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WRANGLER NEWS



A HOLY MOMENT: 100 YEARS & SMILES ALL AROUND

Congregation at Arizona Community Church gathers to celebrate. More on Pg. 3

Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowski

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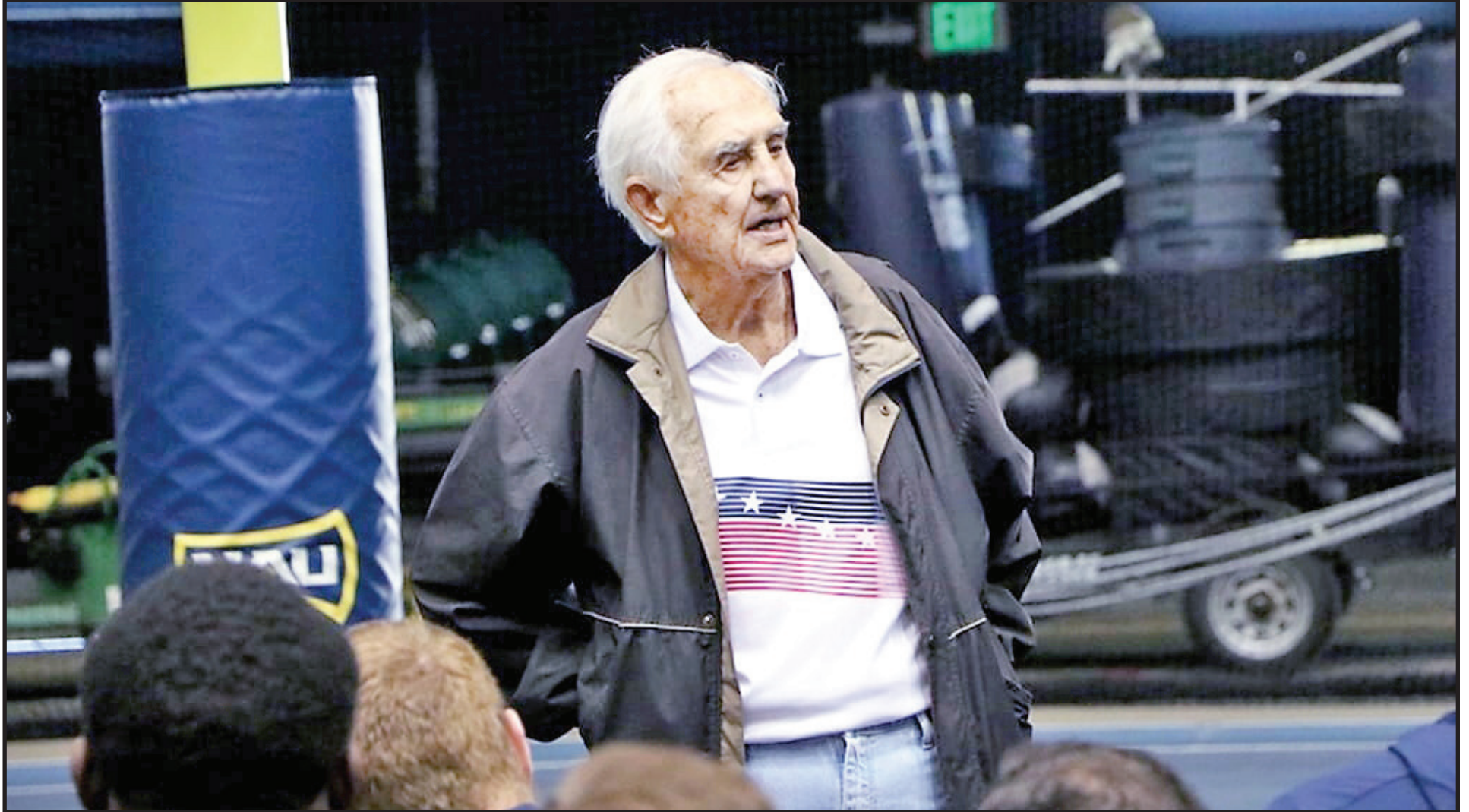
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PAGE 3

HELLO, NEIGHBOR :-)
WELCOME TO OUR LATEST BI-WEEKLY ISSUE



Coach Kentera on the sidelines at NAU, where he led the Lumberjacks for four seasons during the 1980s.

— Photo provided by Coach Kentera

For ‘Coach,’ one more touchdown

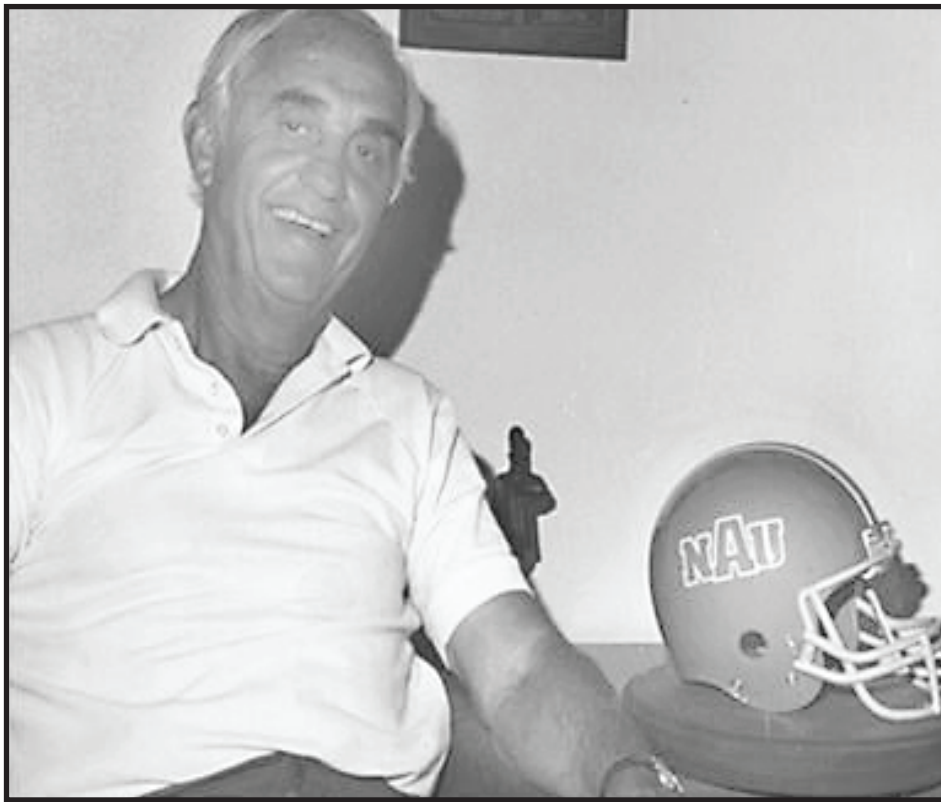
Kush contemporary celebrates 100-year milestone

By Andrew Lwowski
Special for Wrangler News

The congregation at the 10 a.m. service at Arizona Community Church gathered to congratulate

Larry Kentera on his 100th birthday while some shared their fondest memories from their own heydays. *Please turn the page*

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Coach Kentera during his coaching days at NAU.

