

A woman with grey hair, wearing a dark blue chef's coat and a grey oven mitt, is smiling and holding a metal tray with two round pies. The pies are topped with a golden-brown, crumbly crust. In the background, there is a large industrial oven with its door open, showing several racks inside. The setting appears to be a professional kitchen or bakery.

WRANGLER NEWS

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Our 32nd year of publication

**FOR THE
HOLIDAYS:
A PIE-LICIOUS
SLICE OF LIFE**

Baker extraordinaire Joan O'Connor • Details & more photos on Page 8

Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowski

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Workers from HOPE and Central Arizona Shelter Services engage members of area's homeless population in discussion of available options.

. — Wrangler News photos by Andrew Lwowski

After closing homeless encampments, cities rethink and expand wide-ranging services

By Janie Magruder

The recent dismantling of two large encampments of people without housing, including one in Tempe's Salt River bed, may have resulted in the scattering of hundreds of individuals to other parts of the Valley.



Janie Magruder

But officials in Tempe and in Phoenix, ordered by an Arizona judge to close a crowded camp near the state Capitol earlier this month, are working to improve emergency shelters, expand services to help the

unsheltered transition into permanent housing, and provide vital health screenings and referrals for employment and other basic needs.

Such moves are important because Arizona has one of the worst homeless crises in the country. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the state recorded a 23 percent jump in people experiencing homelessness, according to the 2023 Point-in-Time count reported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development.

“The pandemic was just extra challenging — for some people it was the straw that broke the camel’s back,” said Heather Ross, a professor in ASU’s Edson

College of Nursing and Health Innovation, who teaches health equity and social justice.

“But for so many more who were one paycheck away ... well, it proved the point.”

ASU research at CASS

1. Ross is conducting research at a large emergency facility in Phoenix operated by CASS (Central Arizona Shelter Services) on the needs of vulnerable people who, for whatever reason, are unsheltered.

With Natalie Florence, an architect and ASU doctoral candidate, Ross wrote a recent article advocating for privacy and quiet for those in shelters.

“It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to imagine that, sleeping in a shelter with dozens and dozens of people trying to share a bunk-bed situation, in a congregant setting, you won’t get a good night’s sleep,” she said.

“Night after night, this sets you up to have less resilience and less ability to do what you need to overcome the challenges of homelessness — finding housing, finding a job, doing other things.”

CASS has created healthier sleep spaces, such as dorms that remain dark, quiet and cool, and the ASU researchers are recommending other small changes, including subdividing the day room into more private spaces for online telehealth appointments, counseling and

job interviews.

Their proposed solutions to long-term impacts of overcrowding include sanitation amenities — laundry facilities, more bathrooms, even reliable trash removal to reduce the spread of infection and pests.

“We can make small changes that help support people in exiting homelessness successfully, of going from a shelter to stable housing,” Ross said.

CASS also has started screening older adults entering its shelter for mild cognitive impairment and dementia, Ross said, after public safety officials reported more of them exhibiting potential symptoms.

“We are seeing really startling numbers of positive screenings,” she said.

“That may be because most shelters don’t screen and now CASS is, but we need to validate, is there something going on in Phoenix?

Or are mild cognitive impairment or dementia risk factors for homelessness?”

Tempe closes river bed, expands homeless outreach

On Aug. 31, Tempe closed an encampment in the Salt River bed over safety concerns, exacerbated in part by an especially wet spring. Rainfall raised water levels in Tempe Town Lake and necessitated flow releases into the riverbed. Additionally, calls for police

and fire assistance to the area, which had access issues, had risen over the years, and hypodermic needles, chemicals and human waste created hazards.

The city’s homeless and crisis response teams, along with its nonprofit partners, met with 75 people living in the river bed, and 50 of them accepted relocation assistance, said Tim Burch, Tempe’s Community Health and Human Services director.

“Our primary goal was the life and safety of individuals there,” Burch said.

It isn’t known where those not accepting services landed, nor is there data on where people living in the large Phoenix encampment, known as “The Zone,” went.

However, Tempe’s Point-in-Time street and shelter counts have showed decreases in the homeless population, from 515 people in August 2022 to 355 last June.

Tempe offers “non-congregate,” or private, spaces in its homeless shelters; a 40-room motel that it owns; and 40 rented rooms in a different hotel.

Both are near capacity, as are most shelters in the Valley. The city also refers unsheltered people to its partners, among them A New Leaf and Tempe Community Action Agency.

The city also refers them for “whole person” health screening to partners such as Circle the City.

Recent expansions of Tempe’s HOPE (Homeless Outreach Prevention Effort) team, partnerships with crisis responders, data analysis, and opportunities for community volunteers are helping, Burch said.

“Our HOPE team has 16 people working shifts seven days a week, 24 hours a day, meeting people wherever they are,” he said.

“It’s the first point of compassionate contact that many on the street will get.”

Tempe also launched a new public dashboard providing data about its homeless outreach progress, and is recruiting more community volunteers.

For example, they can work alongside the HOPE team in the field, people without homes to services, or participate in the Point-in-Time homeless counts in January (email volunteerHOPE@tempe.gov) for info.

Local businesses can help qualified people in need to become self-sufficient by providing jobs through the Tempe Works program.

“Housing is the first step, but they also need employment,” Burch said. “We call it real change, not spare change.”

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— Photos on this and facing page by David Blakeman, courtesy City of Tempe

Life's a Zoo: A free art event for families in Tempe

By Barbi Walker-Walsh

Get messy and dive into a wild adventure at Life's a Zoo, a roaring fusion of fun and learning where families with young explorers will embark on a global animal safari through art, music and sensory play. Say program planners: Unleash your inner explorer and let the zoo come to you!

