

MAY 20 - JUNE 2, 2023
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HOME OF THE AZTEC

**'I'm not just
a Peat . . .
I'm myself,
but working
hard.'**

A close-up and personal
look at this newest star in
a legendary family galaxy.

Special for Wrangler News
by Andrew Lwowski, Page 3
Photo by Andrew Lwowski

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For legendary Corona family, another re-Peat

By Andrew Lwowski

The Corona boys' basketball program captured history in route to its four-peat from 2012-2015, tying the state record for most ever in a top division. However, Corona has also seen a "five-Peat."

The Aztec community is familiar with the last name Peat, with five of the seven members of the family having come through Corona. While they were not exclusive to just basketball, they have all had remarkable athletic success. Todd, Andrus,



Cassius, Leilani and Keona all hail from Marion Todd Peat Sr., who had a six-year career between the NFL and World League of American Football (NFL Europe).

Peat Sr. was a guard and tackle for the St. Louis/Phoenix Cardinals (1987-1989), the Los Angeles Raiders (1990, 1992-1993) and the Frankfurt Galaxy (1995) — located in Frankfurt, Germany.

Todd Jr. graduated from Corona and played for Nebraska, Eastern Arizona College and Texas A&M-Commerce.

Andrus went on to play as an offensive lineman for Stanford before being drafted No.13 overall in the 2015 NFL draft. He is currently entering year nine of his successful career with the New Orleans Saints.

Cassius had a successful career on the gridiron for Corona as well before going on to play for Scottsdale Community College.

Leilani is oldest daughter, she played basketball for the Aztecs before signing with the University of San Francisco and now the Seattle University women's basketball teams.

Keona is the latest Peat to come through Corona, having played football and basketball. He signed with Arizona State in April and is following the tradition of playing Division I collegiate athletics.

However, Keona's story is different from the rest. During the summer before his junior year, Keona almost lost his life.

"I woke up and they told me something bad had happened," he said. During a summer basketball game, Keona went up for a steal when his left leg

snapped and required surgery. What should have been a routine procedure, turned into a life-altering experience for him.

"It (the medication) put me into anaphylactic shock, so right away my body was reacting to it in a certain way," he recalled. "My oxygen levels just completely dropped, then I coded out three times."

"They were trying to intubate me because I had stopped breathing and my oxygen levels were dropping and then all this liquid started to flow into my lungs. They immediately had to take out the intubation tube and suction out all this liquid in my lungs and then keep trying to put the tube in. When they did that, they damaged my vocal cords."

Not only did the shocked and damaged vocal cords leave Keona with temporarily paralyzed right

While Keona had offers from other programs, he chose ASU because it felt like home.

arm, but left him unable to eat, drink and talk for three months. During his two-week hospital stay, he said he dropped roughly 45 pounds.

Keona credits his family, especially his mother who stayed by his side the entire time, for helping him through the experience, which he said was "was probably the worst time of my life ever."

"There were days where I just wake up, throw up on myself and can't talk, can't call for anybody and can't move...It's really hard to go through that at as a young kid because I feel like it matured me a lot," he said. "Noticing that everything can be stripped from you at once, like this might be the end of my career."

After numerous procedures and missing his junior year, Keona made it back onto the gridiron and basketball court for his senior year, helping him earn an offer from Arizona State.

With the guidance and experience from his older brothers, Keona was able to work through the slow recruiting process and sign with a Division I program.

"I really feel like I wouldn't be anywhere without them," Keona said. Todd was his flag football coach before beginning tackle in high school, and once he began tackle, his brothers were there every step of the way. "When you literally have five professional or collegiate D1 guys watching my film and breaking it down and telling you what to do and not to do, you kind of just fall into your technique and it makes you a better player," he said.

Andrus said it is "pretty special" to have his younger brother play the same position and strives to follow in his footsteps.

"I try to give him pointers and stuff like that just from my experience," Andrus added. "It's pretty cool that were both offensive line, in the trenches."

With graduation coming up, Keona will be the fifth Peat to graduate from Corona and go onto play collegiate sports. With that remarkable family history, Keona said he doesn't feel any additional pressure to succeed. As long as he stays disciplined and continues to work, he says, he will have a successful career at ASU and perhaps beyond.