Included in that pool of friends and church members was former ASU linebacker Drew Metcalf, who still refers to Kentera as “Coach.”

“Coach,” Metcalf said with a joyous laugh and handshake—“This guy, I’ll tell you what, the number of players that played for him – how many went pro? He’s the man.”

Metcalf played for ASU from 1986-1990 and was an integral piece in the Sun Devils’ defense following the program’s appearance in the Rose Bowl.

His father, Butch, was on the coaching staff with Kentera under the legendary Frank Kush during the 1970s.

Kentera, who reached the

100-year milestone on April 17, received a shoutout from ACC Pastor Bill Meiter, and the congregation sang happy birthday. Kentera is the third member of ACC to reach the 100-year mark in 2024, says Meiter.

For reference, that’s older than the implementation of the United States numbered highway system (1926); Amelia Earhart crossing the Pacific (1928); the Empire State Building opening (1932); World War II (1939); and the fast food joint McDonalds (1940).

“The guys keep asking me, so I had to come up with something,” Kentera said jokingly. “I said, ‘just keep

moving.’ We’re all ‘joints.’”

And moving is what Kentera did through his career, whether it was coaching in Tempe, Flagstaff or in Europe.

Tempe roots were planted during his time at ASU, where he played from 1947-1949, then graduated and started his coaching career.

From 1967-1970, Kentera was an assistant under Kush before assuming the defensive coordinator role from 1971-1978. Leaving ASU in 1984, Kentera took on an assistant coaching position at Northern Arizona University, and in 1985 he became head coach of the Lumberjacks.

While his roots were planted in Tempe, the branches that his coaching tree would grow while in Flagstaff included four NFL coaches: Bill Callahan, who coached the Oakland Raiders; Brad Childress who coached the Minnesota Vikings; Marty Morhinweg who coached the Detroit Lions; and current Kansas City coach Andy Reid.

At NAU, Callahan and Reid coached the offensive line, Brad Childress was the offensive coordinator and Morhinweg was the running backs’ coach.

“They were really good coaches,” he said. “You could tell that they were going to end up somewhere because of their [coaching] abilities. They were

good at coaching and good at relationships with the players – just good people.”

Kentera recalled Reid, who recently won back-to-back Super Bowls with the Chiefs, phoned him before Super Bowl LVIII.

“We just talked about the games and few things like that. He says, ‘Hey, you got a big day coming up.’ He was wanting to come to my birthday party, but the NFL draft (gets in the way).”

Kentera says ASU has a party awaiting him in Mountain America Stadium, with players past and present, and from ASU and NAU, to celebrate the occasion.

He looks forward to “being associated with some of the coaches that I had on my staff that went on to do great things.

“Over here at ASU, I had 13 years as defensive coordinator – great players, great coaches. It’s great relationships you had with the coaches and players and all.

“Those are the things (I) have the memories of.”

Kentera has had quite the coaching career and quite the life, and he credits his longevity to staying active and keeping his mind sharp. His storied coaching career, of course, played a big role.

Tempe Elem schools earn recognition

Toyota USA Foundation Announces up to \$5M Investment into Tempe Elementary Students

The Toyota USA Foundation recently announced its commitment of up to \$5 million to the Tempe Elementary district to help students prepare for future careers in STEM, as well as ensure the essential needs of students and their families.

Tempe Elementary Ranked No.1 Elementary School District in Arizona

Tempe Elementary School District has been named the top elementary school district by Arizona's largest and most comprehensive business opinion poll, Ranking AZ.

Tempe Elementary was also voted into the Top 7 winners in the Best Places to Work category.

Tempe Elementary Named Best Community for Music Education for Sixth Year

For the sixth year in a row, the Tempe Elementary School District has been recognized as a Best Community for Music Education, an award distributed by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation.

Tempe Elementary is one of seven school Districts in Arizona to receive this distinction that recognizes outstanding efforts by schools and Districts that have made music education part of their comprehensive curriculum.

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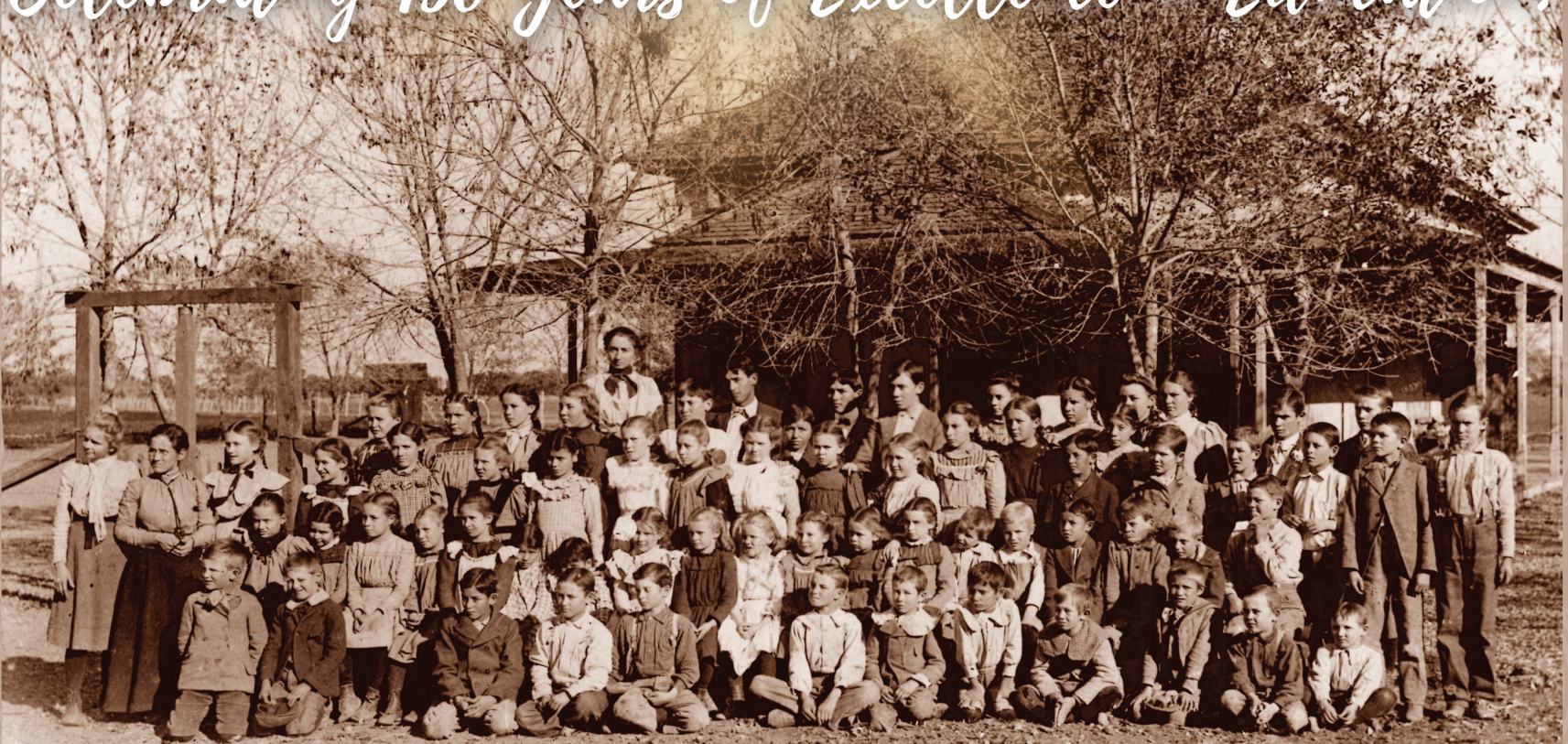
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Original Rural Schoolhouse in early 1900s. Photo Courtesy of Tempe Historical Museum.