The Free Art Fridays event, most recently staged Nov. 17 at the Edna Vihel Arts Center in conjunction with the city of Tempe, is partially funded by a grant from the noted service group, Tempe Diablos.

"This is an arts event for the very young and their grownups or caregivers to be in a space that is purposely designed for them," said Maja Aurora, Tempe community arts manager.

November's theme allows children to

learn about animals from around the world while they create an aquarium squishy bag, have their face painted with their favorite animal, and listen to local musicians Saraswathi Jones and Emily Brusco, licensed music therapist. Some will even come dressed as their favorite animal, Aurora said.

"Be messy with us," she said. The idea is to play with a variety of arts. "Some are experiencing new art materials, these

are art materials beyond markers and crayons — that levels it up. “What they are touching and looking at they’ve not ever seen before,” Aurora said.

On Free Art Fridays, families can bring their little ones and experience all types of hands-on art without worrying about making a mess at home, Aurora adds. During the morning-hours event, when older kids are in school, parents and caregivers can play and connect with their little ones in a fun, engaging and age-appropriate space, Aurora said. All the projects are age-appropriate and ideal for children ages 1-5.

At a sensory section — from touch to texture, planners note — children can even learn the very basics of counting and measuring with a bin of beans, Aurora said. It’s taking exploring and playing to the next level.

The event is an extension of classes and arts-learning available at the center that features center artists and their works.

Families can experience the art, socialize with other parents of small children and enjoy the outdoors while listening to music.

At December’s upcoming Free Art Friday, children can make artistic gifts for family and friends.

More events are scheduled in February, March and April 2024. Check out dates and themes at www.tempe.gov/freetartfriday.

Whenever you arrive or however long you stay, take your time and have fun, go at whatever pace is comfortable for you and your kids, Aurora said.

“Even if you arrive at 11, you still have time to have fun and participate.”





Tasty hand-held treats have arrived for the fall holiday season—and year round. Pastries with fruits, chocolates and custards are available anytime at Honeymoon Sweets bakery in South Tempe.



Allison Raba mixes up a fresh batch

Bakery's promise: Sweet temptations

COVER STORY

Photos by Andrew Lwowski

We've all driven past it multiple times without noticing this little hideaway of tasty dreams come true: It's Honeymoon Sweets, the now 20-plus-year-old birthplace of some of the dessert universe's most mouth-watering year-round treats, all the more tantalizing as the holidays near.

So tantalizing, in fact, that our photographer Andrew Lwowski

consumed in a single sitting the entire contents of the owners' lovingly boxed parting gift to him of selected samples.

With that same thoughtful attention to detail, they dispatched Andrew back to our office with a likewise irresistible selection of their specialty creations, each one not only resting in its own personally placed wrapper but designed almost to be gazed upon—notice the word "almost"—rather than eaten.

We're not sure we can correctly describe with a pastry chef's expertise the proper name of each sample delicacy, but we can offer readers

the benefit of our shared agreement that they may have been the most delicious gifts we've ever received, even though we fought off the temptation to follow Andrew in his pursuit of instant culinary gratification.

If you happen to pay a visit to Honeymoon Sweets, you can deal with temptation in any way you like. Don't say, however, that we didn't warn you. — *dk*

Honeymoon Sweets is located at 606 W. Southern Ave., north side, just west of Rural Road. Phone: 480-517-9520. honeymoonsweets.com

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Registration: 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. at Maple House

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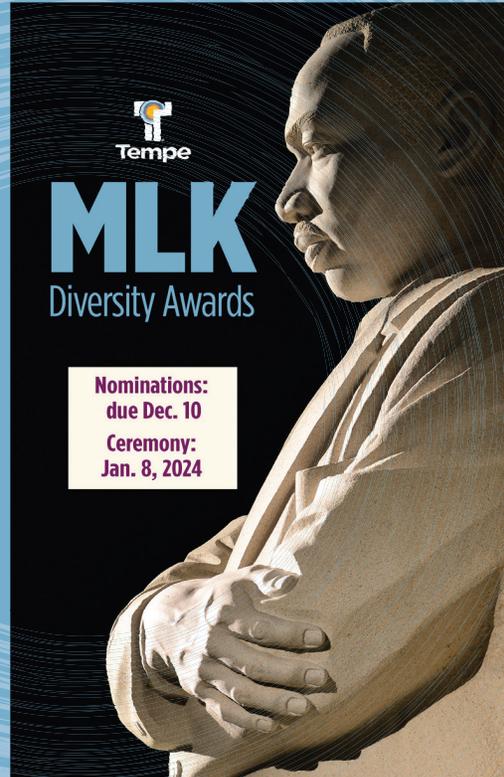
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All ages, ethnicities and physical capabilities took part at last year's trek at Desert Breeze Park in West Chandler. — Photo by Andrew Lwowski

Walk 4 Unity recognizes worldwide dignity, justice

Dec. 9 event at Desert Breeze Park marking Human Rights Day

West Chandler residents are expected to join a throng of eager participants in the sixth annual Walk 4 Unity coming to Desert Breeze Park on Saturday, Dec. 9.

The event, commemorating U.N. Human Rights Day, starts at 9 a.m. and provides a way for those of all ages, ethnicities and physical capabilities to offer support for universal caring about human rights.

Planners say the approximately 1-mile trek is free to participants.

Said a spokesperson for the event:

“This is not an endurance race but simply a peaceful way for any person who supports dignity and justice to spend a little time making a statement in the fresh air and sunshine.

“It is a simple gesture that signals that East Valley citizens are inclusive and believe in equality for all.”

Sponsored by the Bahá'ís of Chandler, Chandler 4 Change, and the Phoenix chapter of the United Nations Association, Walk 4 Unity—previously

called Race 4 Unity— allows local families and like-minded organizations to support the spirit of cooperation, acceptance and freedom upon which this nation was founded.