"It just makes you want to go harder," Keona said of his last name and the history behind it. "Everyone in my family has worked hard for what they got and when you have that last name on you. I'm not just a Peat, I'm myself, but working hard."

Andrus coincided with Keona, saying that 'Peat' as a last name is everything, including legacy. "We definitely take pride in sports as well as giving back to the community and having integrity."

While Keona had offers from other programs, he chose ASU because it felt like home.

"The funny thing is, I kind of see a little bit of Corona in ASU," he said, drawing comparison to the way Barro led the Aztecs last season.

"Just because of the culture, I'm literally watching the practices on my phone and it just seemed like it was home. The culture Kenny Dillingham's building is almost identical to like Corona."

Keona plans on trying out for the music and arts program at ASU, having a background with the trumpet, piano and some singing. But most importantly, he is ready write his own story and continue the proud family legacy with the Sun Devils this fall.



Outreach volunteer in the field as part of Hope Outreach team effort.

— Wrangler News file photo

Tempe gets funding boost from county to help

An inside look at the plight of the homeless

By Janie Magruder

Special to
Wrangler News

Mary Forrester was in anything but a celebratory mood shortly before her 70th birthday last January. COVID-19's latest variant had worsened an already unstable housing situation for Forrester, whose fixed income was insufficient to cover her bills.

Alone and on the cusp of running out of money and losing the roof over her head, Forrester called Arizona's 211 help line and learned about the

city of Tempe's HOPE — Homeless Outreach Prevention Effort.

"When you think of being homeless, you are out there, you might starve or someone might try to hurt you," said the Philadelphia native who moved to Arizona 13 years ago.

"If I was 30, maybe I would have felt a little stronger, but I wasn't sure what was going to happen to me. I felt like I wasn't going to make it at my

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The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors has approved an agreement that will provide a major boost to Tempe's efforts to expand shelter options for people experiencing homelessness.

The county will provide the city with \$7.3 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding to acquire and rehabilitate a motel in Tempe. Tempe will provide an additional \$3 million, bringing the total value of the project to more than \$10 million. The building will provide as many as 60 units of shelter to the region's bridge housing stock to help people exit homelessness. Approximately 120 people experiencing homelessness will reside at this property at any given time.

"This collaborative project with the City of Tempe is another important

step towards addressing homelessness in our community," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Clint Hickman, District 4. "With the purchase of this motel, we can provide shelter and support to those in need, and help them find a sustainable plan to end their homelessness."

This new form of shelter is designed to accommodate all populations, including singles, couples, seniors, families with children, and individuals with disabilities. The property will also allow pets to be present.

"Homelessness is a complex issue that requires a coordinated effort to address. By pooling our resources and working together, we can make a meaningful impact in

— Please turn to Page 16

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Chandler adopts vision statement as element of its planning initiative

Council lays out
strategies for next
two years

The Chandler City Council adopted an updated version of its Strategic Framework 2023-2025, outlining a series of priorities for the next two years. The document is the result of a two-day City Council retreat in February and work session held in March to formulate a collective vision for the city.

The program outlines six focus areas as priorities for innovation and investment through 2025, including:

- Community Safety – safety of residents, infrastructure and systems
- Connectivity – mobility, transportation and technology networks
- Economic Vitality – supporting development and employment
- Neighborhoods – serve and enhance Chandler neighborhoods
- Quality of Life – amenities and experiences enriching the

lifestyle of residents

- Sustainability and Technology – a collection of topics surrounding energy, finances, open spaces, people, technology and water investments, according to Matt Burdick, communications and public affairs director.

The program as outlined provides direction for Chandler's strategic planning, operations, capital projects and budget decisions for the next two years. The document addresses what planners refer to as the inherent thread of innovation woven into it by acknowledging how the pursuit of new ideas and methods has shaped Chandler.

Councilmembers adopted their first Strategic Framework in 2019, and the document is updated every two years.

Information and online details: chandleraz.gov/StrategicFramework.

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An eye-opening adventure awaits high school teens

Tempe's Sister Cities delegates share their hopes for visits to worldwide destinations



Jack Masche is a junior at McClintock High School. He will be visiting Regensburg, Germany this summer. He is looking forward to: experiencing the different culture, history and people of Germany. Jack is the second member of his family participating in the TSC exchange program. His sister Ava was an TSC Ambassador in 2021.