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Outdoor updates at Sunset Library add versatility to visitor experience

By Barbi Walker-Walsh

While National Library Week has drawn to a close, Sunset Library in West Chandler continues to be a thriving hub of activity, offering a plethora of engaging programs and services for all ages.

Now, with an updated patio area, patrons can not only broaden their access to reading materials but get a refreshing breath of springime air via the recent outdoor improvements.

Established in 2000 through a collaborative effort, Sunset transcends the conventional idea of a library, or serves as a catalyst for community connection, education and sustainability.

Beyond the multifaceted hub with an extensive collection of books, Sunset Library provides a range of amenities and services to cater to diverse interests and needs. Visitors can take advantage of after-hours book returns, eco-friendly bike racks, and public computers for research and learning. From fax services to reservable meeting spaces, the library ensures convenience for its patrons. Printing and scanning services further enhance the efficiency of everyday tasks.

Programs empower sustainability, and Sunset Library's commitment to sustainability is evident through initiatives such as a seed library, which allows residents to access seasonal seeds for sustainable gardening practices. Additionally, the library hosts events like plarn drop-ins, where participants create sleeping mats out of plastic bags, contributing to both environmental conservation and community welfare.

The library's dedication to community extends to those without homes, with



Recent patio expansion at Sunset branch library provide an added dimension to visitors' experience. — Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowski

regular sessions led by so called city outreach navigators to assist individuals experiencing homelessness or those in need of additional resources.

For those looking to give back while conserving and living more sustainably? Visit the library for drop-ins and work with others to create sleeping mats out of everyday grocery bags.

Plarn = plastic + yarn sleeping mats are distributed to those in need, also helping to reduce plastic in landfills. This program is made possible by the donation of two looms by DSquared Homes for the Homeless.

Through these efforts, Sunset Library serves as a beacon of compassion and support, fostering inclusivity and social cohesion within the community.

The library also encourages teens to think about the environment with its educational programs.

In alignment with its mission to promote lifelong learning, the library offers an array of educational programs, including STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) events.

Celebrating occasions like Earth Day, these events engage participants in hands-on activities to deepen their understanding of environmental stewardship and scientific concepts.

The patio experience also continues to evolve. Recent enhancements to the patio have transformed the area into a welcoming oasis for patrons to relax, socialize and participate in educational programs. With seating areas, a water bottle refill station, and plans for additional amenities such as benches and a shade canopy, the patio is designed to serve as an extension of the library's commitment to creating inclusive and inviting spaces for all.

With the creation of StoryWalk and Teen Spaces, the library says it continues to innovate with new offerings. StoryWalk is said to be a way to engage kids with stories while enjoying the beauty and mind-relaxing outdoors. Additionally, the library has dedicated a space for teens, providing games, creative outlets and study areas tailored to their interests and needs.

Sunset Library's enduring commitment to community engagement, sustainability, and education exemplifies its role as more than just a repository of books. As patrons continue to benefit from its diverse offerings and programs, the library remains a cornerstone of the West Chandler community, hoping to enrich lives and foster connections long after National Library Week has passed.

For information and events check out the website: chandlerlibrary.org/locations/6/

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Tempe's iconic Papago Park got a makeover with volunteers picking up trash and debris.

—City of Tempe photos

Preserving Mother Earth

Vols come clean over their concerns for Papago Park

Wrangler News special report

Giving traditionally focuses on the few most-celebrated holidays of the year, but a handful of Tempe residents insist the gift of their time and energy contributes to a lower-profile but likewise worthy cause: Keeping Papago Park litter free.

So it should come as no surprise that these folks will mobilize their efforts again this year as part of Earth Day, being observed Monday, April 22.

The effort gets under way at 9 a.m. and rewards volunteers—in addition to the satisfaction they receive from supporting their own little corner of Mother Earth—with free breakfast, beverages and

snacks.

The effort, Clean Up Papago, will provide buckets, gloves, hand sanitizer and trash grabbers to volunteers. (Participants are being advised to come dressed to spend a couple of hours outdoors making the beautiful park look even better).

At the same time, they can expect to find a mini expo featuring local vendors, surprises and giveaways—along with receiving a raffle ticket for a chance to win outdoor gear, apparel, accessories and other prizes.

Papago Park spans more than 500 acres of open desert shared by Tempe and Phoenix. Six years ago, in 2018, Tempe voted to make the park and its surrounding area a preserve, with all accompanying

protections afforded by the designation.

After making its status official, it didn't take long for the Clean Up Papago group to form, with volunteers quick to jump on board. In 2022, for example, volunteers removed more than 2,000 pounds of trash from the preserve.

Officially behind the effort has been the loosely organized Clean Up Papago initiative, an organization dedicated to maintaining a clean environment and caring for the Papago trail systems while fostering community engagement and environmental stewardship in Tempe and Phoenix.

Clean Up Papago, a non-Profit organization, has taken responsibility not only for ongoing maintenance efforts but by adopting what it

describes as an all-encompassing vision of caring for the area's trail systems.

Among purposes stated by the group:

- Organizing clean-up events and raising awareness on the importance of caring for the desert Preserve.
- Partnering with the city of Tempe to address illegal dumping and remove bulk litter from the Preserve.
- Creating a network of trail-user advocates to engage in informal outreach with other trail users.
- Collaborating with bike brands and other organizations to host trail days, with a goal of proposing spider trails and maintaining existing trail systems.

Progress so far

Clean Up Papago has been actively collaborating with the city to ensure the preservation and enhancement of what it refers to as its “beloved natural oasis” noting that Tempe is currently collecting feedback on a future Papago Preserve Management Plan.

At a meeting late last year, city officials hosted a public meeting to discuss the intent and goals of the plan, during which planners' vision and objectives were outlined.

Among those:

- Identifying specific management areas within the preserve.
- Integrating sustainable recreation opportunities for everyone.
- Seeking partnerships to conserve the preserve's unique environment.
- Emphasizing the importance of preserving cultural and historical landmarks within the preserve, recognizing its significance to the O'odham (Pima) and Piipash (Maricopa) communities.

According to a summary provided by those who attended, the presentation shed light on the expansive Papago Preserve, which covers approximately 227 acres. It encompasses SRP facilities, ASU buildings, utility lines and pedestrian bridges.

The area offers opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, gravel riding. The preserve is also home to cultural gems such as Lo Piano, Loma del Rio ruins.

Additionally, the city is actively engaged in cultural resource considerations, conducting a Class III survey, tribal outreach, and Traditional Cultural Property study to ensure the preservation of archaeological sites and cultural heritage.

Also discussed were allocations from the city's capital budget to support the Preserve Management Plan, ensuring that this initiative has the necessary resources to succeed.