There will be refreshments, games, and music along with a short inspirational program further explaining the importance of equal human rights. Free Walk 4 Unity T-shirts will be available while supplies last.

One of the event planners explained the rationale involved in its regular spot on the calendar.

“The act of gathering together to promote racial, religious and intercultural unity can spark friendships and healing for peoples from all East Valley communities.

It is a simple statement that equal human rights are essential for our entire society to function well and prosper.”

Plans call for a well-marked course in the park including areas around Desert Breeze Lake,

where participants can walk, stroll or even run if preferred.

There also will be place to bring donations of household goods for My Sister's Place, Domestic Violence Shelter for women, children and men who are the victims of domestic violence or human trafficking.

Registration is at www.Chandler4Change.com on the Events page. Race 4 Unity asks for advance registration at Chandler4Change.com although on-site registration is available. Registration is free but required.

Said one of those involved in the program:

“If you would prefer to just join the group and encourage the participants, that is helpful too. This is a celebration of friendship, and a way to express your feelings regarding the importance of human rights for all and the need for the unity among all the East Valley community.”

How to Prepare Your Child for Middle School

Before you know it, your preschooler has become a pre-teen! Middle school is a big step in your child's educational journey, and parents play an important role in helping students feel confident and ready for this exciting transition.

Here are 5 ways parents can lay the foundation for a successful middle school experience.

1. Know Your Choices

Every child learns differently and with so many choices, it can be overwhelming to figure out the best option for your child. That's why it's important to explore. Whether it's visiting a school website, browsing social media, or scheduling a tour, taking the time to explore the variety of options that are available is an important first step.

All middle schools are currently offering in-person tours to our community. Visit www.tempeschools.org/tours to schedule yours today!

2. Attend Open House Events

Oftentimes, attending a middle school means that your child will be starting at a new school. Open House events are a fantastic opportunity for your family to tour the campus, ask teachers and school administrators questions, and enjoy performances and opportunities to interact with current students.

We will be hosting Open House events at all of our middle schools! Visit www.tempeschools.org/middleschool and mark your calendar for these upcoming events.

3. Practice Organizational Skills at Home

Going from one homeroom teacher to multiple teachers is a big transition when students start middle school. Help your student prepare by starting organizational strategies at home. Encouraging your child to write "to-do" lists, keep track of time, and set a weekly backpack cleaning day can help get them used to juggling multiple classes in a day.

All Tempe Elementary middle school teachers are certified and hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited university.

4. Connect with School Staff

If you are joining a new school, it is important for both you and your child to build relationships with the staff. Get to know the school administration team, school nurse, and counselor and have their contact saved for your reference. If you would like to get a head start with building these relationships, consider signing up for an individual school tour!

All Tempe Elementary middle schools have onsite counselors for our students' social and emotional well-being.

5. Get Involved

Middle school marks the beginning of more opportunities in electives and school clubs! This is an exciting time for your student to make new friends while they are learning and developing their hobbies and passions. Encourage your student to consider joining an afterschool club, or work together as you explore the variety of electives that are available in their school schedule.

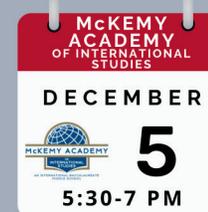
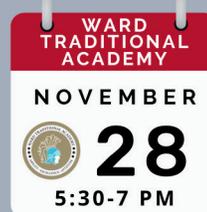
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SCAN ME





SPORTS



Coach Barro expecting a 'jump' in year 3

Story & photos by Andrew Lwowski

It was a nightmarish night, one that you'd hope you can snap out of and breathe a sigh of relief that it wasn't reality.

Except for Corona, it was.

The Aztecs, who mustered their way into the playoffs with a 3-7 record, found themselves down in a 28-0 hole with no chance of escape against Tucson Salpointe Catholic during the opening round of the 6A playoffs.

Corona traveled to Tucson and lost a competitive 29-20 game just five weeks ago. Corona coach Jake Barro said it wasn't the cleanest the team played, but they had a shot to win and put up a fight despite missing key players.

What happened the second time around, no one could have seen coming—not even Barro, who didn't have an answer for what had transpired.

"We just did not come out and play very well at all," he said. "We didn't play like us. It was unusual, I didn't expect it."

Quarterback Connor Ackerley hit 4-star receiver Raiders Vines-Bright for what would've been a 74-yard score on the opening drive, but a penalty negated the score and the ensuing play was an interception.

Salpointe capitalized with a touchdown, and from there, the nightmare only got murkier.

That was the first of the Lancers' four interceptions, two of which were returned for

scores.

The 6A conference passing-yards leader was pulled and Corona trailed 34-0 at the intermission while looking for a glimmer of hope.

Nothing worked for the Aztecs as drives stalled, balls dropped and the Lancers rolled to a 41-0 rout.

Corona registered just 137 net total yards of offense with 147 through the air and minus-10 on the ground.

"It wasn't a good effort; it just really wasn't," said Barro. "I don't want to pile on too much because it's our seniors' last game and you want to be sensitive to that, but losing 41-0 nothing obviously wasn't the plan. We didn't come out and play very well—little bit better effort to the guys that didn't

quit; I'm proud of them. But it wasn't what we planned on happening tonight."

Despite the blowout loss, Barro says it's progress and a glimmer of light for the program down the road.

"I think we're getting there, I really do," Barro said. "Getting into the playoffs is good.

"You have to be there before you can make a run. So, we've been there twice and it's hard to look ahead already, but I think the expectation moves certainly from making the playoffs to now we've got to win in the playoffs."

