Munoz
Macy Natalie Haugland	Maya Jodell Kimble	Gavin Anthony Lyons	Grant Michael Murad
Sofia Elizabeth Hazell	Maurice Elijah Kimbro	Wyatt Matthew Mack	Vivian Faye Murphy
Devin Joshua Roman Hefty	Jace Ray King	Sarah Rose Mackenzie	Kimberly Kate Musgrave
Dawson James Hernandez	Blake David Klein	Gabriel Andres Madrid	Andrew Ryan Mushkin
Destiny Hernandez	Kyle Scott Kribs	Nathan Agostino Magro	Maqbool Ahmad Muslim
Fermin Martinez Hernandez	Piper Mae Kruger	Colin Branigar Mahaffey	Leanna Nashea Myers
Nicolas Cruz Hernandez	Jonathan Paul Kubat	Ryan Alexa Mahon	Ryan Alexzander Myers
Emily Alexis Hicks	Chloe Madeline Kuhl	Randi Marie-Ann Mahoney	Abby Ann Neumann
Jesus Francico Higuera	Carson Riley Kusek	Natalie Marie Mantini	Elley McKenna Newman
Samantha Diane Hill	Devon Laynne Kyte	Joshua Andrew Maple	Gabriela Dulce Jazminne Newman
Oliver Flint Hinder	Ryan Alexander La Ra	Alivia Ann Marchione	Savannah Lorraine Newman
Mason James Hinners	Kobe Jon-Dominik Ladd	Kirsten Amelia Marquis	Phuc Thi An Nguyen
Eloise Kathryn Holmes	Addison Sierra Lahr	Mia Elizabeth Martinez	Peter Tianci Ni
Isabelle Acacia Bowden Honsberg	Julia Michele Lambson	Andre Simon Martinez-Jackson	John Jovan Nichols
Bailey Ronald-Ellis Honyouti	Myles James Larsen	Madison Ann Mascari	Riley Noelle Niemann
Debra Allen Hoopes	Kayla Gail Larson	Sophia Michelle Sook-Hi Mason	Samantha Lynn Noble
Gauge Makoa Horvath	Ciara Brooke Lawson	Zakiria Monique Mason	Jada Alicia Notah-Mendoza
Caroline Josephine Houston	Adam Lazar	Armand Charles Masseur	Analiiese Nunez
Emma Grace Hudson	Georgia Abbiegail Lee	Bennett Angelo Matsler	Dakota Kaey Kenzie Nunn
Verna Haitham-Jamil Huma	Xavier Patrick Lee	Amanda Renee Maurer	Brennen Takuma O'Brien
Molly Alita Hunter	Gavin Richard Legg	Jedediah James Maurer	Frank Joseph Ochoa
Jaclyn Janelle Ibarra	Madison Taylor Leib	Krystal Mayoral	Serenity Lynea Ochoa
Riva Ilia	Melody Fox Leip	Cole Robert McAuliffe	Brandon Julian Olivares
Kate Davis Ingram	Carlos Leon	Kevin Joseph McCabe	Jonathon Ephrain Olmedo
Nicole Azaiah Irwin	Omar Enrique Leon Cerezo	Brooklyn Lea McCluskey	Oscar Xavier Olmedo
Gina Marie Jackson	Anamarie Lisa Leonard	Zachary Craig McCool	Joshua Adan Olmos
Jack Allen Jacobs	Melissa Llagas Leonidas	Aiden Braxton McDonald	Nickolas Scott Ormiston
Jeffrey Alexander Jacoby	Nicholas Francis Leopard	Cayden Ross McElwee	Reagan Sheigh O'Rourke
Madison Lynn James	Erin Freda Levy	Delaney Ellene McGrath	Matthew Christian Orthmann
Jared Michael Janda	Olivia Madelyn Lewis	Taylor Mae McLane	Beckham Scott Orticelli
Owen Matthew Janssen	Merilyn Christin Li	Ena Jadon McMahon	Aimee Rayne Owen
Nadiah Monet Jasarevic	Travis Gordon Licko	Shannon Vashti McQuiddy	Audree Danielle Owen
Alexander Jauregui Galarza	Anna Mohacsy Liddle	Grantham Wesley McWilliams	Jacob Jeremiah Padilla
Tatsat Tarun Jha	Aidan Sean Lightfoot	Zachary Lawrence Mehall	Noah Zachary Padilla
Alexis Lynn Johannson	Tobias Martin Chang Oak Lim	Andrej Mesihovic	Paulo Patricio Padilla Guerrero
Maja Elisabet Johannson	Jared Ryan Link	Mayson Lo'Raine Milanovich	Larysa Jae Pagel