Currently, according to sources, the city planners are seeking input from the community to actively participate in shaping the area's future, including what are described as key priorities.

Among those:

- Official Trail Map: Development of an official trail map to eliminate spider trails, ensuring a clear and safe trail system for all park users.

Implementation of a signage system that guides visitors effectively, enhancing their experience and minimizing any confusion.

- Inclusive Trail Design: Creation of trails that accommodate a wide range of park users, including hikers, bikers, bird watchers and more, fostering a sense of inclusivity and accessibility, including preservation of the current Papago Jumps (Marigold and cross-cut canal intersection) and creation of an official and secure mountain biking skills area.

- Desert Replanting: Desert replanting efforts to restore and protect the unique desert ecosystem of Papago Preserve.

According to statements from the community group working toward the area's improvement, insights from residents is vital to “helping inform the management plan, ensuring that it aligns with community needs, values, and aspirations.”

Although the official public comment period has ended, it appeared that planners would continue to hear suggestions and consider them as planning continues.

Said one of the group's members:

“(We can) collectively contribute to creating a more vibrant, sustainable, and accessible preserve for current and future generations to enjoy.”





SPORTS

Dedication to training, lifestyle habits emerge as goals for life's dream

By Andrew Lwowski

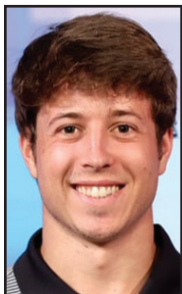
To athletes, the human body is a machine. And like machines, the body needs fuel in order to provide high performance and energy.

For Brooke Nuneviller, a Tempe native and Corona del Sol alumna, she prioritized her cooking and nutrition as much as her training to help

her excel from high school to college and now at the professional level.

Nuneviller played under Aztec volleyball coach Ben

Maxfield all four years at Corona, winning the 6A state title in 2016 while finishing runners-up in 2017 and 2018. Her stardom brought her to Oregon, where she played from 2018-2022 and better established her game. Pursuing a professional volleyball career, she played for Nilüfer Belediyespor in Turkey before returning to the states and joining the Omaha Supernovas of the Pro Volleyball Federation.



Andrew

In high school, Brooke was “top of the top,” as Maxfield puts it. She played a pivotal role as both libero and outside hitter, but it wasn’t until college when her diet and production surged.

“My junior year when I started to really excel, I really began to pay attention to what foods influenced my body and how I’m eating is affecting my performance,” Nuneviller said. “So, I wanted to make a change. I wanted to get more in shape. I want to become more physical and I think food and what you’re consuming really plays a big role in that.”

Part of the discipline comes from healthier alternatives to restaurants or fast food, which Brooke said she opened up more to through experiments in the kitchen. “If I was craving something I tried to make a healthier version at home. And I think right through those experiments I really started to enjoy the process of cooking and how it’s really affecting my sport and now my career.”

Nuneviller’s fridge is chock full of juices, from beet to cherry, with green juices and coconut water along with protein and a plethora of fruits and vegetables. She also loves sparkling water and is an avid coffee drinker, with “like 800



Brooke Nuneviller elevated her game in 5 years with the Ducks. — Photo provided by University of Oregon



Nuneviller digging a hit during her freshman year at Corona.



Tipping the ball during match with the USA team last summer.

coffee creamers.”

And while her diet played a role in her ascent to becoming a pro, Maxfield says it's also her God-given ability.

“[It's that] innate ability that she has coupled with her just desiring her work ethic that makes her incredible player,” he said.

“When we needed a kill, we knew we could go to her and she's super smart with everything. She knew where she put the ball and she wasn't all about power. You know, she had that finesse.”

Maxfield said he knew the type of athlete Nuneviller was before coming to Corona, having played years of club volleyball and for the USA Youth National team. But “by the time she was probably a sophomore, she probably knew more than I did,” he said laughing.

While both of Brooke's parents played volleyball, Beth, who played and coached for Arkansas State and is currently the college recruitment director for Aspire Club, has been a major influence in her life. Not to mention the similar traits that Beth handed down, including her tenacity on the court.

“She's always she's always been very vocal, and she's always been very aggressive. And that's just a personality trait of hers. Me, as a player, I was kind of the same way,” mom Nuneviller said.

Brooke has already accomplished so much in her young career, and says she feels she has nothing left to prove. But one thing she has always dreamt of is the Olympics, she says.. With her goal of making the 2028 Olympics hosted in Los Angeles, Brooke says that would be a dream come true.

But just like a dream, the road to success is rocky. Being an 5-foot-11 undersized outside or oversized libero, Brooke appears to be in a tricky spot, but that, she says, won't deter her.

“I think if I continued to excel as an outside hitter, then maybe my opportunities would expand on that roster. I think like the more versatile you can be the better off you are.”

Playing libero and outside in high school, Brooke transitioned to full time outside in Eugene – the position she says she prefers most.

“You're involved in so many different aspects of the game – as a libero, you're passing and you're

defending. As an outside you get to do that; then you also get to hit, you get to block and you get to serve. I just like contributing. I like being able to point score and I think I just I have more fun, and the way I play outside I enjoy more...than I would as a libero.”

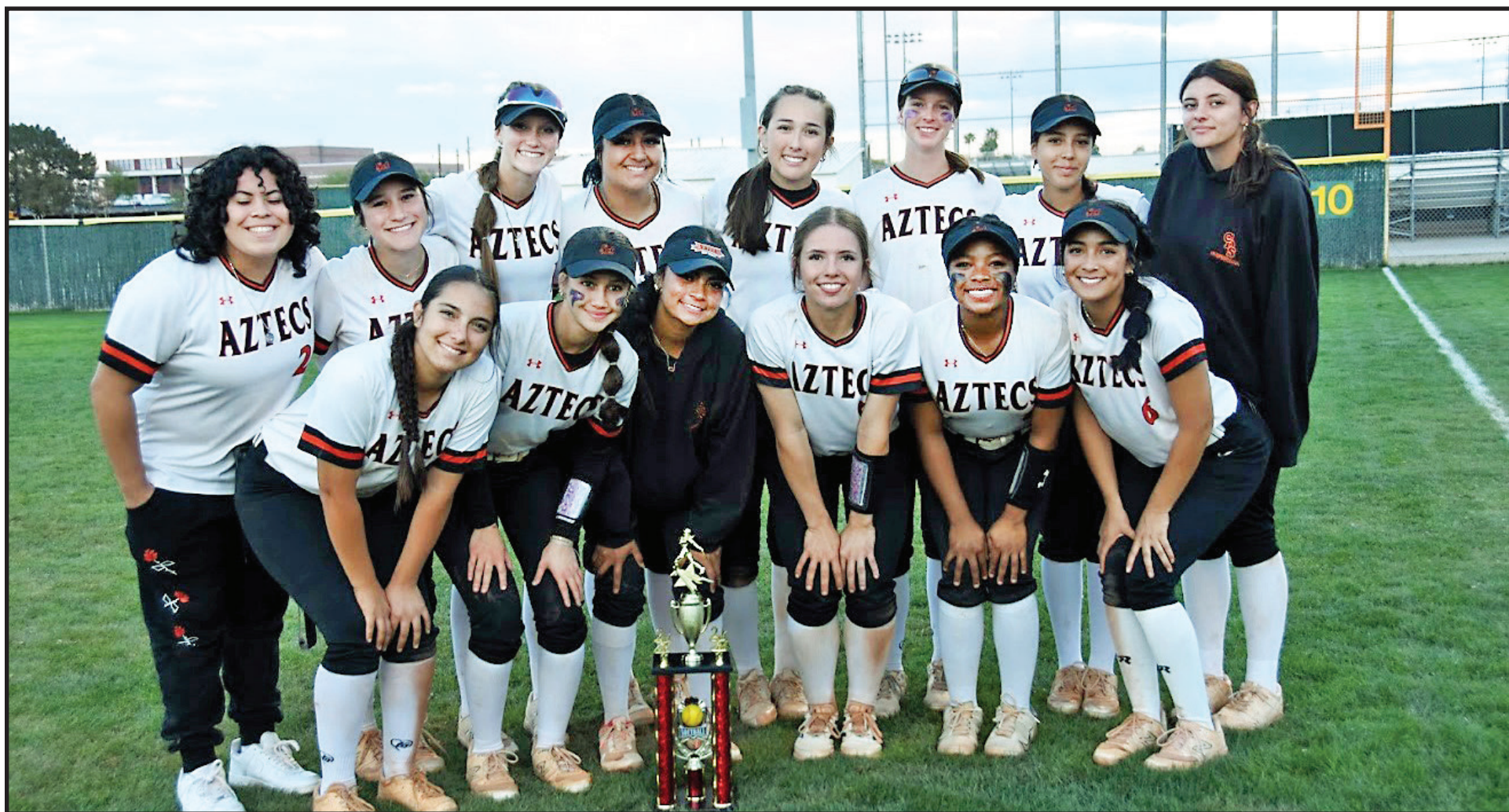
Maxfield said he has no question as to Brooke's capabilities to earn an Olympic roster spot. Her mom says she also has confidence, but it depends how the pre-existing roster of veterans plays out.

