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# **WRANGLER NEWS**

**A NEW GAME OF GOLF FOR  
ALL LEVELS, AT ALL TIMES  
OF THE DAY — OR NIGHT.**

**More on Page 3**

**Wrangler News photo  
by Andrew Lwowski**

**SG**

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SCAN FOR  
SPECIAL  
OFFERS





Grass Clippings gets busier as the nights get darker, allowing golfers to escape the heat.

# **GROWING THE GAME**

. . . by shortening the game



Andrew

Story & photos  
by Andrew Lwowski

**I**t's a Wednesday evening.  
The parking lot is packed  
and there's a steady trickle

of people walking to the check-  
in table for their tee time.

The ambience is vibrant and  
inviting. There's pop music  
playing through the speakers

that encompass the deck chairs  
and the food and drink trucks  
that sit under lines of patio  
lights.

The food smells delicious and

—Please turn the page

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**A full moon in full swing.**

the drinks are flowing.

On the course, there are groups from all skill levels, from pros, to scratch golfers, to those just happy to see the ball take flight.

This is the vision that Pete Wilson, now the Grass Clippings marketing director, and his three buddies saw six years ago.

Now that construction of the course and its amenities is further along, the community is starting to turn its head toward the game.

Grass Clippings at Rolling Hills has moved the pin for a new era of golf, and the party's just getting started.

For 99.5% of people who golf, the coveted stage the PGA Tour pros have is unreachable, but Grass Clippings has leveled the playing field and has created a spotlight (figuratively and literally) for the common player.

By removing the driver and precision long irons to elevate the wedge and putting game, this creates an even playing field for anyone, says Wilson.

"Everybody wants a chance... golfers are just banging balls on a range all day long, trying to get better, better, better for that moment when their name is called," Wilson said.

"The problem is the majority of golfers never get on that stage. And that stage is so protected and so far.

"What we're doing is we're creating our own stage, to present to them to say, 'Here's an opportunity; here you go.' Here's an opportunity you might shank it.

"You might put it inside two feet. It's up to you."

Wilson said they didn't reinvent the wheel, but simply redesigned it by combining light poles, golf and a staff that functions like family. That unique product has not only caught the attention of pro athletes like Johnny Manziel and Steph Curry but widely popular YouTube golf influencers such as Bob Does Sports (737,000 subscribers), Good Good Golf (1.48 million) and Grant Horvat (615,000).

"It's friggin' awesome to meet Bob Berger on the first tee, chest bump Johnny Manziel or a handshake with Steph Curry," Wilson said.

"Believe me, that's a huge accomplishment for us. But as Al Pacino would say, six inches in front of your face, you got to see right in the moment and make sure that everyone here is happy."

Included in that vision are amateur tournaments – but there's a catch; amateurs can't earn money. Third party sponsors can field teams, and the Minnesota Muskies are one of 10 franchises that have teams put together. When the team wins money, the purse goes to the sponsor. The sponsor can then disburse the money how they please.

Also in the mix for tournaments are grandstands, a digital scoreboard, several thousand well-lubricated fans and live coverage by Bleacher Report.

Oh, and \$100,000 that's soon to be increased substantially.

Bryan Hoops, with his partner Drew Kittleson, won the 2024 Grass Clippings Open playing for the Minnesota Muskies team. Hoops, 55, is part of Aspen Technologies, which owns the

Muskies. He has seeded himself as a crucial eye in the evolving product in Tempe after seeing its potential.

Hoops attended city meetings and sat on the board with the Grass Clippings team, acting as a “support mechanism.”

He offered advice to transform the vision of the golf course from his personal experience, and turn it into reality.

“I just knew that this venue...this is it,” Hoops said. “It’s so much more relaxing to be in this environment and fun that’s here that everyone wants to be a part of.”

The course got its first major makeover in November 2023 with lights and renovated greens and, most recently, the Grass Clippings prop shop. But more is on the horizon.

The weathered driving range is next on the agenda with the implementation of top tracer technology, hitting mats and targets in the fairway. The restaurant will also be under renovation. The lawn, Grass Clippings music venue, is also on the list as well. Wilson says all will be done by 2025, or soon thereafter.

High stakes aside, it’s the camaraderie and new draw to an old game that is growing in a different way. “When you’re talking about growing the game of golf, everyone says, ‘my son is four years old and picked up the club.’ That’s growing the game. Great, he’s going to be a golfer. But it works the other way as well.

“When you have Hoops’ age group (55) coming out saying he can beat anybody on the course, that is extremely unique and extremely special. Him and

Jon Rahm go play a course up north, he’ll tell you right now, he’s going to get his ass kicked. But in this situation, I’d put my money on him.”

The parity that Wilson and Hoops have seen on the course is a testament to the community and the vision and determination of Grass Clippings to grow the game. Even major companies such as SRP and other recognizable names are part of leagues and organizations that play monthly.

“It’s this really cool way of the community turning heads,” he said.

“Seeing that come to fruition is really, really cool. It gives me goosebumps.”

What started as an organic conversation with four buddies who loved the game of golf has transpired into something much more. With even more in view on the golfing horizon.

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# For Mom on her day: 'Thank you for being you'

By Barbi Walker-Walsh

She knows I'm here before I step up to knock on her door. She's sitting at her kitchen table, watching for me through her front window. Her wide smile is brighter than the cheery pink tee that engulfs her petite frame. "Hello, darlin'!"



Emily Carroll Photography

Why does she always say that? Like she's still in the South, is beyond me. I try not to let it irritate me too much. "Hi! Do you have any pink cans?"

"My refrigerator glows pink."