Angelo Luigi Paone  
 Manan Chandresh Patel  
 Hozhoonii Hope Paul  
 Dontay Lamar Paxton  
 Lenora Paige Pearsall  
 Keona Spencer Peat  
 Jack Francis Pagnataro  
 William David Pelletier  
 Yaobin Peng  
 Alexandria Taylor Pequeno  
 Marcos Eduardo Perez Ruiz  
 Myles Perine  
 Thrice Elijah Perine  
 Violette Ann Peters  
 Emma Chabaram Peterson  
 Amelia Violet Phan  
 Oliver R Pheil  
 Brielle Elizabeth Phelan  
 Cole Robert Pierce  
 Denzel Pivac  
 Madeline Elizabeth Plenn  
 Ria Mikaela de Leon Pollentes  
 Blue Jean Pond  
 Ethan David Pouncey  
 Mia Madison Purcell  
 Mackenzie Lillian Putrow  
 Ashley Danielle Ragsdale  
 Diego Alejandro Ramirez  
 Gabriel Leighton Ramirez  
 Nicolas Ramirez  
 Mackenzie Payton Raner  
 McKenna Bailey Rapson  
 Inara Lenore Rathell  
 Olivia Ann Ray  
 Jordan Marcella Redden  
 Brianna Nicole Redondo  
 Cara Elizabeth Redos  
 Trenton Anthony Redwanc  
 Kayla Marie Reese  
 Jeshua Yael Regalado  
 Layla Faith Reif  
 Terry Wayne Rials  
 Zoey Miranda Rich  
 Tiana Sophia Richard  
 Kyle Christopher Rife  
 Emily McKayla Riley  
 Jasmyn Olivia Ritzert  
 Emma Jane Rivera  
 Lana Haley Roberts  
 Madison Karen-Ann Romero  
 Marisa Michele Romero  
 Ryan Sombath Romero  
 Pieter William Rosenbluth  
 Haley Morgan Ross  
 Kaili C Rubio  
 Cayden Pierce Rubio-Williams

Slater Vaughn Rubio-Williams  
 Shams Yasir Rudha  
 Abigail Jean Rugg  
 Lily Elizabeth Russell  
 Kaelin Patricia Ryzcek  
 Sumaya Mohamed Said  
 Hayden Sue Sailors  
 Viviana Salazar  
 Iliya Salimzad  
 Jonathan Michael Sanchez  
 Savannah Rene' Sandberg  
 Tatum Marie Sawyer  
 Kaleb Patrick Aquino Sayama  
 Addison Louise Schapiro  
 Michael Vincent Schettino  
 Ethan Mile Schiavitti  
 Jordan Michael Schmidt  
 Giada Kay Schmidtknecht  
 Delanie Maryse Schupp  
 Jake Sebastian Schwartz  
 Lisa Breil Schwing  
 Olivia Marie Scussel  
 Jonathan Michael Stanley Seddon  
 Finnigan Francis Selvig  
 Jenna Elsayed Serag  
 Alma Apollonia Shaban  
 Tristan Michael Shafer  
 Sarah Nicole Sharp  
 Kiarra Margarita Love Shaw-Villalobos  
 Caden Blaine Shelton  
 Zachary Uriah Shipp  
 Madison Marie Short  
 Isabel Marie Silva  
 Zion Lennox Silva  
 Michael Esequiel Lee Silvas  
 Korri Lynn Simpson  
 Rachel Eryn Smalley  
 Miles Alan Smith  
 Ryan Walter Smith  
 Claire Elizabeth Solomon  
 Adam Khaled Soussi  
 Olivia Marie Soza  
 Jane Coulter Spellman  
 Landon Stewart Springmeyer  
 Lucie Keith St Clair  
 Preston Alexander Stapp  
 Ian El Stark  
 Emma Kaitlyn Starks  
 Elijah Jalen Steele  
 Luke Walter Stephens  
 Sydney Ryan Stephenson  
 Ivy Katherine Stewart  
 Ayden Jaime Stockman  
 Tea Ann Storm  
 Yuening Sun  
 Yuxuan Sun