The Aztecs have now made back-to-back postseason appearances in each of Barro's first two seasons as head coach. While success may be hard to find early, Barro

says he knows the recipe and has the building blocks for success.

"We have a good base, some good returning players.

"This senior class, they did their part to lay that foundation," he said.

However, winning in a new program is like bamboo—it can take years before it breaks the surface, but when it does, it grows exponentially.

"This was always a bit of a long-term goal, coming here to do this," Barro said.

"Casa Grande took a lot of time, too. First couple of years we made playoffs like this—first round exits. Then we went to one-year quarterfinals, semifinals, state championship three years in a row.

"It can be done and it's just a process of building with the young kids."



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Sports Notebook . . . with Alex Zener

Aztecs' post-season hopes dashed in loss to Lancers



Alex Zener

Corona, ranked No. 15 in the 6A final seeding, played the No. 2 seeded Salpointe Catholic Lancers in the first round of the 2023 AIA 11-Man Football 6A State Championship, on Nov. 9, in Tucson.

Unfortunately, the outcome against the Lancers was not

how the Aztecs had hoped to end their post season.

After starting the game with two long passes from senior quarterback Connor Ackerley to junior Raiden Vines-Bright, Salpointe intercepted an Ackerley pass, the first of four interceptions.

To add insult to injury, two of the four interceptions were pick sixes.

After that first interception, the Aztecs' offense had trouble getting into any sort of rhythm while the Lancers capitalized on Corona's errors to gain momentum. The Aztecs ended up losing 41-0.

The Aztecs were hoping to use the momentum gained when they defeated long-time rival, Desert Vista, 45-14, Oct. 27, on the Thunder's home field.

In that win, Ackerley was named player of the game after completing 16 of 20 passes with an 80 percent completion rate for three touchdowns and 242 yards.

Ackerley spread out his passes to six Aztec receivers including seniors Zuri Glenn, Crew Swearingen and Quinton Bradley, juniors Vines-Bright and Dominick Ruiz plus freshman Jai Jones.

Ackerley averaged 15.1 yds per pass with his longest being a 39-yd touchdown pass to Glenn on the Aztec's first drive of the game.

Glenn was the leading receiver on the team with a total of 97 yds on four receptions followed by Vines-Bright who had five receptions for 78 yds and one touchdown.

Freshman Jones had the third receiving touchdown while senior Swearingen caught two passes for a total of 32 yds.

Corona had seven players gain yardage on the ground against the Thunder. Bradley was the leading rusher gaining 48 yds on seven carries followed by Swearingen who carried the ball four times for 37 yds and one touchdown.

Senior Nick Mustacchia scored the second rushing touchdown while senior Jesse Fuentes gained 32 yds on seven carries for the Aztecs.

Senior offensive lineman Elijah McKay scored the sixth touchdown when he intercepted a Desert Vista pass and ran it back 70 yds to score a pick six.

On special teams, senior kicker Luke Holly sent the ball through the uprights to score nine points. He was six-for-six on point-after kicks and scored three points on a 22-yd field goal.

Senior Key'von Thomas had a kickoff return for 46 yds.

On defense, the leading tackler was senior Ariyon Wade with six total tackles followed by fellow seniors Kambrel Walker and Shaun Nketiah with five total tackles each.

In addition to his pick six, Eijah McKay had one other interception which he ran back 30 yds for an overall total of 100 yds.

Corona's last game of the 2023 season was Nov. 3, at home, against Casteel, on a night when the Aztecs honored their 27 seniors.

In addition to the previously mentioned seniors, Ackerley, Glenn, Swearingen, Thomas, Walker, Wade, Holly, Bradley, McKay, Mustacchia, Nketiah and Fuentes, 14 additional athletes were honored on senior night.

Nick Garriott averaged 8.0 yds a game while Brandon Holmes played in all ten games gaining 117 kickoff return yards plus leading the team with 22 solo tackles.

Middle linebackers Isaiah McKay and Mason Alexander averaged 6.7 and 2.9 tackles, respectively, a game, while free safety Jayme Lott averaged 3.0 tackles a game as did defensive tackle Ty Abella who

also had one quarterback sack.

Malcom Flynn punted the ball 24 times for a total of 1021 yds. His longest punt was 58 yds and he averaged 42.5 yds a punt.

Flynn also kicked off the ball three times for 166 yds. His longest kickoff was 61 yds, his average was 55.3 yds and he had one touchback.

Cornerback Jason Gonzales Jr, long snapper Jesus Portillo, offensive linebacker CJ Suiter, nose guard Jamee Kary, slot back Cameron Guss, cornerback Tavon Johnson, defensive tackle Trenton De Le Ree, and guard Jose Chavez helped contribute to the Aztecs success on and off the field.

Corona golf

Corona's boys golf team finished fourth out of 12 Division I teams who competed at the 2023 DI Boys State Golf Championship held Nov 2-3 at Aguila Golf Course.

Tyler Weihe was the Aztecs top finisher when he came in 12th out of 90 golfers with a score of 69 for the first day of competition and 74 in the second day for a total of 143 strokes.

Teammate Brody Leid had the exact same score. Leid was recorded 13th out of 90 golfers with a 69 and 74 for a total of 143 strokes.

The Aztecs third golfer was Hogan O'Malley who was in 27th place with a total of 150 strokes while Austin Pierce was 54th with a score of 158 and Carson Hammer came in 64th with a score of 163.

Corona's girls golf team came in 11th place in the state championship held at a Aguila Golf Course Oct. 31-Nov 1.

Corona's lead golfer, Bellamaria Mantini, tied for 16th place with an 84 in the first round and 76 in the second round for a total of 160 strokes.

The Aztecs second golfer was Mia Ruiz who tied for 24th place with 168 strokes followed by Sadie Peterson in 60th place, Layla Davila in 63rd and Natalia Hoffman in 70th place.