She was not kidding. The entire bottom half is filled with pastel pink cans of Whole

Foods rosé Presto. "I've been collecting them to bribe you guys to come over." She's laughing, but she's also not kidding.

Now we're both laughing, but good grief. Is this what my 80-year-old mother does now? Ordering Whole Foods online and having them deliver mine

and my husband's happy hour beverages so she can bribe us to come over.

Sad. For all of us.

Now, I am ashamed. My mother was mostly a shut-in since the pandemic began. Other than her two stints in the hospital, one for surgery and immediately after back to the emergency room, She really hadn't gone anywhere or done much.

At the beginning of the pandemic, I'd ride my cruiser to my mother's every afternoon to visit and walk her. She had abdominal surgery to remove an enormous tumor caused by non-invasive cancer. She also had COPD. Walking every day was a necessity for her. Thanks to the pandemic, I had time to both walk her and viscerally contemplate her death.

We reconnected again, as friends, during those times and kept some of the routine long after vaccinations, lockdowns, and a hybrid return to normal life. Only now that her demise wasn't imminent and life returned to normal, I didn't see her as often.

I grab a couple of cans, pop the tab and set them on the table.

She shuffles over and sits down. I see she's been reading an actual book. She's excited to discuss it but sees my impatience and puts it aside...

That's an excerpt from an assignment of mine with my mother while I was in grad school nearly three years ago.

What I would give to have those moments with her again.

This Mother's Day, I find myself navigating the unfamiliar territory of being without my mother. Although I am forever grateful that I had so much time to spend with her before she passed away, I subconsciously thought she'd live forever. Naive, I know, but isn't that how we see our mothers? Always in the background of our lives.

My mother, Jerry, whose name was as unique as her spirit, passed away last September. Writing about her feels like both a tribute and a pilgrimage through the myriad lessons she imparted. I wouldn't be the person I am today if it weren't for how she mothered me. My mother had the kindest spirit of anyone I'd ever known. She was genuinely curious about the people she met and always asked thoughtful questions. Maybe she should've been a journalist. Even in her last days, she'd ask about the nurses and aides and others who cared for her. She wanted to know about them and their lives.

But that's who she was. My mother embodied compassion, kindness and curiosity. She worked hard not to judge and was quick to apologize if she misspoke.

At her celebration of life, tales of her empathy echoed throughout. Like the time she silenced a

teen who was mocking an elderly man for the way he walked. My mother claimed the elderly man was her father. The teen was stunned into silence.

Moments later, my mother revealed the truth but left a lasting lesson: treat everyone with kindness; they may be another person's loved one. That friend never forgot the lesson.

Years later, she expanded on that theme when, in the early days of my career as a flight attendant, I complained about some passengers' neediness. My mother kindly said the same thing to me: Remember that if they don't have someone in their life who loves them, maybe you should be the one for them at that moment. Be kind to that person in that instant.

Not only did she reinforce the need for me to be compassionate, but it was also probably among the best bits of advice I've ever gotten. It's stuck with me ever since. Her empathy was boundless. She believed everyone deserves respect and kindness—principles that defined her.

Although the pandemic brought challenges for her, it also presented us with the gift of time together. My son, husband and I would ride our bikes to visit her every week. We played cards and created more memories—another important part of what mattered to her. While I pursued my dream at NYU's online journalism master's program, she became both my muse and interviewee. We delved into her life, laughed, and shared moments that now provide the foundation of my memories. Her experiences and the way she viewed the world reshaped my understanding of her.

In caring for her as she struggled through her last days, I realized that she was stronger than I'd ever given her credit for. Two days before she passed away, my son got into a car accident. He called while I was with her. As I walked him through the process of what to do, my mother sat up in bed, her hair wild and glued to her face, and said, "Oh, s...! Let's go get him." She adored my child probably more than she did me. He had been her world. She'd helped raise him and it was at that moment I realized a mother is always a mother, even in those dying moments.

In those last hours, holding her hand and telling her how much I loved her, I had no idea how much I would miss her. She was with me when I came into this world of course, and I am forever grateful I was with her when she left it.

As I reflect on what it means to be without my beautiful, kind and funny mother this year, I realize that there are not enough words or space to write about what she meant to me and others. Her essence was simple yet profound.

This Mother's Day, I celebrate my mom, Jerry—a woman whose strengths defied norms and whose heart knew no bounds.

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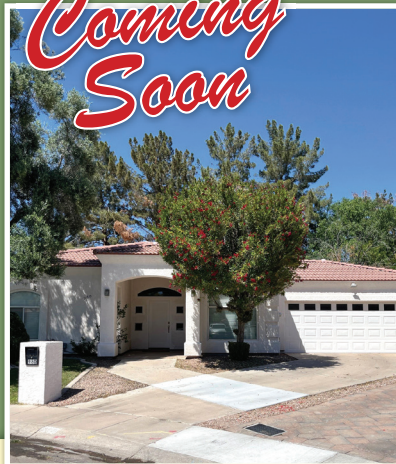
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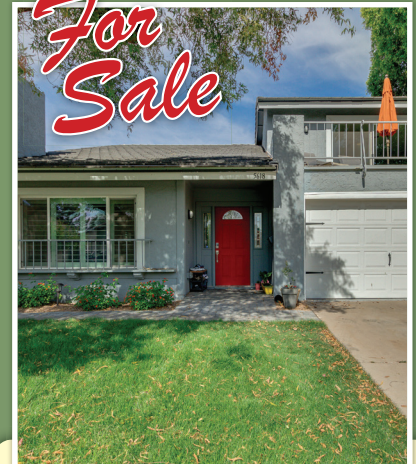
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Youth of widely ranging ages and origins met to develop strategies for addressing social, other issues.