Stavros Papandreou Suppappola  
 Lailanie Banayat Supsup  
 Kendal Leigh Sutton  
 Ella Carolyne Swansiger  
 Evan Ravin Swarup  
 Logan Magnus Sywak  
 Laurel Patrese Cruz Taitano  
 Cindy Tran Tao  
 Andrea Lynn Taylor  
 Margot Elizabeth Taylor  
 Aiden Cole Tehrani  
 Mark Anthony Tejada  
 Miranda Rae Theisen  
 Ariel Corrine Therrien  
 Mrinalini Thirumurugan  
 Rebecca Elizabeth Thomas  
 Candace Claire Thompson  
 Nikole Kamryn Tiko  
 Tyler Bradford Tisinger  
 Jacqueline Kelsey Tom  
 Aston Tanh Tomits  
 Peyton Marie Topic  
 Leonardo Paul Torcoletti  
 Jennifer Luu Tran  
 Vivian H Tran  
 Emily Rose Travis  
 Zarel Artes Trollinger  
 Omneya McKinzee Tsosie  
 Magnus Kai Tucker  
 Paige Madisen Twitchell  
 Max Michael Urquijo  
 Aaliya Damilola Usman  
 Elsa Marie Valentine Rojas  
 Hayez Francisco Valenzuela Rivera  
 Ariana Love Van Der Geest  
 Raina Janae Vance  
 Daniel Charles Vaughn  
 Miguel Guadalupe Velazquez  
 Jamisyn Rebecca Veres  
 Jayden John Viene  
 John Lucas Vigil  
 Maria Camila Vivoni  
 Coby Huu Vo  
 Maximilian Evariste Vogel  
 Sagen Wallace  
 Olivia Paige Walsh  
 Montrell Tyrease Ward  
 Emily Marie Watkins  
 Lauren Kate Watson  
 Logan Andrew Weathers  
 Jaiden Laurena Weid  
 Maxwell Jakab Weidinger  
 Raelynn Elizabeth Wenge  
 Samantha Elyse Werner  
 Sarah Noelani West  
 Claire Morgan Westing

Luke Thomas Westing  
 Robert Steven Whetstine  
 Savannah Rose Whitby Corona  
 Nico Enrique White  
 Lauren Tanya Wietrick  
 Riley Michael Will  
 Amarion Xavier Williams  
 Haleigh Maude Williams  
 Lexis Garyn Willis  
 Keyshawn Xavier Winborn  
 Joshua William Winder  
 Justin Michael Winn  
 Derek Mekhi Winters  
 Madeleine Elizabeth Wright  
 Dylan Wright-Klepfer  
 Sofia Louise Wyatt  
 Hannah Shenandoah Wyman  
 Retief Caleb Yellowman  
 Nathan Arthur Yetka  
 Meredith Alison Young  
 Sebastian Tito Young  
 Aza Zandieh  
 Veronica Michelle Zdancewicz  
 Emily Coral Zemke  
 Yichen Zeng  
 Angelina Grace Zhang  
 Cole Nicholai Zook  
 Jaden Alexander Zorensky

Look for  
 Marcos de Niza  
 graduates and  
 photos in our  
 next Oissue





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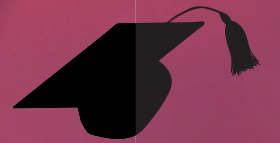


*Congratulations*  
to  
*Tempe Union High School District*

*Class of 2023*

*Best of luck to each graduate!*

*from the Tempe Elementary School District*







# DIVERSIONS

## Film Fare . . .

with M.V. Moorhead

## Memories of Tina Turner



**E**ven though I'm pretty old, I can't remember a time when Tina Turner wasn't part of the landscape.

I remember watching her flail through "Proud Mary" with Ike on The Midnight Special, or listening, wide-eyed, to her wail out "Acid Queen" on my brother's Tommy LP.