Maya Settles is a junior at the New School for the Arts. She will be visiting Carlow, Ireland for her exchange. She is excited to witness the culture in Ireland, as well as seeing all of the beautiful sights. She can't wait to meet her host family! Maya's sister, Dorothy Settles was a TSC Ambassador to Macedonia in 2015.



Lia Taylor is a junior at Corona del Sol High School. She will be heading to Carlow, Ireland in May. She is most excited to travel and to experience another culture. Lia has had two family members participate in the TSC exchange program in the past: Her mother Carrie Taylor was a Regensburg, Germany TSC Delegate, and her aunt, Stephanie Larsen spent did her exchange in Macedonia.



Sebastian Arrieta is a junior at Marcos De Liza High School. He will be visiting Trollhätten, Sweden this summer. He is looking forward to experiencing a new culture and to see the beautiful scenery.



Natalie Epperson is a junior at Tempe Preparatory Academy. She will be visiting Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia. She is excited to see a beautiful country that she never pictured herself going to and immersing in a new culture that she has never experienced.



Lilly Zienkewicz is a junior at Valley Christian High School. She will be heading to Regensburg, Germany this summer. Lilly is looking forward to meeting new people and getting out of her comfort zone.



Niko Epting is a junior at McClintock High School. She will be visiting Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia. He is looking forward to setting his foot on foreign soil. This will be his first trip outside of the USA. He is also excited to experience a whole new country and culture and to make new friends from all over the world.



Hannah Whittaker is a junior at Temp Preparatory Academy. She will be traveling to Cuenca, Ecuador this summer. Hannah is looking forward to meeting her sister and learning about her and her family. Coming from the Arizona desert, she is very excited to visit a rainforest!



Isabella Small is a junior at Arizona College Prep. Her TSC exchange will take her to Trollhätten, Sweden this summer. She is looking forward to experiencing Swedish food and culture, spending time with her "sister" Larisa and her family, and showing off Arizona/America!



Grace Kolinchak is a junior at Tempe Preparatory Academy. She will be traveling to Cuenca, Ecuador this summer. Grace is looking forward to learning more about Ecuador as well as learning from the other TCS delegates about their countries.



Welcome, Tempe Chief Kenneth McCoy

Kenneth McCoy, retired Police Chief in Anchorage, Alaska, has traded snow for sun by moving to Tempe. He begins work June 5 as the new Chief of the Tempe Police Department.

McCoy retired in 2022 as Chief of the Anchorage Police Department after 27 years of service with the department. He is a U.S. Army veteran, served 10 years in the Alaska Army National Guard and

was honorably discharged as a Captain in 2000. McCoy has a Bachelor's degree in Justice from the University of Alaska Anchorage and a certificate in Leading Diversity from the University of Virginia Darden School of Business. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the FBI National Executive Institute. The search for a new Chief began in February following former Chief Jeff Glover's appointment by Gov. Katie

Hobbs to serve as Director of the Arizona Department of Public Safety.



Enjoy the monsoons but be prepared

This month marks the official start of monsoon season, which lasts through Sept. 30, according to the National Weather Service. You can enjoy Mother Nature's show while being safe and prepared for the high winds and rain:

- Clear debris from roof gutters and downspouts.
- Trim trees, especially those close to houses, to help prevent breakage and uprooting.
- Pretreat pools with chlorine shock to help prevent algae growth.
- Keep storm drains and gutters clear of debris. City crews are clearing storm drains to allow rainwater to drain as efficiently as possible; residents can help by clearing any debris from the gutters adjacent to their property.
- Pack a three-day bag of supplies, including clothes and medications, in case of

emergencies.

- Keep pets indoors when storms are predicted. In case they escape, have them microchipped or wearing a collar.
- Pick up pet poop before storms, so pathogens don't enter storm drains.
- Avoid using pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers before storms, so chemicals don't mix with our drinking water sources.

Beginning in mid-June, free sand and bags are available at these locations:

- Solid Waste Compost Facility: 1001 N. Rio Road (access drive north of Rio Salado Parkway and Hardy Drive, near compost yard)
- Benedict Sports Complex: 490 W. Guadalupe Road (northwest corner of Guadalupe and Kyrene roads, east side of parking lot)

Check out our Monsoon Prep Checklist for more tips to stay safe. Visit tempe.gov/monsoon or call 480-350-4311 for more information.