—City of Tempe photo by Eddie Garcia

# Youth face issues head-on

## Mayor, staff support teens in a unified effort

Nearly 150 Tempe middle and high school students came together to learn about civic engagement and public policy at the Tempe Youth Talks event.

The event, held at Tempe Preparatory Academy, welcomed students and city leaders for a morning focused on exchanging ideas and exploring social challenges that face young people.

Tempe Youth Talks, overseen by the Tempe Mayor's Youth Advisory Commission, gives area youth a chance to engage with city leaders and offer input.

Throughout the morning of the event, students heard from MYAC commissioners, who gave TEDx-style talks about issues including diversity,

equity and inclusion; environmental justice and sustainability; unhoused solutions; and youth mental health.

Mayor Corey Woods welcomed the students, the day culminating in a panel discussion and Q&A with city of Tempe experts who regularly address topics of current interest.

Among speakers were Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Velicia Humes; Youth Climate Action Coordinator Evelyn Brumfield; Human Services Manager for Homeless Solutions Jessica Wright; and CARE7 Youth Specialist Tristyn Rivas.

Community decision-makers, including school board members, business leaders and public-service agencies, were on hand to listen and engage with

the students. The event was aimed at helping youth develop ways to make a difference in the community. Input gathered from throughout the day will be included in the annual MYAC report and submitted to the mayor and City Council for their consideration and guidance relating to programs and policies.

The commission was established in 1980 in response to issues youth typically face, such as teen violence, pregnancy, substance abuse, depression and availability of recreational opportunities. The commission's membership consists entirely of area youth and reports directly to the mayor and City Council.

Information: [tempe.gov/MYAC](http://tempe.gov/MYAC).

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# Community



## **THE 'SUPERPOWER' OF TREES**

**Celebrating Mother Nature with a heavenly outreach**

**Contributor Sally Mesarosh takes leafy, leisurely stroll at ASU Research Park**

**Wrangler News photo by Andrew Lwowski**

## By Sally Mesarosh

Trees are with us our whole lives, sometimes as the background of a favorite memory or perhaps even more important, a resource impacting the future of our planet.

Arbor Day, which we observed on April 26, celebrates the planting, upkeep and preservation of trees.

But in our Tempe and nearby Chandler neighborhoods, we shouldn't need a special day to appreciate the way Mother Nature raises her leafy arms skyward in a joyous outreach to the heavens above us.

So what superpowers do trees have? Studies have shown that green spaces can lower levels of stress, reduce depression and anxiety, and improve general well-being. Not only can a simple walk in nature boost your mood; it also improves cognitive function and memory.

We can also rely on trees to act as natural purifiers, removing the kind of air pollution that is most dangerous to our lungs: particulate matter. This pollution arises from the burning of fossil fuels and can reach dangerous concentrations in cities. But leave it to the leaves. Trees take in harmful pollutants and release clean oxygen. Branching out, there's more. Trees' food-making process, photosynthesis, involves absorbing carbon dioxide from

the air and storing it in its wood. Trees store this carbon dioxide, which helps slow the greenhouse gas buildup in our atmosphere that rapidly warms our planet.

Does this information make you want to plant a tree? If so, what kind of tree?

We asked Carey Sigler of Moon Valley Nurseries in Chandler his top recommendations for trees in our area.

"Our top selling tree is **Ficus Indian Laurel**," Sigler said. "It's good for hedge walls, good for yards and it grows fairly big—big enough to block out upper windows in a house."

He said it's a fast-growing tree, handles heat well and thrives in desert environments.

Sigler's second recommendation is **Shamel Ash**.

"This is the No. 1-selling ash variety that we carry," he said. "It's a large tree that loves the sun and provides a big shade area."

### Tips for tree-planting success

Sigler's top tip for planting a new tree is to keep up with a proper watering and fertilizing schedule.

"Make sure you provide proper soil amendments to ensure the tree grows," he said. "Use water and soil conditioner to keep the tree healthy."

Countless other trees native to Arizona in Tempe and Chandler neighborhoods,

below 4,500 elevation, will also thrive. These include Velvet Mesquite, Cat Claw Acacia, White Thorn Acacia, Palo Verde, Ironwood and Desert Willow.

You might want to go out on a limb and try a Red Push Pistache tree. This deciduous tree is a remarkable hybrid known for its red fall color, with dark green foliage and a generous canopy that provides ample shade in the summer and allows the warmth of the sun to shine through during winter.

Additionally, citrus and palm trees are both popular choices in our area, often creating a backyard oasis by a pool or patio.

So, grab your gardening gloves and plant a tree in your yard, or join your neighbors as they do so. At this time of year, you're doing more than planting trees in the ground. You're saying yes to a healthier world.

Note: If you're stumped about how to celebrate trees because you can't plant one, the Arbor Day Foundation has a few suggestions, including organizing a tree identification hike, reading a book about trees, or holding a spontaneous block party.

Visit [arborday.org/celebrate/celebration-ideas.cfm](http://arborday.org/celebrate/celebration-ideas.cfm)

Additionally, Salt River Project has desert-adapted shade tree information at [srpnet.com/energy-savings-rebates/home/shade-tree-workshop#1](http://srpnet.com/energy-savings-rebates/home/shade-tree-workshop#1).



Aztec runners in 2021 set a high mark for teams competing in succeeding years.

— Wrangler News file photo by Andrew Lwowski

## All-City track meet nets 2nd place for men, women

By Alex Zener

The Tempe All-City Championship track meet was held April 16 and 18 at Corona del Sol High School, with both of Corona's mens and womens teams taking second place.

The womens team scored 127 points in the varsity events and the mens team scored 110.33.