I remember her post-Ike comeback in the '80—arguably

the most triumphant comeback in American showbiz history—and the string of hits it produced. Slick as this Top 40 Private Dancer-era stuff was, even 80s-pop production couldn't squelch the soul in that voice, that one-of-a-kind instrument; somehow simultaneously feverish yet melodic, taunting yet beseeching, untamed as the shriek of a wildcat, yet nuanced. A woman I know who had gone to see Turner in concert during that period came back with a welt on the palm of her hand.

"That's from applauding," she said.

I have an odd specific first-hand memory of Tina Turner, too. In December of 2000, when I was working at Phoenix New Times, I was given tickets to her show at what was then America West Arena. My friend James and I went, and while we were walking the few blocks from the New Times building to the Arena, I got a call informing me that one of my nieces had given birth to my first grandniece in Virginia, which put me in a good mood.

My other vivid memory of that night involves the Mighty Turner herself: The show

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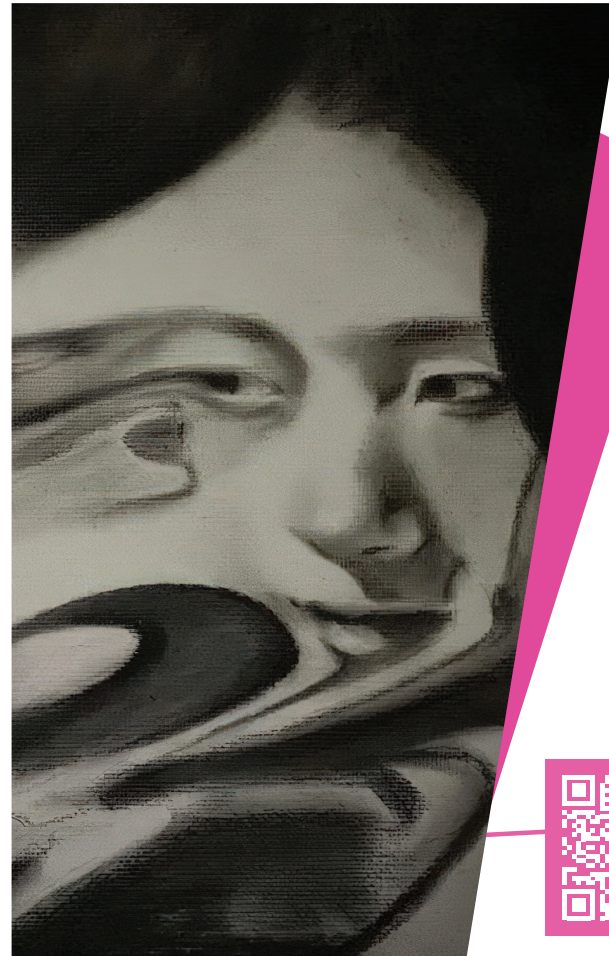
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was spectacular, with dancers and hydraulic stage machinery and clouds of mist and pillars of fire billowing up during “We Don’t Need Another Hero” and so on, and I remember thinking how strange it might feel for a kid from Nutbush, Tennessee to reflect that all this extravagant theatricality was built around her. Or, maybe not; maybe by that time in her career it felt routine and appropriate.

But the seats that James and I had were nosebleeders, far forward, that gave us a peculiar view backstage. At one point during an instrumental break in one of the numbers, Turner left the stage, and from our vantage