“I'm going to try to compete as high the level as possible,” Brooke said.

“And I think that the Olympic roster is kind of the end goal for that.

“I think if you want to make a roster like that, it needs to be that you're putting everything you have into it.”

From becoming state champion and the unquestioned leader of Corona's girls' team—to star power for the Oregon Ducks—to playing abroad professionally and demonstrating a career out of her dedication, Brooke Nuneviller seems already to be serving a successful career out of it.



Front Row: Miquela Tamarro, Kaylie Pequeno, Briseis James, Abby Ritchhart, Jemma Jones, Leah Montenegro. Back Row: Olivia Rios, Trinity Gonzales, Saige Peters, Siena Meraz, Alyssia Munoz, Audrey Brown, Maya Cardenas, Caitlyn Ackerley. Photo courtesy Stephanie Tamarro

Confidence reigns after disappointing five losses

By Alex Zener

Corona's softball team lost all five games at the Lion Country Classic hosted by Red Mountain High School in late February, but became more confident after winning all three games at the West Valley Softball Invitational, in mid-March, hosted by Tolleson with 38 participants.

"We had a tough start to the season, however we played some of the best teams in the state and it should be helpful in preparing us for the postseason," said head coach **Sean Thornton**. "Our team is working hard and continues



to get better. For instance, we made it to the championship game of the West Valley Invitational before dropping a tough game to Chaparral."

SPORTS NOTEBOOK

The Aztecs returned nine players from last season including seven who played in 20 out of the 28 games last season.

"We have a great group of returning players from a squad that made a nice playoff run in the 2023 season," said Thornton. "Of those returners, we have a mix of seniors and sophomores."

The returning seniors include catcher **Abby Ritchhart**, first/third baseman **Siena Meraz**, pitcher **Alyssia Munoz** and shortstop **Leah Montenegro**.

"These seniors have provided great leadership so far this season and have led the way for us both offensively and defensively," said Thornton.

Returning sophomores include outfielders **Saige Peters**, **Kaylie Pequeno**, and **Jami Sheehan**, infielder **Brooke Sheehan** and pitcher **Caitlyn Ackerley**.

Newcomers to the varsity team are senior second baseman **Trinity Gonzales**, junior catcher or third baseman **Miquela Tamarro**, junior outfielder **Briseis James**, sophomore first baseman **Audrey Brown**, freshman third baseman or outfielder **Jemma Jones** and freshman outfielder **Maya Cardenas**.

"Overall, this group of returnees have helped provide us with the experience needed to navigate the ups and downs of the season and to help us

fight through the rest of the season in order to make it into the playoffs," said Thornton.

Four players have stood out in the batting arena, he noted.

"So far this season, Saige Peters, Abby Ritchhart, Miquela Tammaro, and Kaylie Pequeno have led the way offensively for us," said Thornton.

"All four hitters are currently hitting around 400 or higher and lead us in nearly every offensive category."

Peters leads the team in several categories including on-base percentage, with 0.561, runs, with 27, hits, with 31, slugging percentage, at 0.712, doubles, with 12, and stolen bases with 10.

Tammaro has the highest batting average, with 0.518, followed by Peters at 0.470 and Jami Sheehan at 0.400.

Tammaro also leads the team in runs batted in at 21 and is second on the team in on-base percentage at 0.557 and third on the team in slugging percentage at 0.607.

Ritchhart, who is committed to UTEP, leads the team in home runs with two and is second on the team in runs batted in with 20, slugging percentage at .0643 and doubles with 10.

Pequeno is tied with the lead with Peters for hits at 31 and is tied with Montenegro for the lead on the team in triples with four each. Pequeno is also second on the team in runs with 19.

Jami Sheehan is third on the team in on-base percentage at 0.478 and runs with 17. Jami and her sister, Brook Sheehan, are tied for second on the team in stolen bases with four each.

Munoz and Jones have both hit home runs to tie for second in that category.

On defense, in the infield, Corona has three seniors who returned from last season but lost their senior third baseman to injury.

"Our infielders are led by returning seniors Abby Ritchhart, Leah Montenegro and Siena Meraz," said Thornton. "We were hurt by the loss of standout third baseman **Olivia Rios** due to an injury sustained during football season."

Meraz leads the team in fielding percentage with 0.954 while Ritchhart is close behind at 0.948. Montenegro has played in all 24 games putting out 42 batters, assisting on 42 putouts during her 101 total chances.

"We also returned Brooke Sheehan who has converted from outfield to infield this year for us," said Thornton. "We added freshmen Jemma Jones to this strong infield group and senior Trinity Gonzales."

Brooke Sheehan has a 0.883 fielding percentage putting out 29 batters and assisting on 24 putouts during her 60 total chances at a putout.

Jones has played in all 24 games so far where she put out 26 runners and assisted in 21 putouts while Gonzales put out eight runners and assisted in three putouts out of 11 total chances giving her a 1.000 fielding percentage.

Also playing infield at first base, Brown put out all 18 runners given her 18 total chances while Cardenas put out or assisted on all 14 of her total chances for a putout while playing in the outfield.

"We were lucky to return three outstanding outfielders in Saige Peters, Kaylie Pequeno and Jami Sheehan," said Thornton. "All three outfielders are sophomores and together make one of the strongest outfields in our softball division."