In the individual varsity track events, Corona's top finishers included sophomore **Addition Stewart**, who finished in 2nd place in the 1600 meters with a time of



### SPORTS NOTEBOOK

5:24.26, and junior **Jenna Hatton**, who finished 2nd in the 100-meter hurdles.

Corona's womens team had four athletes finish in third place, starting with senior **Reilly Speaks** who came in 3rd in the 200 meters, junior **Sloan Guess** in the 3200 meters, junior **Sophia Mehall** in the 100-meter hurdles and junior **Hailey Roth** in the 300-meter hurdles.

Senior **Stephen Brown's** 3rd place finish in the 3200 meters was the top finisher for the mens team. Brown took 4th place in the 1600 meters while right on his heels was

senior **Sean Waters** in 5th place with a time of 4:53.95.

Junior **Ryan McVaugh** was 4th in the 110-meter hurdles and sophomore **Gabriel Castillo** was 5th in the 300-meter hurdles.

Two runners on the womens team finished in 4th place, including Speaks in the 200 meters along with sophomore **Paige Buckley** in the 800 meters.

In the relay races, the Aztecs 4x800 relay team of Waters, senior **Zachary Wiesner**, sophomore **Joshua Wiesner** and junior **Henry Yazzie** crossed the finish line in 1st place while the women's 4x800 relay team of Buckley, Stewart, senior **Mia Brannon** and sophomore **Anya Halton** finished in 2nd place.

Corona's women's 4x400 relay team of sophomore **Melanie Lindenstruth**, Speaks, senior **Anna Maney** and Buckley also finished 2nd.

Corona earned substantial points in the field events from both teams.

The mens team had three first place finishes, two second place finishes and one third place finish in the field events.

Senior **Zuri Glenn** won the long jump with a leap of 22-11 and the triple jump with a jump of 43-04.00.

Junior **Domonick Ruiz** was closing in on Glenn with a 2nd place finish in both the long jump and triple jump.

Junior **Juleus Lewis** won the high jump with a leap of 5-11.00 and senior **Malcolm Flynn** finished 3rd in the javelin.

The womens team had two first place, two second place finishes, and two third place finishers in the field events, as well.

Sophomore **Cristina Cooper** pole vaulted 11-03.00 to take first place while junior **Morgan Beatty** set a personal record 36-00.00 to win the triple jump event.

Sophomore **Mya Polec** was second in the Javelin while Cooper was second in the high jump. Sophomore **Hanna Teleb** took 3rd place in the triple jump.

Additional results from the womens track team included Guess came in 5th in the 1600 meters race while sophomore **Akeelah R Johnson** came in sixth in the 400 meters.

In the Varsity 800 Meters sophomore **Anya Halton** finished in 6th place, senior **Mia Brannon** was 7th and sophomore **Addison Stewart** in 8th place.

Roth finished 5th and Jenna Haton came in 7th in the 300-meter hurdles.

Included in the results of the Aztecs mens track events included sophomore Joshua Wiesner finishing in 8th place in the 800-meter race and McVaugh finishing 7th in the 300-meter hurdles.

Corona had two additional runners finish in the top seven in the 1600 meters besides Brown in 4th and Waters in 5th. Joshua Wiesner finished in 6th place and Yassie in 7th place.

Yazzie came in 8th and sophomore **Jack BlackFeather** finished in 11th place in the 3200-meter race.

Additional results in the relay races included a 4th place finish for the mens 4x100 relay team of sophomore **Jude Stevens**, Ruiz, Glenn and senior **Brandon Holmes** and a 4th place finish for the 4x400 relay team of sophomore

**Aidan Bingham**, Castillo, sophomore **Jamal Strayhand** and Waters.

Field event results included **Landen Sutton** finishing 4th in the javelin, sophomore **Ty Mortensen** taking 4th place in the pole vault followed by sophomore **Jason Blanco** taking 5th place.

In the long jump, Lewis was 5th while sophomore **Jude Stevens** took 6th place. In the high jump event, sophomore **Samuel Peterson** came in 6th.

Additional results in the womens field events included Teleb placing 4th in the high jump and 5th in the pole vault and junior **Surahya Hashim** had a personal record vault to take 6th place.

In the long jump, Teleb took 6th place while Speaks was 7th and senior **Fionna Duffy** took 8th place.

In the triple jump event, junior **Isabelle Walls** was 5th and senior **Alysha Jenkins** took 6th place.

Corona had two more sophomores throw the javelin. **Amirah Hester** placed 7th and **Ava Welch** was 8th.

The Division I meet was scheduled for May 2-4 at Red Mountain High School. The state championship meet will take place May 10-11 at Mesa Community College.

### Marcos de Niza

The Padres had 15 athletes successfully compete in the mens varsity track and field events and three in the womens varsity track and field events.

The top finisher on the mens team was senior **Michael Richardson** who finished 11th in the 800 meters while senior **Manwe Castro** was 12th and senior **Jayden Copeland** was 18th.

Sophomore **Adrian Starnes** set a personal record when he finished 12th in the 3200 meters followed by senior **Cesar Villalobos** and sophomore **Jaylin Drew**.

Copeland and Villalobos both ran in the 1600 meters finishing in 13th and 14th place, respectively.

Marcos had two third place finishes in the relay races.

First, the 4x400 relay team of seniors **Jamari Johnson**, **Kenyan Brewer**, **Jhaimier Walker** and **DJ Drew** finished in third place

and so did the 4x800 relay team of Castro, Copeland, Villalobos and Richardson.

The Padres top finisher in the field event was Walker who took 3rd place with a high jump of 5-09.00. Walker also jumped a personal record 20-08.25 in the long jump to take 7th place.