Marcos de Niza Football

Marcos de Niza ended the regular season ranked No. 23 in the 4A division with an overall 4-6 record.

The Padres honored their 25 seniors at the last home game, Oct. 27 against Eastmark.

Five players threw the ball at least once during the regular season but senior Tegan Ligouri-Melendez had the most with 88 caught balls out of his 145 attempted passes for a total of 1120 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Ligouri-Melendez averaged 125 yds a game. His longest pass was 80 yards.

Senior Braesen Leon only played in three games, but he threw 27 receptions for a total of 421 yds and four touchdowns.

Senior running back Lorenzo Alexander was the Padres leading rusher averaging 58 yds a game scoring seven touchdowns.

Junior Antoine Anderson was next with 55 yds a

game on the ground.

Leon carried the ball an average of 50 yds a game scoring two touchdowns while senior Kenyan Brewer carried the ball 53 times in six games for a total of 273 yds and one touchdown.

Senior Jamari Johnson and Antoine Anderson each scored seven touchdowns.

Junior wide receiver Jamari Turner was the leading receiver on the team with an average of 67 receiving yds a game followed by senior DJ Drew with 47 yds a game and senior Manwe Castro with 44 yds per game.

On defense, the leading tackler was junior Julian Jones with an average of eight tackles a game. He also led the team with five interceptions. Drew had two interceptions and senior Izaiah Catague had one.

Senior Michael Turner, averaging six tackles a game, was the second leading tackler. Additionally, Turner led the team in quarterback hurries, with 11, and quarterback sacks, with five.

Senior Josiah Garcia was third on the team with an average of five tackles a game while senior Brayden Delyria-Munguia had an average of 4.5 tackles a game.

Senior Jeremiah Paiz and Jones both caused two fumbles while freshman Brian Irick caused one fumble.

Defensive lineman senior Jayden Alvarado had two quarterback hurries and senior guard Erik Godoy Arvizu had two.

Additional seniors who played on the defensive side of the ball were Pat Villa, Dominic Molina, Andres Ortiz, Devonte Hines, Shane Ellett and Adan Estrada.

In addition to the players listed above, six senior offensive and defensive linebackers were important to the team's success on and off the field including Austin Betonti, Alexander Quezada, Tyler Gonzales, Guillermo Chavez, Agustine Laguna and Nakota Willie.

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SCHOOLS



German exchange students with Seton Catholic Sentinels who chaperoned their guests during visit to Seton's West Chandler campus.

— Photo courtesy Antonio Rodriguez

German, U.S. students forge new cultural bonds

Last-minute disruption of plans was averted with staff's quick reaction

Any walls of friendship that may once have separated German young people from their U.S. counterparts were transparent as the Seton Catholic Prep community hosted 22 students from Otto-Hahn-Gymnasium School in Nagold, Germany on Seton's West Chandler campus for a cultural exchange program.

The German students were paired with their new Seton friends as a way to experience American high school life on campus, taking part in activities at the school during homecoming week.

"I was so happy to experience something new, and would recommend an exchange experience to everyone," said Seton student Sydney Schurz.

While the exchange ended up as a great time

for all, the trip from Germany was close to being cancelled. It took quick action, accommodation and coordination from many different sources, including Seton's administration, to ensure that the group would be able to keep plans for its exchange trip alive.

Otto-Hahn-Gymnasium's program was through a different high school in previous years, and when trying to start up the program again post-COVID, they were unable to coordinate the program with the same district.

The program's original contact in the United States, Melanie Mello, found out that the program, which was already paid for and had activities planned was in danger of falling through.

That was when she reached out to Seton Catholic to see if it was possible to host the students from Germany.

"We weren't sure if everything would perfectly go down the way we thought it would," Otto-Hahn teacher and exchange program leader Sophie Schlenker said.

"Melanie Mello put us in contact with Seton Catholic Preparatory and she made everything happen. We are very happy."

Added another of the school's teachers: "(Seton's) extreme helpfulness and spontaneity in helping us out was just amazing.

"We were on the verge of despair and Seton was there."

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'Moon's 3-hour length worth every minute of it

As we quickly head into the season of prestige movies, here's one already in theaters that will likely rack up many nominations come award time. Martin Scorsese's *Killers of the Flower Moon* is well over three hours long, but it's a worthwhile investment of your time.

In the 1870s the Osage Nation settled on a large reservation in northeastern Oklahoma consisting of land thought to be of little value. But in the late 1890s, it was discovered to be sitting on an ocean of oil. Because the Osage had retained mineral rights to the land, by the early '20s they found themselves to be the wealthiest people, per capita, on the planet.

It need hardly be said that opportunistic white folks moved in fast to snatch this bounty through a variety of schemes, perhaps the vilest being the practice of marrying into an Osage family and then murdering the spouses and other heirs. Because the case was eventually broken by the nascent FBI, the story was briefly

dramatized as one episode in *The FBI Story*, Mervyn LeRoy's 1959 chronicle (and whitewash) of the Bureau, starring James Stewart.

Martin Scorsese's account is not so brief. Scripted by Eric Roth and Scorsese from David Grann's 2017 book, the director's three-hour-plus *Killers of the Flower Moon* is an epic nightmare, solemn and heartbroken yet charged up with a fierce and sweeping vitality. The style feels different from his previous work, yet somehow it's still unmistakably a Scorsese picture.

The focus here is on Ernest Burkhart (Leonardo DiCaprio), a WWI vet who arrives in Osage country to work for his uncle, the cattle rancher William King Hale (Robert DeNiro). Ernest soon marries an Osage woman named Mollie Kyle (Lily Gladstone) and starts a family with her. A dull, malleable sort, Ernest seems to genuinely love Mollie, yet all the while they're married he's secretly serving as a thuggish henchman for

the sanctimonious Bill Hale, who condescendingly professes love for the Osage while conspiring in the deaths of Mollie's mother and sisters and others in the community. Eventually and inevitably, Mollie also becomes a target of Bill's plans.