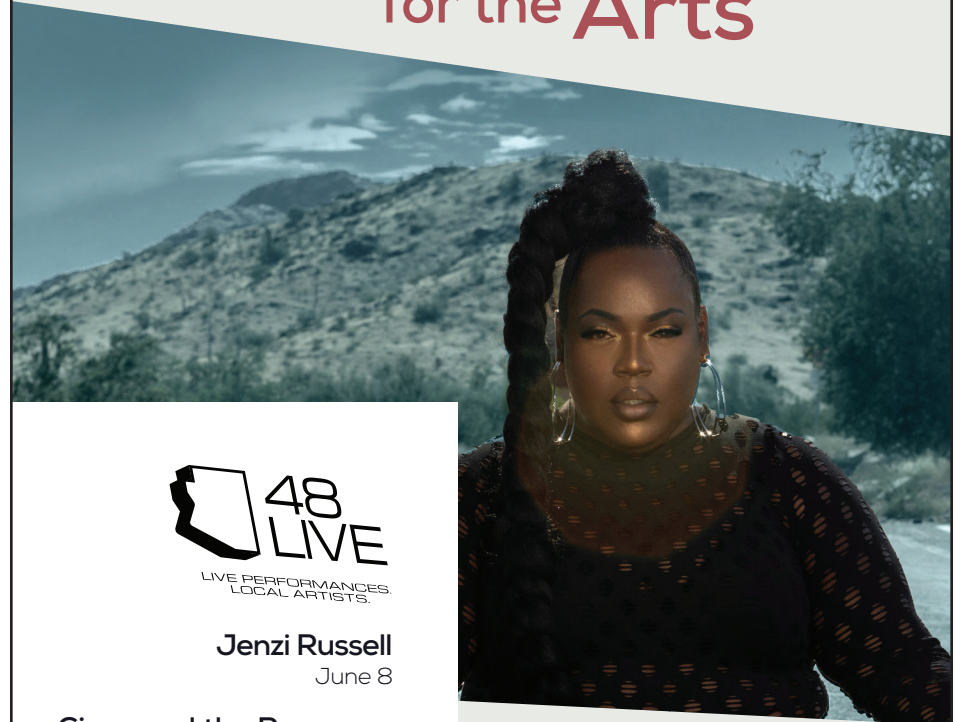
we could see, plain as day, as she sat down on a bench against the back wall for a rest. And for that minute or two, she became human; she just looked like a nice lady around sixty, waiting for a bus or sitting on her patio.

Then she got up and headed for the stage, transforming again into the primal goddess. Back to work.

Rest in Peace and Joy, Queen of Rock n’ Roll. We truly will not see your like again.

*MV Moorhead is a longtime contributor to Wrangler News.*

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# SPORTS

with Andrew Lwowski

## NFL Pro Andrus Peat gives back to community

Corona del Sol graduate and current New Orleans Saints guard Andrus Peat held his first annual Peat's Purpose Celebrity basketball game and second annual youth football camp at his alma matter.

Members of the Peat family, friends and, of course, celebrities put on an entertaining game for the packed fans and community members in the gym. The event featured live commentary, a live DJ and splash plays from everyone.

"I grew up playing basketball, all my siblings played basketball, so it was a fun thing we wanted to do to get the whole city together and give back," Peat said.

Peat used his celebrity basketball game to help raise money and shed light on Peat's Purpose Foundation, aimed at helping teens who need an

extra hand. Peat started the foundation as football and basketball camps, providing kids with an opportunity for build relationships, leadership and engage in extracurriculars that may not otherwise be available to them.

"It's kind of something I've always wanted to do," Peat said. "So going into year eight (of the NFL), I said I want to finally do it. And my wife, she's a big inspiration for everything, she's the mastermind behind as far as planning. So, we started the football camp last year and I felt like it was a success so we wanted to add onto it with the charity basketball game."

With the help of his family and friends, kids had the opportunity to rotate through different stations for drills and exercises with a final team relay race to close out the camp. Afterwards, Andrus, his

brothers and friends, who each had a drill in the rotation, awarded signed cleats, footballs and prizes to those who tried extra hard.

Andrus' father, Todd Peat Sr., said he was extremely proud of what his boys have accomplished and hopes this will help spread the legacy that him and his family have started. He celebrated his 59th birthday at the celebrity basketball game on Saturday, with everyone singing happy birthday during halftime.

Peat was a letterman in football, track and basketball during his time as an Aztec, and after establishing himself as a pro-bowler, he finally had the opportunity to give back to his community that made it all possible.



The Peat family, friends and celebrities including Shareef O'Neal and WNBA's Liz Camague came to support them.

— Wrangler News photos by Andrew Lwowski





As part of the Peats Purpose Foundation, Andrus held his second annual football camp at Corona. Kids rotated through stations working on various football drills and skills while showing off their dance moves. Afterward, prizes of signed memorabilia were awarded and a barbeque lunch topped off the day.  
— Wrangler News photos by Andrew Lwowski





# SPORTS NOTEBOOK

with Alex Zener

Corona's softball team ended the season ranked No. 13 in the 6A conference after making it into the third round of the 2023 AIA Softball 6A State Championship before being eliminated.