Also taking 7th place was senior **Andres Ortiz** in the pole vault event and Castro in the javelin event.

Finishing in 8th place was senior **Guillermo Chavez** in the javelin and Castro in the pole vault.

Senior **Erik Godoy Arvizu** came in 11th in the discus followed by Chavez in 13th, senior **Austin Betonti** in 15th and senior **Adan Estrada** in 16th place.

On the womens team, sophomore **Ashlynn Sieveking** ran the varsity 3200-meter race in 14:29.89 to set a season best record and finish in 6th place.

Sieveking crossed the finish line in 8th place in the 1600 meters.

Junior **Talitha DeBose** ran in the varsity 300-meter hurdles to set a season best record and take 6th place.

Senior **Bianca Acosta** competed in varsity discus and javelin field events. She set a personal best record of 80-10 in the discus and a season best record of 74-02 in the javelin when she took 6th place in both events.

The Division III meet was scheduled for May 3-4 at Desert Vista High School. The state meet will be May 10-11 at Mesa Community College.

### Beach Volleyball

Corona's beach volleyball team, with a 9-3 record, ended the regular season as No. 13 out of 45 Division I teams.

As the No. 13 seed, the Aztecs played against the No. 4 seed Notre Dame Prep on April 15 where they lost 5-0 and were eliminated from the state championship team tournament.

Members of the team who should all be back next season are juniors **Laney Hunsaker** and **Tabitha Sywak**, sophomores **Paige Nenaber**, **Adrya Vance**, and **Taryn Vesely** along with freshman **Aubrey Butterfield**, **Lexie Stevens**, **Reese Wibricht**, **Angelina Favela** and **Kate Shaw**.



## Memorable fight on senior night

Corona del Sol's mens volleyball saved its most memorable performance for senior night, the last home game of the regular season. The Aztecs honored nine seniors: Kevin Saldana (3), Oliver Elthon (4), Luke Vlcek (5), Azzlyn Potts (7), Jake Peshak (8), Pablo Frausto (12), Jack Lwowski (14) and Micah White (18). Desert Ridge, home of the best middle blocker in the country, couldn't overcome the onslaught of Potter, who fired 35 kills on a .460 clip as the Aztecs secured an impressive win in five sets. It was the Aztecs only match to go the distance all season. Senior libero Luke Vlcek passed a 2.9 — the highest possible is 3. Corona found itself down two sets to none but pushed to earn the third set and rode the momentum and building energy for the remaining two sets.

— Wrangler News photo essay by Andrew Lwowski







Corona grad Ricky Pearsall was the fifth wide receiver taken in the 2024 NFL Draft.

## From Hascall Henshaw to Levi Stadium; Niners draft Pearsall

With the 31st pick in the 2024 NFL Draft, the San Francisco 49ers selected former Tempe product and Corona del Sol wide receiver Ricky Pearsall. With the Niners selection of Pearsall, the Aztecs now boast two first-round players in the last years, joining current New Orleans Saints offensive lineman Andrus Peat. Pearsall graduated from Corona in 2019 after climbing to state and national leaderboards before playing for Arizona State and Florida. His dedication to his craft and persistence in the game has paid off. The 6-foot-1, 190-pound wideout will now join the 2024 Super Bowl runners-up, led by former Perry quarterback Brock Purdy.

— Photo courtesy San Francisco 49ers

# Tightly knit Needleweirders hailed for work

Tempe Needleweirders report having received the city's *Volunteer of the Year—A World of Difference* award, plus a welcome economic boost, for their nearly half century of behind-the-scenes efforts.

Needleweirders members comprise 80-plus area residents who sew, knit and crochet for more than 30 charities in the Valley.

The members have been meeting twice a week at Pyle Adult Recreation Center since 1979.

Aside from their ongoing charities, the group organized via email and contributed their efforts at home to benefit area medical facilities during the pandemic, when many organizations were closed or mostly inactive. Over the course of the shutdown, according to a spokesperson, one of the recipient organizations paid the group \$3,600



for 1,200 masks. Additionally, seeing the need at local food banks at that time, the Needleweirders donated \$1,800 to St. Mary's Food Bank and a like amount to United Food Bank.

And their work goes on.

The group's annual craft show and sale is scheduled Nov. 8-9 at Pyle Center in the Tempe Library/History Museum complex. Proceeds will be

donated to 10 charities designated by the group's members. According to the group's spokesperson, the members rely heavily on donated fabric and yarn. In addition to such donations, or to become a member—both ladies and gentlemen are welcome—are encouraged to drop by Pyle Center any time from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

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## How area residents can help city solve needs of unsheltered

Tempe residents are being asked to consider offering their help as part of the city's HOPE team.

Here are some of the opportunities available.

- Consider volunteering alongside HOPE team members to help engage with those in need and connect them to shelter and resources. Details at [tempe.gov/EndingHomelessness](https://tempe.gov/EndingHomelessness).

- Donate to or volunteer with Tempe Community Action Agency, which operates an I-Help shelter and a food pantry. Information: [tempeaction.org](https://tempeaction.org).

- The city supports *Healthy Giving with its Real Change, Not Spare Change* campaign. The effort promotes providing effective, lasting help to assist people in ending their homelessness. Information: [tempe.gov/nonprofits](https://tempe.gov/nonprofits).

- Tempe Community Council needs volunteers to assist with Agency Review, its grant process for nonprofits including those assisting unsheltered people and those at risk of homelessness. Learn more at [tempecommunitycouncil.org](https://tempecommunitycouncil.org).