Killers is shot in chilly shades of gray and sepia by Rodrigo Prieto, edited by Scorsese's longtime collaborator Thelma Schoonmaker and moved along by a brilliant, pulsing score by Robbie Robertson, to whose memory the film is dedicated. Yet despite the presence of these cronies, this isn't business as usual. Scorsese doesn't give us the kinetic flashiness of his gangster sagas here. There's no darting, antic camerawork, no wall-to-wall narration.

But this isn't a staid historical drama either; the tone is feverishly immediate and chaotic, almost hallucinatory at times, and there's a tinge, especially in the scenes between DiCaprio and DeNiro, of deeply grim comedy. Scorsese's comic edge doesn't distance us from the horror, either, as perhaps it could be accused of doing in *Goodfellas* or *Casino*. The murders and other violence are presented with an angry bluntness, as nothing but sordid, wasteful and evil.

Essentially, what Scorsese gives us here is a vision of life in hell, not just a hell of butchery and menace, though this is amply depicted, but of the fractured spirit and toxic guilt generated by racial terrorism and piracy. The agony of this life is reflected in the superb performances of DiCaprio and the serene, gravely beautiful Lily Gladstone. DeNiro is at the top of his form as the genially satanic Bill Hale, and the enormous cast includes fine turns by Tantoo Cardinal, William Belleau, Cara Jade Myers, Brendan Fraser, Scott Shepherd, Sturgill Simpson, Katherine Willis and Barry Corbin, among many others. John Lithgow appears as a prosecutor; he's always welcome but gets less of a chance than usual to flex here.

There's also a strong supporting performance by Jesse Plemons as Tom White, the Texas Ranger turned G-Man who led the BOI (later FBI) investigation. The case was an early success for the Bureau, depicted here as a largely unknown agency at the time (Brann's book is subtitled *The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*), and Plemons, speaking softly and politely but firmly from under his Stetson, lightens this bleak and grueling movie's mood just enough to get us through; we at last feel a dawning of hope for justice and salvation. He shows up just in time.

Killers of the Flower Moon is rated R and plays at Harkins Arizona Mills, Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Harkins Chandler Fashion Square, AMC Centerpoint and other multiplexes Valleywide.

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Experience the music of Native American blues rock guitarist Levi Platero. A Navajo bluesman who grew up in a Gospel circuit, Platero's style ranges from flurries of guitar acrobatics to soulful expressiveness. A formidable guitarist and singer-songwriter his sound is an incredible mix of Texas blues and vintage rock to modern guitar.

The Queen's Cartoonists
Holiday Hurrah - Yule Love It!
presented by TCA
Nov. 30, 2023 | 7:30 pm
\$15 - \$35

Get ready for a hilarious holiday special! The Queen's Cartoonists bring iconic cartoons to life through the power of live music. Keenly aware of all things holiday-oriented and completely ridiculous, the musical ensemble has set out to find the best of the best (and best of the worse) holiday-related cartoons, films, and jazz! The show includes traditional holiday vocal numbers ("White Christmas", "Jingle Bells", you know... the regular stuff), paired with jazz arrangements and festive animated films. There's also a good amount of novelty and comedy (Spike Jones is due for a revival anytime now, we just know it!) Don't forget ridiculous props, Foley sound effects, and even a holiday-themed game show! Bring your family and friends to see The Queen's Cartoonists present a holiday concert that is great fun for all ages!

Holiday Swingin' a Kat Edmonson Christmas
presented by TCA
Dec. 3, 2023 | 7:30 pm
\$20 - \$32

Step into the enchanting world of Kat Edmonson's Holiday Swingin'! Allow her velvety voice to transport you to a bygone era of holiday classics infused with a fresh, modern twist. With appearances on renowned platforms including Austin City Limits, NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts, A Prairie Home Companion, and The Late Show, Kat has captured the hearts of audiences around the globe. Embrace the holiday season with style and sophistication. Join us for a melodic journey through the realms of jazz, cabaret, and vintage pop with the unforgettable Kat Edmonson.

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Experience a bilingual holiday extravaganza with Jarabe Mexicano, merging melodies from both sides of the border. From classics by Bing Crosby, Brenda Lee, and Elvis to Jose Alfredo Jimenez, Tony Camargo, and a breathtaking Spanish rendition of Schubert's "Ave Maria" in honor of Mexico's Lady of Guadalupe, it will truly be a Feliz Navidad!

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2023 State of the City Welcomes Tempe Business Community to the Omni Hotel at ASU

In its 25th year, the State of the City event provides a valuable opportunity to enjoy a breakfast with civic, business and political leaders of the Valley. The 25th Annual State of the City is presented by Edward Jones. The event welcomes the business community, local leaders, elected officials and more to the Omni Hotel at ASU, the newest addition to the Tempe skyline.

Mayor Corey Woods will deliver this year's State of the City address, which will highlight key business development initiatives, provide strategic municipal progress updates, address challenges and opportunities, and provide a glimpse into the city's future.

This event is open to the public. Individual tickets and tables can be purchased online at www.tempechamber.org

Tempe Workforce Skills Accelerator Empowers Small Businesses to Upskill Employees

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce and Rio Salado College have partnered to create the Tempe Workforce Skills Accelerator, which will offer three microcredentials to Tempe businesses to upskill their workforce: Small Business Management, Data Analytics, and Quality Customer Service.

The program's microcredentials are accredited, transferable and stackable to higher-level degrees, giving students the opportunity to further their education and in-demand workforce skills.