Peters was third on the team in fielding percentage with 0.893 putting out 25 runners out of 28 chances.

Pequeno was close behind with 0.882 fielding percentage and Jami Sheehan with 0.864.

The Aztecs have four players who can play on the pitcher's mound this season.

"We are led by senior Alyssia Munoz, who is committed to Davis and Elkins College, a small liberal arts college in Elkins, West Virginia," said Thornton. "Munoz has struck out 76 batters playing in over 84 innings in 17 appearances and is credited with a 4.05 ERA.

"Junior Briseis James and sophomore Caitlyn Ackerley provide depth to our pitching staff," said Thornton.

Both Ackerley and James have pitched about the same number of innings, 26 versus 27, for the Aztecs. James has a 5.51 ERA making seven appearances on the mound.

The Aztecs, currently ranked at No. 20, have four remaining games to end up in the top 16 teams and make the state championship playoffs.

They were scheduled to play at home on April 16 against Desert Vista, a team they recently lost 5-2 on April 11.

Up next, they were scheduled to play at Hamilton on April 17, then at Highland on April 19 and at home against Highland on April 22.

The last home game, April 22, is when the Aztecs will honor their seniors.

Marcos de Niza softball

The Marcos de Niza softball team, with four sophomores and one junior leading the way, are currently ranked No. 14 in the 4A division with 10-2

overall and 4-1 section record.

Leading the team in multiple statistical categories is sophomore shortstop/pitcher **Lela Rodriguez**.

Rodriguez is the team leader in batting average at 0.714, in hits with 25, in slugging percentage at 1.342, in doubles with seven and in triples with six.

She is second on the team in on-base percentage with 0.762 and first in stolen bases with 11.

While pitching, Rodriguez has an ERA of 1.40. She is credited with five wins and only one loss while striking out 60 batters in 45 innings.

To compliment Rodriguez, the Padres have one junior and three other sophomores who make up the top three spots on the stat sheets.

Junior **Sophia Franco** and sophomores **Alaina Tavena**, **Altagracia Wix** and **Dakota Dunn** are each one of the top three in at least one statistical category.

Tavena is the team leader in on-base percentage with 0.769. She is second in batting average at 0.625 and second in slugging percentage with 1.250. She is tied with Rodriguez in home runs. Each hit one home run.

Wix is first in stolen bases with 14 and third in hits with 13 while Dunn is second in hits with 17 and doubles with seven.

Franco, who plays catcher, third base or first base, is third on the team in hitting percentage with 0.545, on-base percentage with 0.714, slugging percentage with .0909 and doubles with four.

Franco is also second in triples with two just ahead of junior teammate **Sierrah Ortega** who is third with one triple.

Additional players on the team include four seniors: outfielders **Cassandra Medina** and **Daisy Reyes**, second baseman **Alexis Gonzales** and third baseman **Sophia Jimenez**.

Junior third baseman **Elyse Matus** and sophomore first baseman **Tehani Tongauiha** and sophomore outfielders **Julianna Perez**, **Kaylee Schuller** and **Nevaeh Valenzuela** all have contributed, on and off the field, to the team's success.

Marcos has five more regular-season games to improve their rankings before the 4A championship playoff. The Padres were scheduled to play at Saguario on April 15, at home against Arcadia on April 17 and at home against Mesquite on April 18. The last two games of the season are away games so the team will honor the seniors at the last home game on April 18 and finish the season at Combs on April 19 and at Mesquite on April 22.



Fighting for each point; hopeful for post season

At 6-18, Corona del Sol men's volleyball is clawing for every win to sneak into the 6A playoff picture. The Aztecs welcomed the Desert Vista Thunder for a renewed rivalry. Both the Thunder and Aztecs, in the midst of low performing seasons, scrapped for four sets. However, DV prevailed, pushing Corona to the brink of elimination. The Thunder stole the match's opening set by a slim margin before the Aztecs evened the tilt in the second. In the third set, both teams traded point-for-point over an emotional clash, but Corona dropped the set. Head coach Geoff Horewitch implored his players to talk and fight, while senior middle Micah White, among others, reminded the bench that the fight was not over. The Aztecs brought the fight to the fourth set, pushing the scoreboard beyond its usual 25-point threshold. Trading point for point, with the tension rising after each touch of the ball, the Thunder closed the match on a service ace.

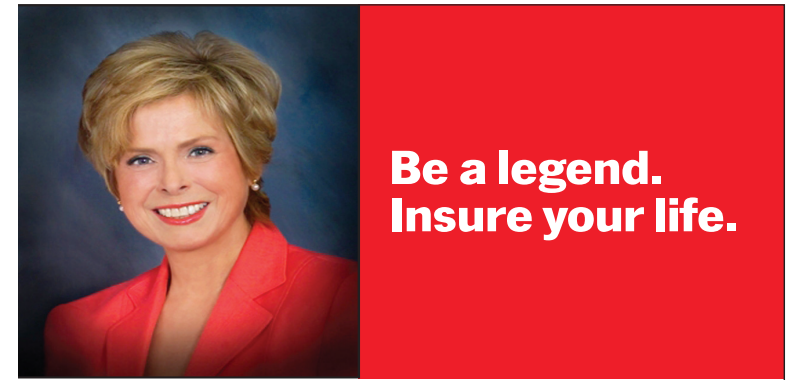
— Wrangler News photo essay by Andrew Lwowski





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April 27 set for renewed campaign vs fentanyl

While the fentanyl epidemic has gained national traction in recent years due to its rapid spread through illegal trades and manufacturing, there's other drugs that the Drug Enforcement Agency and Tempe Coalition have their eyes on, and they're likely sitting in your cabinet at home.

We're talking about over-the-counter medicine.

Outside of marijuana and alcohol, old and unused prescriptions are the most commonly abused drugs of teens 14 and older.

That's why the Tempe Coalition has taken the initiative to educate the community and fight back, partnering with the Tempe Police Department and the DEA for National Drug Take back day. On April 27, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., those with unused or expired medications can drop them off at the Hardy police substation for proper disposal through the MedReturn.

The goal is to help bring attention to the

eminent drug problem within the community while providing responsible disposal so they do not fall into the wrong hands. And the easiest way for community members to make an impact is to stop misuse before it happens.

According to the Tempe Coalition website, heroin is the most addictive substance. Fentanyl, however, is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 percent stronger than morphine, despite both being vital to the medical world.

Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is distributed through the drug trade for its heroine-like effect and a lethal dose could fit on the tip of a pencil. Arizona ranks 6th highest in the nation for individuals 12 years and older misusing and abusing prescription drugs, according to Tempe Coalition's website.

Since 2017, over 1,100 18-to 24-year old's have died of an opioid overdose, according to Substance Abuse Coalition Leaders of Arizona.

"We have local youth as young as 14 who have lost their lives from taking a counterfeit pill they got at a party," Bernadette Coggins, the program director for Tempe Coalition, said. "As many students are headed off to college, they need to be aware that any pill not prescribed to them by a medical doctor could be counterfeit (Adderall, Percocet) and it was laced with fentanyl. "Even more frightening, is these deadly drugs can be in

vapes, powders, and any drug off the street."