According to city officials, more people experiencing homelessness in Tempe will be able to access shelter at a motel newly purchased by the city. The action is designed to accelerate the pace with which individuals and families can be helped off the streets and into more permanent housing solutions.

It is the city's second motel purchase designed to meet the needs of unsheltered people and the broader Tempe community.

Leveraging funds from Maricopa County, the City Council approved the purchase of the 58-room Apache Inn along with an adjacent vacant lot to be used for future programming. The investment totaled nearly \$10.7 million, with \$7.3 million in county funds and other sources.

# Everyone has the right to fair housing

There's no room for housing discrimination in Chandler. The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination due to race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), familial status or disability. To learn more about fair housing, or to file a complaint, visit [chandleraz.gov/FairHousing](https://chandleraz.gov/FairHousing) or call the HUD Hotline 1-800-669-9777.



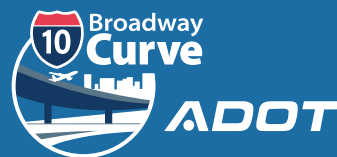


# Find your lane.

## 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](http://i10broadwaycurve.com/findyourlane).



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# Girl Scouts get top honors for skill achievement

The gold award, highest honor in Girl Scouting, has been awarded to 12 area girls from the Girl Scouts–Arizona Cactus-Pine Council.

The award is presented to girls in grades nine to 12 who have utilized the skills acquired in Girl Scouts to showcase sustainable and measurable impact through problem-solving of relevant issues on a local or national level by completing a Gold Award-worthy project.

The 2024 Southeast Valley Gold Award Girl Scouts and their impactful projects are:

## London Brown – Tempe — Loom Love

London's love for crafting and passion for bettering the community came together to create "Loom Love," a project encouraging a creative hobby while highlighting the need for warm winter clothing donations for the unhoused population. London created hats and assisted others while spreading the message behind her project at workshops and meetings. London surpassed her goal of crafting and donating 100 hats by the end of the school year, donating 103 hats to clothing distribution centers in Tempe and Phoenix that stay local. Upon completion, London also created and shared a step-by-step picture tutorial on how to make winter beanies on a loom to keep the project going. London is a graduate of Corona del Sol High School in Tempe and was a student at Mesa Community College before her mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in 2024. London eventually plans to attend Arizona State University to study dietetics.

## Sophia Moreno – Tempe — Capturing Impacts of the 1970s Labor Rights Movement

Empowered by her family's history as migrant farm workers, Sophia took her Gold Award as an opportunity to not only honor her family's sacrifices but also teach others about the 1970s Labor Rights Movement to preserve stories and continue a legacy of advocacy and change. Her interviews with field workers, families, and activists were published online and shared with high school teachers to integrate into their curriculum. As a Girl Scout of 12 years, Sophia has shown great leadership and service to others by amplifying voices and telling stories that often go untold. Sophia is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Political Science at Carnegie Mellon University and plans to attend law school soon.

## Isabella Small – Tempe — Type 1 Diabetes Youth Connect Organization

After being diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes just seven months after her sister received the same news, Isabella used her Gold Award project to build T1D Youth Connect, an organization to empower kids through connection, inspiration, and fun. Isabella successfully organized three social events with T1D Youth Connect, developed an active online presence including a YouTube channel offering inspiration to newly diagnosed kids, delivered over 100 inspirational collages at

hospitals, and created a T1D resource directory for 75 families to connect. A Girl Scout for 10 years, Isabella credits the organization for shaping her into an action-taker and change-maker. Isabella's Gold Award project helped her realize her passion for inspiring others, influencing her to attend Arizona State University and Barrett, The Honors College with a double major in psychology and organizational leadership. She aspires to create her own business, consulting companies on how employee happiness can lead to success.

## Diana Spellman – Tempe — Scottish Highland Dancing in Arizona

Diana used her love and experience for Scottish Highland dancing to revitalize the local passion for the dance in pursuit of the highest honor in Girl Scouts—a Gold Award. To fuel local love for Highland dancing and inform the community, Diana held six free dance workshops for children that provided demonstrations, hands-on learning experience and other education. For a digital element to her Gold Award project, Diana used YouTube as a platform to educate the public on Highland dancing, costumes, and performance. To further drive sustainable impact, Diana bought and sponsored trophies to distribute at the Highland Celtic Festival dance competition in Flagstaff for the next 20 years. Diana's efforts elevated the number of dancers at the Arizona Celtic Festival from 11 to 32 in just one year and influenced 12 children to sign up for her dance school. Diana attends Corona Del Sol High School and is considering what she will study post-graduation.

## Ella Chevalier – Chandler — Eye Wear for All

Inspired by her cousin's past Gold Award project at an orphanage in Shanghai, China, Ella discovered her own project idea that crossed continents. While exploring causes, she noticed a school mission trip to Brazil to establish eye clinics in villages lacking medical access, which ignited the goal for her own project. In preparation, Ella established reading glass donation drives at three schools in her community before traveling to Manaus, Brazil with her team and over 1000 pairs of reading glasses to share with the villages. In addition to providing glasses, Ella and her team hosted clinics at three villages along the Rio Negro in Brazil, administering simple eye exams and glasses to those who attended to help enhance vision and quality of life. Upon her return, Ella brought awareness to the importance of vision and the impact of community service projects by presenting her efforts to her high school class and encouraging fellow students to go on next year's trip. Ella will take the lessons she learned throughout 14 years of Girl Scouting to the University of Kentucky, where she plans to major in Psychology and earn her doctorate.