Tempe employees and residents interested in improving their skills set and preparing to meet employer needs can now apply for the Tempe Workforce Skills Accelerator Scholarship, presented and funded in partnership with Amazon. Learn more at www.tempechamber.org

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A photograph of five diverse professionals (three men and two women) in a meeting, smiling and engaged in conversation around a computer monitor.

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In Memoriam: Dan Arredondo



Daniel “Coach Dan” Arredondo passed away peacefully at home while under the care of his children and Hospice of the Valley. Dan was born on December 27, 1934, to Josefa “Josie” Gurrola and Alejandro Molina Arredondo in Tempe, where he resided his entire life. He attended Rural School and Tempe Grammar School. A four-sport lettered athlete at Tempe High School, Dan received a football scholarship to attend Arizona State University, where he earned a bachelor of arts in secondary education, a master of science in physical education, and a post-master’s certificate in administration and secondary supervision.

Dan’s career with the Phoenix Union High School District spanned five decades and resulted in significant achievements, honors, and accolades. He began teaching and coaching at Carl Hayden High School in 1958. Arredondo was the head wrestling coach for 16 years (1960-1976). Carl Hayden’s wrestling teams posted 116 wins, 35 losses, and one tie under his leadership. The school produced 11 individual state champions, earned two state runner-up titles, and won the 1971 State Wrestling Championship, after which Mr. Arredondo was awarded All-Star Wrestling Coach. Carl Hayden’s wrestling teams also completed five undefeated seasons, won three division titles, and produced 31 individual division champions. In 1976, Dan was promoted to assistant principal in charge of athletics.

Dan held numerous assistant principal positions across the Phoenix Union High School District. He was the athletic director for West High School from 1978 until 1982 and North High School from 1982 until 1985. Arredondo was the Director of Athletics, Health, and Physical Education for the Phoenix Union High School District from 1985 until his retirement in 1998. In this capacity, he successfully administered athletic programs for eight comprehensive high schools with about 20,000 students. In 1995, his colleagues awarded him 5A

Conference Athletic Director of the Year, and the National Council of Secondary School Athletic Directors named him Arizona Athletic Director of the Year.

Dan was also an Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) wrestling official from 1968 until 1995, serving 15 consecutive years as head official for the Arizona State High School Wrestling Tournament and two years on the National High School Federation Wrestling Rules Advisory Committee. He was inducted into the Arizona Wrestling Hall of Fame (1991), Tempe High School Athletic Hall of Fame (1991), Arizona Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Hall of Fame (1998), Arizona Hispanic Sports Hall of Fame (2004), and Phoenix Union Sports Hall of Fame (2018).

During summers, Dan managed pools and coached recreational swim teams. In the 1950s, he was the first lifeguard and manager of Mexican descent at Tempe Beach. From 1967 until 1974, he was the Shalimar pool manager and swim coach. In 1975, he became head swim coach at the Lakes Beach & Tennis Club, serving in this capacity until 2000. His children and grandchildren continue this legacy.

Dan is preceded in death by his parents Alejandro (1959) and Josie (1991); brothers Emilio, Michael, and Henry “Hank”; sisters Alejandrina “Hondy” Correa, Gloria Salazar, and Aida “Ida” Millanes; and beloved son Daniel in 2003. Dan is survived by brothers Alex, Joe, Ben, and Rick; his children Sheila, Kelley, Kerrie, and Rocky, and their mother, Janice Jackman Arredondo; and grandchildren Darian and Devyn Faulkner, Sydney and Tayson Willey, Parker and Josie Cieszinski, and Samantha, Tegen, and Danny Arredondo.

A Celebration of Life is planned for January 2024. To honor Dan’s contributions and memory, please consider supporting the Tempe Impacts Education Foundation, Phoenix Union Foundation for Education, and Hospice of the Valley.



Celebrate the season in Tempe

Tempe is your destination for celebrating the holiday season with friends, family and neighbors. There's something for everyone – from parades to Santa sightings to local shopping and more.

Holiday events

Fantasy of Lights Street Parade & Tree Lighting, Nov. 24, 4 to 9 p.m. Kick off the holiday season with a street parade, tree lighting, live music and Santa photos, all in the heart of Tempe.

Tempe Festival of Arts

Dec. 1-3, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Explore art and creations from nearly 350 artists from around the country. Enjoy tasty treats and eats from local vendors, live performances, arts programming and more.

Menorah Lighting

Dec. 7, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Light the menorah on the first night of Hanukkah at this special holiday event at Ragsdale-MLK Park, located near Tempe City Hall on Sixth Street, presented by Downtown Tempe and ASU Chabad.

Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade

Dec. 9, 4 to 9 p.m.

Head to Tempe Town Lake to see the Valley's most unique holiday event: a festive boat parade featuring 50 lighted and decorated boats. Enjoy food and drink from local vendors and a spectacular fireworks show.

2nd Sundays on Mill

Dec. 10, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This free monthly event features an outdoor market, live music and entertainment, food vendors and plenty of fun for the whole family. The market lines Mill Avenue between Third Street and University Drive on the second Sunday of the month through March. Dog friendly!

Holidays at Petersen House Museum

Experience a holiday tradition like no other at Tempe's historic Petersen House Museum, 1414 W. Southern Ave. This Victorian jewel will be decorated in high style with an emphasis on its Danish heritage. Take your own self-guided tour while enjoying light refreshments, entertainment, activities and a pop-up museum store. The free event runs 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17. Learn more at tempe.gov/PetersenHouse.