Access to drugs and alcohol has never been easier with amount of youth with cell phones on social media. This further emphasizes the need for educating and preventing.

"The Tempe Coalition is providing education and resources to our three local school districts and have recently completed Narcan training for over 450 educators and every Kyrene and Tempe Union campus has trained staff," said Coggins, adding that Naloxone is available if ever needed to save a life.

Coalition members represent a wide range of community sectors including; business, media, law enforcement, schools, substance abuse providers, youth, parents, youth-serving organizations, civic groups, healthcare professionals, governmental agencies, and faith-based organizations, said Coggins.

"As a parent, I have seen many families suffer from the results of drug abuse and the devastation it leaves when a family loses their child to a deadly fentanyl poisoning," she said.

"We are living in different times and everyone needs to be on high alert. Parents must be informed and talk to their children. "It can be the difference between life and death."

For more information about Drug Take back or Tempe Coalition email bernadette_coggins@tempe.gov or pay an online visit to TempeCoalition.org.



Thursday, April 25
7:30 am to 2:30 pm

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee is hosting a day trip for a tour and lunch at Luke Air Force Base.

Transportation and lunch are included in the registration

fee. Registration is required and limited to 30 attendees.

A valid ID is required for registration and admission at the gate.

The group will meet at the Tempe Chamber parking lot at MAC6 and depart for Luke at 7:30 a.m.

Return to the TChamber at approximately 2:30 p.m.

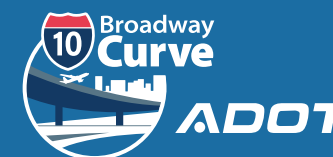


Find your lane.

How to Navigate the I-10 Collector-Distributor (CD) Roads

These new collector-distributor (CD) roads separate local traffic from through-traffic entering and exiting the freeway. They reduce the need to change lanes and keep traffic flowing. Look for the overhead signage to help guide you to the correct lane for your destination.

Find more detailed info at i10broadwaycurve.com/findyourlane.



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— City of Tempe photos by Tim Sealy

Awards, fun aplenty, as neighbors celebrate

Annual event seen as a way to sustain a vibrant community

More than 300 Tempe residents shared in games, live music—and apparently lots of fun—at Kiwanis Park as part of the city’s third annual Neighborhood Celebration.

Seventeen of those celebrants, along with local businesses, were recognized for being good neighbors, impacting the community’s arts and culture initiatives, contributing to sustainability and resilience, conserving water and more.

Credit for developing the event went to the city’s Neighborhood Advisory Commission.

Awards and their recipients were:

- **Neighborhood awards** — Broadmor Bike Bus, Cranksgiving, Oasis Lake, Elie Merheb, Lane Carraway, Jeff Caslake, Sid Frede and Tempe Preparatory Academy National Honor Society club;
- **Arts and Culture** — Tony Duncan, Darlene Justus, Tempe Artists Guild, Farmer Wilson and Kim DeMeritt;
- **Sustainability Achievement** — Ana Aguilar;
- **Water Wise Landscape of the Year** — Steve Bannochie;
- **Historic Preservation** — Tempe Historic Preservation Foundation; and

- **Dolores Huerta Scholarship** — Emma Ellexson.

Neighborhood Advisory Commission Chair Joel Stern said the event provided an example of accomplishments that other parts of the city could consider for their own pursuit as future endeavors.

“(This event) embodies what we should try and accomplish in our individual neighborhoods,” he said. “When we come together to celebrate our neighbors in harmony, accompanied by food, music and friendship, neighborhoods can create a strong and thriving community.”





DIVERSIONS



'Civil War' a provocatively visionary what-if tale

By M.V. Moorhead

In the newly released *Civil War*, just such a conflict has erupted in the contemporary United States. Fighting seems largely confined, so far, to the northeast, between the government and the "Western Forces," a confederation between Texas and California (!), though there also seem to be guerilla fighters around, and I couldn't always tell which side, if either, they were supposed to support.

We're told that in places like Missouri and Colorado people are still "pretending this isn't happening." But the country between New York

FILM FARE

and D.C. is lawless and shattered and bloody, with refugee camps and burning buildings and mass graves and bodies hanging in car washes or from overpasses. Canadian cash is needed if you want to

buy gas.

The focus of writer-director Alex Garland's gruesome road movie is on four Reuters journalists (Kirsten Dunst, Cailee Spaeny, Wagner Moura and Stephen McKinley Henderson) trying to make their way south down back roads, in a van marked "PRESS," from New York to D.C. They're hoping to interview the three-term President (Nick Offerman) before the capitol falls to the Western Forces.

If some of these alliances sound improbable or confusing to you in the context of our current real-life partisan divide, all I can say is that they did to

me, too. Garland seems to quite deliberately make the ideologies behind his clashing forces vague, and both sides are shown to be equally ruthless; no quarter is granted in this combat, no prisoners taken.

The movie grips, evoking a potent sense of a nightmare that many of us fear. But it's also unsatisfying, even maddening.

In the movie's best, most terrifyingly believable scene, for instance, our heroes are at the non-mercy of a murderous soldier (Jesse Plemons) who articulates an overtly racist, nationalist vision of America.

But again, we aren't sure which side this guy is on, or even if he's officially on either side.

What I hope is that Garland's insistent, evasive non-partisanship isn't the result of commercial timidity; of a wish for the movie to play equally well in Red and Blue markets alike. Even more urgently, I hope that it isn't a result of sincere ideological false equivalence. Rising above partisanship is a laudable goal, certainly, and few reasonable observers would suggest that decent people on both sides don't have legitimate grievances, even if they're often directed at the wrong targets. But the idea that both sides are somehow morally equal is indefensible.

In the absence of conviction about what's at stake in the outcome of this conflict, *Civil War* takes shape as an earnest journalism drama. Dunst is effectively haunted as the disillusioned photographer; Spaeny, who looks like she should be home studying for a 9th-grade algebra test, is the newbie who Dunst doesn't think belongs on this treacherous trip. Moura is the febrile, adrenalin-stoked reporter and Henderson is the wise old veteran correspondent. About all we're left to invest in is that old-school newshound standard—will they get the big story?

Unless, of course, another investment is possible. It's hard to shake the question of to what degree this movie may be aimed at that part of the audience that thinks this sort of anarchy would be cool. One sometimes has this sense with the zombie movies—a feeling that part of the appeal is simply that of shooting people in the head with impunity—and the *Mad Max* style postapocalyptic actioners.

Intentionally or not, *Civil War* carries a queasy whiff of this same twisted wishful thinking. But in this case, the fantasy is sickeningly attainable.

Civil War is rated R and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Harkins Arizona Mills, Harkins Chandler Fashion 20, AMC Ahwatukee 24 and other multiplexes Valleywide.

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Making a splash: Clark Park grand opening

Celebrate the grand opening of the brand-new Clark Park Community Center and Pool on Saturday, April 20 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The new center serves as a community hub for recreation, offering classes, programs and services.

There's a heated pool and several classrooms along with the recently renovated outdoor park and play spaces and two art pieces by artist Nicole Mueller. Celebrate the opening with a ribbon cutting, refreshments, activities and open swim. Learn more at tempe.gov/ParkUpdates.