## Mezaan Crosby – Chandler — Muslim Girls Mentoring

After finding support from a female Muslim mentor during the pandemic, Girl Scout Mezaan Crosby wanted to give this opportunity to other girls, leading to the creation of the Muslim Girls Mentoring Program. With studies revealing that mentorships create healthier relationships and help improve self-confidence, Mezaan organized regular monthly meetings with fun activities and celebrations for the group including an outdoor hike, community service, an Eid party, and confidence workshop. Mezaan's program impacted a total of 37 young Muslim women as well as their families and mentors. 60% of program mentees

said they felt more confident and 100% of the mentors who completed the survey said they would serve as mentors again. Mezaan has been involved in Girl Scouts for over 10 years and credits her Gold Award-winning project for teaching her how to fundraise and improving her public speaking skills. A student at Horizon Honors Secondary School, Mezaan plans to major in either life science or biomedical engineering with a long-term goal of a Ph.D. in engineering from an R1 institution.

## Julia Kim – Chandler — Helping Hand Yoga

When working on a health assignment for school, Julia stumbled upon an article from JAMA Pediatrics that reported a surge in depression and anxiety over the past five years in children ages 5-17. Motivated by this data and her experiences volunteering with youth at a local after-school program, Julia dedicated her Gold Award project to creating a space where people of all ages could relax while gaining coping skills for managing stress and anxiety. Yoga being a passion of hers, Julia conducted yoga sessions during Club Fridays at Improving Chandler Area Neighborhoods (ICAN), a local community after-school program where she interacted with dozens of students, staff and educators. Additionally, Julia created a blog to reach a broader audience to share information and techniques on managing stress. After graduating from high school, Julia hopes to attend a university to pursue a medical degree that will put her on track to become a physician.

## Haley Lee – Chandler — Preventing Period Poverty

To address period poverty and the stigma around periods, Haley focused her Gold Award project on combatting this issue directly by creating an educational curriculum and period kits to distribute to communities in need. Haley developed her curriculum to cover menstrual cycles, hygiene, and products as well as the prevalence of period poverty and the necessity to address it. Haley's project educated 30 girls in total, and she created 266-period kits with her team, each with over 10 period products and a personalized label. In total, Haley donated over \$2,000 of menstrual products to AZ Diaper Bank to be distributed across Arizona and collaborated with local women-owned businesses to gather donations and make connections for kit distribution. A Girl Scout of 11 years, Haley continues to attribute her service to the community due to her childhood in Girl Scouts. Haley currently attends Hamilton High School and plans to follow the pre-med track in college when she graduates.

## Cameron Shinyeda – Chandler — So You Want to Fly Podcast

With a private pilot's license and a passion for flying, Cameron established her own podcast to inspire others and share resources that were not easily available to her when she started flying. Through Spotify, she has reached multiple listeners across the country and has learned a thing or two about podcasting. Cameron plans to take her learning and hobby to the next level to pursue a career in aerospace engineering. –



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

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# DIVERSIONS



## ‘Challenger’ embraces a jumbled timeline

By M.V. Moorhead



Moorhead

Two rising teenage tennis stars meet a third at the U.S. Open Juniors, beginning a triangle that defines not only their careers but their lives. That’s the premise of *Challengers*, a tempestuous sports drama from Italian director Luca Guadagnino.

At the top of the triangle is Tashi, played by the elegant, long-limbed Zendaya, understandably worshipped at first sight by both Al (Mike Faist) and Patrick (Josh O’Connor), inseparable friends and

### FILM FARE

doubles partners since childhood.

Their passion for is on different levels, however; Patrick is fascinated by her ferocious physicality, while Al suffers true love.

Those who dislike nonlinear storytelling may find *Challengers* a bit, well, challenging.

Even Quentin Tarantino’s movies don’t usually have timelines this scrambled.

The story wanders around over 13 years, as Tashi has relationships with both Al and Patrick, as estrangements and injuries bedevil the trio, as Al becomes a superstar under Tashi’s coaching, as

Patrick’s career slides to the level of declined credit cards and sleeping in his car.

We get subtitles like “13 YEARS EARLIER” or “THREE DAYS LATER” or “MIDNIGHT,” but sometimes it’s mostly variations in facial hair that help us keep track of where we are in the narrative.

It’s worth the effort, though.

*Challengers* starts a little slow, but Guadagnino, working from a script by Justin Kuritzkes, unfolds the story in convincing scenes that gradually accrue emotional punch.

There are some risqué passages which, unlike most such sequences, actually forward the story.

The three leads—the rest of the actors here are basically bit players—have charm, which softens how unpleasantly the characters behave at times.



The core of the film, of course, is the remarkable Zendaya, a Disney Channel veteran who, after a turn as a pop singer—my wife and I took our kid to see her at the Arizona State Fair more than a decade ago—has carved out a niche as a serious actor in stuff like *Euphoria* and the *Spider-Man* and *Dune* flicks.

In *Challengers* her lissome beauty is balanced by a slouchy, imperious pugnacity.

It's a true star turn.

The recurrent thumping techno music on the soundtrack verges on the unintentionally comedic at times.

And Guadagnino allows the movie to get a bit operatic in the homestretch, with tortured scenes played out against wild windstorms and scandalous revelations telegraphed across the net before crucial serves in tournament play.

But this feels right for a story about how our long-haul lives are shaped by the feverish melodramas we get caught up in as adolescents.

*Challengers* is Rated R and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Arizona Mills and other multiplexes Valleywide.



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## At Aprende, a production aimed at an audience with sensory limitations

Kyrene Aprende Middle School's Jaguar Players presented their second annual sensory-friendly production, designed to be performed in a setting to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all. The production featured an American Sign Language interpreter, along with modifications to avoid startling noises, overstimulating visual components and brighter than normal lights to help ensure audience members could see one another.