"I am proud of this team," said head coach **Sean Thornton**. "They kept improving over the course of the entire season and their playoff run really showed that."

The Aztecs honored seven seniors during their last regular season home game where they defeated No. 12 Highland, 5-2.

Making up almost half of the team's 18-player roster, the seven seniors, which included **Jaclyn Ibarra, Madison Romero, Jacqueline Tom, Isabelle Freund, Gina Jackson, Larysa Pagel** and **Elizabeth Cowgru**, had a huge impact on the team's success this season.

"Our senior class was amazing and will be sorely missed," said Thornton. "Without their leadership we would have been a very different team."

Corona's four-year varsity pitcher Jaclyn Ibarra's softball skills were recognized when she was selected to the 1st Team All Region and 1st Team All City.

Ibarra led the team in four stat categories including batting average, at 0.455, on-base percentage at 0.561, hits at 30, and earned run average, as a pitcher, at 2.99.

"Jacky is recognized as one of the top hitters and pitchers in the state," said Thornton. "She will give you everything she has and then some."

"Jacky has an incredible knowledge of the game as she helped create game plans for all opponents and was able to make adjustments on the fly," said Thornton.

"There is a good reason she was voted Most Outstanding Player by her teammates," said Thornton. "Jacky is an irreplaceable player."

"She was also fun to be around. We will miss our daily jokes."

Ibarra will be playing softball at Biola University in La Mirada, CA, next year.

Romera was second on the team with a 0.375 batting average and second on the team with a .526 on base percentage.

Romera was also second on the team with six stolen bases, just one behind freshman **Brooke Sheehan** who had seven.

"Madison Romera is an incredibly talented player with the ability to play numerous positions on the field and to do so many things at the plate," said Thornton. "Her versatility in the field and her batting skills make her a player that will be hard to replace."

"Madison also had a one-of-a-kind personality that will be missed."

Romero's softball skills were recognized when she was selected to the 2nd Team All Region and 1st Team All City Selection,

Catcher Jacqueline Tom, another four-year varsity player, was selected to be on the 2nd Team All Region.

Tom led the team with six homeruns, was first in slugging percentage at 0.728 and was first in fielding percentage at 0.993. "Jackie Tom just outworks people," said Thornton. "She is constantly working and her knowledge of the game is second to none."

"Jackie gets it done on the field, in the classroom and in the community. She was also voted Most Outstanding Player this year."

Another four-year varsity player, Isabelle Freund, was recognized for her skills at the shortstop position when she was selected to the All-Region Honorable Mention team.

Freund was second on the team in runs scored at 20 and was third on the team with three homeruns and three stolen bases.

"Belle Freund is another student of the game. She studies and understands everything and was an extension of the coaching staff on the field," said Thornton. "She worked hard and is one of the kids that helped us prepare game plans for every opponent."

"She plans on paying softball at the next level and is currently undecided where but is weighing her options."

Gina Jackson, playing the center field position in all 28 games this season, had 31 putouts out of 31 chances to end the season with a 1.000 fielding percentage.

Jackson was selected to the All-Region Honorable Mention team.

"Gina played for Corona for two years and is one of the best defensive players around," said Thornton. "She was our defensive leader and made everything in the outfield look easy. She is also a great kid."

Larysa Pagel played second base for Corona, ending the season with a 0.913 fielding percentage and a 0.467 batting average.

"When you talk about great character, you are talking about Larysa Pagel," said Thornton. "She is someone that juggles so many different things and makes it look easy."

Elizabeth Cowgru played first base where 96 percent of the chances she had she put out an opponent's baserunner.

"Lizzy came back to the program after taking a step back during her sophomore and junior year but it was like she never missed a beat," said Thornton. "She was the first to arrive and the last

to leave. She is a great person and the player voted by her teammates to receive the Joe Sellah Award Winner."

The Aztecs had to play in the 6A conference play-in tournament as the No. 14 seed to get into the championship playoffs on April 26 where they defeated No. 19 Gilbert, 11-6.