Spring Movies in the Park

Get ready for family flicks under the starry night sky! Grab your loved ones, blankets and a picnic dinner and head over to Kiwanis Park to take in Tempe's free movie series on Friday nights in May. Movies begin at dusk, approximately 7 p.m. This year's lineup: May 3: The Little Mermaid, Wish, Finding Nemo and Elemental. Learn more at tempe.gov/FamilyFun.

Introducing: a pop of color

Check out these newly finished adaptive street projects in the Broadmor, Wilson Art and Garden, Tempe Gardens and Superstition neighborhoods. Bike lanes, crosswalks and intersections in these neighborhoods recently got a pop of color from local artists

in order to beautify the area, strengthen neighborhood identity and encourage multimodal transportation. These projects are funded by Tempe's Neighborhood Grant Program, a yearly investment in Tempe's neighborhood communities.



Get Free Youth Transit Pass Before June 1

Current Youth Transit Passes will expire May 31. Get the new annual pass by visiting the Tempe Transit Store, 200 E. Fifth St. weekdays from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Public parking is located at 117 E. Fifth St. A parent or guardian must accompany the youth; bring the youth's birth

certificate and proof of Tempe residency to register. Get details at tempe.gov/YouthPass.

Give back to Planet Earth

Join Clean Up Papago for an opportunity to give back to Planet Earth on its special day. Volunteers are needed to pick up litter at the group's annual Earth Day event at Papago Park, 1000 N College Ave.

The event starts at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 22. Come dressed to spend a couple hours outdoors making the beautiful park look even better. Sign up to volunteer at cleanuppapago.org

Zero Waste Day

Clean out your attics, closets and garages of unwanted items and dispose of them for reuse, recycling and repurposing for the next Zero Waste Day, taking place from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, April. 27 at Kiwanis Park, 6111 S. All America Way. See accepted items and event details at tempe.gov/ZeroWaste.

Happy B-Earth Day!

Tempe has a Household Products Collection Center (HPCC), a year-round, drive-thru facility for dropping off household hazardous waste and other recyclable products. The HPCC first opened to the public on Earth Day, April 22, 1999. For 25 years, the HPCC has been a community staple for disposing of waste responsibly. Join us in celebrating the HPCC's B-Earth Day with a visit. Go to tempe.gov/HPCC for information on operating hours and a full list of accepted items.

Everyone deserves to get home safely

The City of Tempe is taking a multi-pronged approach to improving safety on our streets. From arresting street racers to driver education, Tempe's goal is to reduce the number of serious and fatal accidents in the community to zero. Read more at tempe.gov/VisionZero.



FABRIC, Goodwill black-tie gala aims at raising \$500k

By Janie Magruder

The next time you're browsing at your neighborhood Goodwill store and come across a pair of old 501 Levis or a Calvin Klein-label trucker jacket, try to see denim in a new light.

That's what a Tempe-based nonprofit fashion incubator is doing, and for a good cause. FABRIC has partnered with Goodwill of Central & Northern Arizona to host a denim-centric fashion show during Goodwill's annual celebration of its life-changing programs on Saturday, May 18.

An Evening of Goodwill will begin with a 6 p.m. reception, followed by a dinner and program at 7 p.m., at Omni Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Montelucia. Tickets and more information are available [here](#).

The fashion show will spotlight eco-friendly, up-cycled outfits created by local designers who have reimagined

items they found at Goodwill stores across the state.

"We promise a different kind of black-tie gala where you can sip and shop, where we'll take you on a journey through the swingin' '60s, the groovy '70s and the awesome '80s," said Tempe resident Margaret Leichtfuss, philanthropy director for Goodwill of Central & Northern Arizona.

Boys of D63, four vocalists who perform music by Frankie Valli, Billy Joel to Earth, Wind & Fire and others, will provide the evening's entertainment.

A boutique with designer handbags, eclectic jewelry and other treasures created by FABRIC designers also will be open to guests.

Angela Johnson, FABRIC's co-founder, has been creating ball gowns and suit jackets of thrifted T-shirts from Goodwill since 2001 under her brand, Angela Johnson Designs.

Goodwill not only has a special place in Johnson's heart, its work also dovetails with FABRIC's mission.

"FABRIC helps apparel entrepreneurs build sustainable fashion businesses," said Johnson, who started it in 2016 with entrepreneur Sherri Barry.

"This moves us closer to the vision of creating a better, more circular supply chain for the fashion industry, a model that helps reduce the waste created by the fashion industry. It's only natural for FABRIC to partner with Goodwill to demonstrate another way to keep apparel out of the landfills."

The gala will highlight Goodwill's impact on and mission to empower individuals, strengthen families and building stronger communities. In addition to maintaining a dozen stores and donation centers in Tempe and Chandler, Goodwill has programs offering career development to military service members and their families, a high school for adults, and shelter services for unhoused families.

Proceeds from the fundraiser, now in its third year, support these and other services, said Goodwill spokesperson Lea Graham. The the gala has raised \$750,000 to date, and organizers hope to raise \$500,000 this year, she said.

FABRIC is like an industry under one roof, Johnson said of its space just east of Tempe City Hall. It has donated more than \$13 million in programs and services to help an estimated 1,650 apparel entrepreneurs make starting a sewn-product business more affordable and obtainable.

"FABRIC is a one-stop shop for fashion brands, created by experienced apparel entrepreneurs who wanted to make manufacturing, and owning a brand, more accessible, and less challenging, for others," she said.

It also offers dozens of classes in both typical fashion instruction and in apparel entrepreneurship, which generally aren't taught in fashion design school.



Find the Tempe activities, classes, locations and information you need with this quick guide.

Community Resource Guide Find the activities, classes, locations and information you need.

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Submit a service request – let us know about street lights that are out, graffiti, code violations and more – tempe.gov/311 or download the app
In case of emergency: Call 9-1-1.

Tempe Police non-emergency line – 480-350-8311

Business resources/Tempe Economic Development
tempe.gov/EconomicDevelopment

Building permits
[Tempe.gov/Building Safety](https://tempe.gov/BuildingSafety)

CARE & HOPE Line
Those experiencing homelessness can get help by calling 480-350-8004

City parks
tempe.gov/parks

Downtown Tempe/ Mill Avenue information
DowntownTempe.com

Give or get help from local nonprofit agencies
tempe.gov/nonprofits

Homeless Solutions
Report an encampment or a person in crisis
tempe.gov/EndingHomelessness

Neighborhood Association/HOA information
tempe.gov/neighborhoods

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tempe.gov

Recreation classes and leagues
tempe.gov/play

Take a Tempe survey
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Tempe Center for the Arts
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Tempe City Council
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Tempe Fire Medical Rescue
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**Wednesday, April 24 | 11:00AM - 1:00PM
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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PUBLISHER



For 30-plus years, Wrangler News has brought neighborhood-centric information (and enjoyment) to the residents of South Tempe and West Chandler.

After all these years, we get as much pleasure from our work as we did publishing that very first edition. What brings us the greatest reward, however, is knowing that we've built long-lasting relationships with the business owners, writers, photographers — and readers like you — who tell us they love what we do as much as the way we do it: With the same kind of neighborly devotion you'd expect from, well, good neighbors. Just like we'll continue to be in the years ahead.



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