The group is part of an after-school drama program that opened its first season during the fall semester of the 2013-14 school year.

Since the first production, students have tackled plays and musicals such as Rogers & Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, *Bye, Bye Birdie*, and classics such as *Rock of Ages*, Disney's *High School Musical* and more.

— Photo courtesy  
Kyrene Aprende Middle School



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A banner for the 2024 Tempe Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards. It features a laurel wreath framing the text '2024 TEMPE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS'. Below the wreath, it says 'June 14, 2023 Doubletree by Hilton Phoenix Tempe'. On the right, there is a photograph of a modern building at dusk with a mountain in the background, and the text 'Presented by Southwest'.



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# The science of helping

## Kyrene event focuses on aid to kids with limitations

Raising a child with physical or other difficulties can pose seemingly overwhelming challenges, and specialists in the Kyrene School District have amassed some impressive skills—and partners—to help.

A recent resource fair buzzed with conversation as the district's Exceptional Student Services team brought together more than two dozen local service providers to connect with families with affected children.

"Raising a child with disabilities, especially as a first-time parent, can seem daunting," said Kyrene ESS Director Dr. Tzipi Turner.

"It can be overwhelming and difficult for families to run around town trying to figure out which service providers offer what services, and which of those services would benefit their child."

At a recent informational event, families got a chance to speak with providers about what services they offer and discuss their children's needs. Kyrene developed the event to acquaint families with the availability of one-stop access to organizations that support children with disabilities.

"As a parent myself, I know how hard it is for families to find the resources they need," said Amy Dill, Kyrene ESS early learning facilitator.

"To have each organization here in person is invaluable to families."

While adults were busy making connections with the organizations, students had a chance to express their creativity at an arts and crafts station set up alongside the event.

Families also walked away with free books provided by First Things First, an organization enabling early childhood programs through grants to community organizations for children from birth to age 5 (before kindergarten) and their families.

They also received raffle prizes ranging from sensory-ball sets to art-to-go table easels—even an ice-cream-themed sensory bin.

Organizations participating included Absolute HCBS, Down Syndrome Network, M.I.K.I.D., Raising Special Kids and Southwest Human Development, among others. Tempe Union High School District was also there to provide families with information about the transition from middle school to high school.

The fair, said a spokesperson, offered just one example of how Kyrene's ESS department works to improve outcomes for students and help families navigate the journey of raising a child with disabilities.

Families are invited to learn more about the support Kyrene provides by visiting [www.kyrene.org/ess](http://www.kyrene.org/ess).

# Gift cards will reward timely blood donations

Nonprofit Vitalant is highlighting the ongoing need for blood donors and thanking those who give through May 23 with a chance to win one of 83 gift cards—each for \$83—when they opt-in to the group's rewards program.

According to Vitalant, donors of all blood types, especially type O, are vital to maintaining a robust blood supply for patients, from emergencies to ongoing medical treatments.

Every year, says a spokesperson, about 219,000 blood and platelet transfusions are needed to help

women experiencing health issues, including about 1 of every 83 births.

Donation appointments can be made online at [vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org), by downloading the Vitalant app or calling 877-25-VITAL (877-258-4825).

The main Tempe donor center is 1524 W. 14th St. Suite 120.

## Tempe donor location details





- Wed, May 1, 7:30-11:30 am, American Airlines at Tempe Rio West, 1821 W Rio Salado Pkwy, Bloodmobile
- Thu, May 2, 10:30 am-2:30 pm, Southwest Contemporary Women's Care Tempe, 6301 S McClintock, Bloodmobile
- Tue, May 7, 7:30-11:30 am, Flagship Credit Acceptance, 4415 S Wendler Dr, Bloodmobile
- Wed, May 8, 8-10:30 am, Cushman and Wakefield, 1501 W Fountainhead Pkwy, Bloodmobile
- Wed, May 8, 1-3:30 pm, Cushman and Wakefield, 1620 W Fountainhead Pkwy, Bloodmobile

- Tue, May 14, 9 am-1 pm, JP Morgan Chase South Tempe, 2104 E Elliot Dr, Training Rm 1104
- Thu, May 16, 8:30 am-12:30pm, IES Communications, 2801 S Fair Ln, Bloodmobile
- Thu, May 16, 9 am-4 pm, SAP - The Grand at Papago Park Center, The Grand at Papago Park Center, Training Rm
- Wed, May 22, 8 am-4 pm, OneADP Tempe, 111 W Rio Salado Pkwy, Bloodmobile
- Wed, May 22, 9-11:30 am, Caruso Turley Scott, 1215 W Rio Salado Pkwy # 200, Bloodmobile
- Wed, May 22, 2-4:30 pm, Papago Buttes Corporate, LLC, 1500 North Priest Dr, Bloodmobile
- Thu, May 23, 9 am -12:30 pm, Cousins at Hayden Ferry Lakeside, 60 East Rio Salado Pkwy Ste 502, Tower II Ste 109
- Fri, May 24, 9:30 am-1 pm, Creative Testing Solutions-Vitalant, 2424 W Erie Dr, Superstition Conf Rm
- Sun, May 26, 7:15-11:15am, King of Glory Lutheran Church, 2085 E Southern Ave, KOG Center

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## Kyrene Corridor Market Report Single Family Homes April 2024

|                                                                                                                 | <u>85283</u> | <u>85284</u> | <u>85226</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|  Average List Price          | \$544,784    | \$1,118,308  | \$629,004    |
|  Average Sold Price          | \$532,931    | \$1,085,183  | \$616,492    |
|  Average Sold Price per SQFT | \$304        | \$316        | \$337        |
|  Average Days on the Market  | 38           | 29           | 39           |

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