"They finally beat a strong Gilbert team in the play-in tournament to get into the state playoffs," said Thornton.

The Aztecs started off strong scoring five runs in the first inning and never looked back defeating the Tigers 11-6.

Scoring two runs each were Romero, freshman **Jami Sheehan** and junior **Abby Ritchhart** while freshman **Saige Peters**, junior **Leah Montenegro**, Tom, Brooke Sheehan and junior **Olivia Rios** each scored one run.

On defense against the Tigers, junior **Siena Meraz** was eight for eight in putout chances.

On April 29, Corona defeated No. 3 Sunnyside 7-2 in the first round of the 6A state playoffs. Tom, with a .667 batting average, had two hits on her three times at bat that led to two RBI's.

Likewise, Rios had two hits leading to three RBI's while Peters had two hits that led to two RBI's making up the seven runs scored.

Jami Sheehan, who led the team in runs scored at 23, did not bat but ran the bases to score three runs while Romero scored two runs and Montenegro scored two runs.

In the second round of the state playoffs on May 3, the Aztecs lost a hard-fought battle to Red Mountain that went into extra innings after the score was tied 3-3 at the bottom of the seventh.

Corona, up to bat first, scored two runs but the Mountain Lions countered with three runs at the bottom of the eighth inning to take the game 6-5.

Freund batted 1.000 with two hits while at bat two times. One hit was a double and the other resulted in two RBI's to score two of Corona's five runs.

Ibarra had two hits, one a triple, that led to two RBI's while Romero's hit led to two more RBI's.

Losing in the second round to Red Mountain moved the Aztecs into the loser's bracket where they lost another heartbreaker to No. 10 Tucson High Magnet School, 6-5, on May 4.

Corona was up 4-2 after six innings but the Badger's bats got hot and they outscored the Aztecs 4-1 in the seventh inning to win 6-5.

Unfortunately, after two close on-point losses, Corona was eliminated from the double-elimination 6A state playoffs in the third round.

Romero, Jami Sheehan, Montenegro, Brooke Sheehan and Rios each scored one run.

Peters led the team with two RBI's while



Romero, Freund, and Rios batted in one RBI a piece.

The defense played well against the Badgers with no errors. Peters, Tom and Meraz led the team with four putouts each.

Other members of the team who contributed to the Aztecs success on and off the field include two pitchers, junior **Alyssia Munoz** and freshman **Caitlyn Ackerley** along with two outfielders, junior **Kaitlyn Schmidt** and freshman **Kaylie Pequeno**.

Munoz was second in innings pitched to Ibarra at 58 where she struck out 58 batters and was credited with winning four games while Ackerley pitched in 23 innings, was credited with winning two games and ended the season with a 3.00 earned run average.

Schmidt scored three runs on three hits and ended the season with a 0.8000 fielding percentage while Pequeno played in 12 games where she had a 1.000 fielding percentage and a 0.400 batting average.

"I know the record does show it but I think our team had a very successful season this year," said Thornton. "They played one of the toughest schedules in the state including games against both the 6A and 5A State Champions, Basha and Desert Mountain."

## Little League CALL to action

Chandler American Little League, or CALL, held its championships at Nozomi Park. Both the minors (ages 9 and 10) and majors (ages 11 and 12) participated.

The Jr. Whoppers defeated the Cherry Bombs 9-8 in the minors and the Carlson Warriors defeated the Preciado Spartans, 4-3 for the major league championship.

— Wrangler News photos  
by Andrew Lwowski







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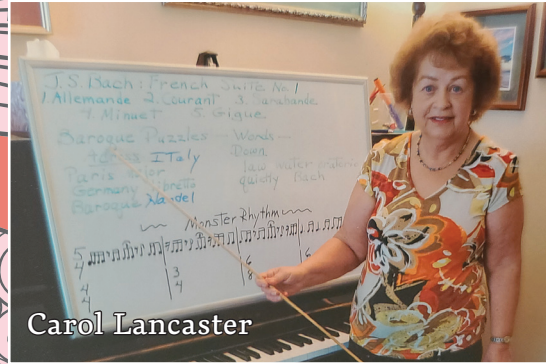
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