Don't put that turkey grease down the drain

As the holiday season approaches, remember to keep Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) out of the drain. FOG can be found in food scraps, meat fats, lard, oil, butter, sauces, salad dressings, marinades and dairy products. FOG can accumulate in pipes and, over time, lead to sewer blockages, odor and overflows that threaten public health and the environment. Take simple steps like scraping leftover food into the garbage and wiping greasy kitchenware with a dry, disposable paper towel.

The Household Products Collection Center

collects and recycles cooking oil dropped off during business hours. Visit tempe.gov/HPCC for location and hours. Learn more about managing FOG at tempe.gov/FOG.

Make safe driving part of your holiday plans

Keep your holiday season merry and bright! Have a plan this holiday season – don't drive if you're tipsy, buzzed or Blitzen! Designate a sober driver, call a taxi, use rideshare or take transit. Find more safe driving tips at tempe.gov/VisionZero.

Trash pickup changes for some holidays

Trash and recycling collection will be unaffected by the Thanksgiving holiday but trash pickup changes for Christmas and New Year's. City of Tempe will not collect trash, recycling or green waste on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. All regular collection days will be moved one day later for the week of the holiday. For the weeks of Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, place trash, recycling or green waste curbside by 6 a.m. the day after your regular scheduled collection day. All other holidays will follow the normal collection schedule and will not be affected. For a list of items that can be recycled, visit tempe.gov/recycling. Find more information on collection at tempe.gov/SolidWaste.

Take on a new hobby in 2024

Have you ever dreamed of gliding across the water, wind in your hair as you admire at the setting sun on the horizon? Make your dream a reality by enrolling in a boating class! This winter's Tempe Opportunities brochure is filled to the brim with exciting classes and programs for all ages, interests and abilities. Take a course in fitness, sports, music, art, dance and more. Classes are offered at various times and locations throughout the city. Scholarships are available for children under age 18 who live in Tempe or Guadalupe or are enrolled in a Tempe school. Tempe resident registration begins Dec. 4. General registration opens Dec. 11. Visit tempe.gov/play for class and registration information.



Recovery from injuries sustained in a 2021 explosion at a West Chandler print shop has proven to be a tough—but successful—challenge for Glenn Jordan.

Surviving and thriving through resilience, effort, discipline

Local businessman comes back stronger than before

Story & photo by Barbi Walker-Walsh

“When I woke, my nurse said we were worried about you; you’re in Room 1,” Glenn Jordan said of his first recollection after a hospital stay.

“I was just out of a coma, but I’m doing the math, and 1 is a pretty low room number” — the designation in hospital parlance, it turns out, that

means the occupant is No. 1 on death’s doorstep.

Jordan was severely burned in a massive explosion at a strip mall in West Chandler on Aug. 26, 2021.

He was working at his business, All American Eyeglass Repair, when a natural gas leak at Platinum Printing caused a horrific explosion.

The print shop is adjacent to Jordan’s office, and both were engulfed in flames and debris. He spent 40 days in the hospital, followed by months of rehab.

One of the first things Jordan asked when he came out of his coma was if he’d walk again, he said.

“When the answer was yes, the cross-fit athlete’s mindset kicked into gear. ‘Alright, what do I need to do?’ was the next question. ‘Let’s get after it,’ was his decision.” And from there, he was committed to recover and never missed an appointment.

Now, at 61, Jordan is doing something he couldn’t do before the accident – completing 2,000

pull-ups in 12 hours.

And he’s doing it for charity. Jordan is pushing his limits for a fundraiser. Raise Your Bar, for the Arizona Burn Foundation and the Hub, the two organizations that are dearest to him.

He credits both as part of his incredible recovery, Jordan said. But first, of course, was his immediate family and amazing wife.

“Your spouse becomes a part-time nurse because they have to pick up all the slack.” Then, he said, you have to take your support to the next level. Having different layers of support is crucial.

Jordan gives credit to his doctors, rehab specialists and cross-fit friends at The Hub Fitness in Ahwatukee. This was his community, he said. They knew how to encourage him, just like they’ve done for others. And now Jordan is paying it forward with the fundraiser.

Even in the midst of his recovery, Jordan was determined to get back to the gym. His therapists created a plan for him, starting with strengthening

his grip on a rowing machine.

"I'm going to do it in small steps over and over," Jordan said of his built-in gym training mindset.

He knew that even doing 10 reps twice a day, with the goal of increasing to 11, then 12, and so on, would help.

His attitude wasn't just for the gym but all his rehab. Doing whatever it took to improve in small steps every day and knowing how to approach challenging tasks helped him conquer the physical limitations of his experience.

Jordan transformed his daily routine, increasing his pull-up count from one hour to an astounding 8 hours, totaling 1,600 pull-ups.

Standing in the gym, Jordan shows me his scarred hands and has me feel the skin of his elbows. His faintly mottled skin is smooth to the touch.

Jordan credits his fantastic occupational therapy with his ability to do what he's able to. A natural motivator, he reminded me that everything he's done to get to where he is today applies to anyone wanting to recover from an injury or knee surgery, like mine.

"It doesn't have to be as severe as mine," he said. It boils down to two words—effort and discipline.

Watching him walk up to the rack and look at the bar a few feet above his head, his arms swinging gracefully. Jordan does a light hop and grabs the bar. He hangs for a few seconds, then pulls himself up until his chin pops over it. It's hard to believe that just over two years ago, this 61-year-old athlete was struggling to live, let alone be able to do a pull-up.

He lands lightly on the ground.

Yes, he said, his smooth radio voice is permanently gone, one of the most challenging things about his recovery. But it was finding success in the little things, like putting his socks on by himself as markers of his improvement. Jordan's story is one of inspiration and hope, and he takes looking for the positive to a new level.

His flip-the-script kind of thinking was a way to embrace his adversity.

"It could've been a lot worse— my feet weren't damaged, and at least I can walk," he said. "Look at what didn't happen to you instead of what did."



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