Tempe 4th of July Celebration

Celebrate Independence Day with live music, activities for kids and a fireworks celebration at Tempe Diablo Stadium, 2200 W. Alameda Drive. The family fun kicks off at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4.

Enjoy games and activities for the whole family, live music, craft food from local vendors, sweet treats and more presented by Kiwanis Club of Tempe in partnership with the City



of Tempe. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$100 for VIP, and children 10 and under are free. Get tickets and learn more at tempe4th.com.

Celebrate Juneteenth

The Tempe History Museum's African American Advisory Committee presents the 10th Annual Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 17, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Ave.

This free, family friendly event will include hands-on activities, performances, table displays, story time, first responder vehicles, food trucks and more.

Learn more at tempe.gov/Juneteenth or 480-350-5100.

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Tempe Chamber of Commerce Announces 2023 Business Excellence Awards Finalists

On Friday, May 19th the Tempe Chamber of Commerce will host the 2023 Business Excellence Awards, presented by Southwest Airlines, at the Doubletree by Hilton Phoenix Tempe from 10:30am-1:30pm. Each year a committee comprised of former winners of the awards selects 3 finalists in each category for the awards:

- Micro Business (1-5 employees)
- Small Business (6-50 employees)
- Large Business (51+ employees)
- Nonprofit

Models of excellence include:

- Demonstrated a record of business growth and success
- Community involvement and leadership
- Dedication to employees
- Commitment to customer service

Visit www.tempechamber.org for more information on the awards luncheon and the finalists for each award.

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For a new 15-year-old, a coming out party not soon to be forgotten

By Don Kirkland

It's been years since I lived and taught English in the Mexican seaside resort of Mazatlan, and the quinceañera held recently by my neighbors Susan and Alejandro Cruz for their daughter Natalia brought back memories of those days — plus an opportunity to connect with a patioful of the Cruz's friends and family in the way that Mexican celebrations are supposed to happen, with something special for everyone. Never, even in Mexico, could such an event have been so spectacularly executed, from homemade enchiladas to piñatas to a chance to catch up on news from friends and neighbors. Photos by Gabrielle Sherwood, 480-246-0466, ensured that the event would enable a lifetime of memories for the 80-plus guests.



From Page 4

age.”

When the city’s HOPE team contacted Forrester almost immediately, and told her they could help, she was filled with hope of her own.

She is among hundreds of people experiencing homelessness who have been helped this year by Tempe’s Homeless Solutions.

“You are drowning, and all of a sudden, there’s a life jacket,” she said. “They treated me with kindness, with respect and dignity, they didn’t look down on me. And in less than a day, they had me. I was in the hands of HOPE.”

Two days before Forrester’s birthday, the team helped her move into a clean, natural light-filled, one-bedroom apartment near Arizona State University.

It was modestly furnished with a twin bed and a large sectional, and it left her speechless.

“It’s a mansion,” she said. “It’s mine.”

Two decades of outreach

For more than 20 years, Tempe has had formal programs to address homelessness and help individuals and families ensnared in it.

Late last year, the City Council approved \$1.3 million in funding to enable a quicker implementation of a comprehensive strategy to launch an innovative mental health response team and to keep city parks more safe.

But homelessness is on the rise across the U.S., and Tempe is no exception, according to the point-in-time count, a, single-night, unduplicated tabulation of people in a community experiencing homelessness, both sheltered and unsheltered.

Tempe’s January 2022 count was 383, a number that rose to 515 in June.

The city attributes the increase to HOPE staff efforts to locate more individuals needing help, with 6,800 reported HOPE engagements since last April alone.

New outreach tools

In August, Tempe announced four new tools that further prioritize safety and public health, connect people with housing options and services more quickly, give residents ways to help, and addresses encampments faster. They are:

The CARE & HOPE line, which residents may call 24/7 to report people needing help, whether in crisis, homeless or having other issues. The number is 480-350-8004. Or email HOPE@tempe.gov.

“Even though our HOPE and CARE 7 teams are out in the community every day engaging with people, there will always be people we’ll never know about who might be struggling,” said Kris Scharlau, Human Services manager who oversees the teams.

The CARE and HOPE line “is a resource that anyone can call to tell us about someone who needs help, like Mary when she lost her home,” Scharlau said.

“It’s also the number people can call when they need help for themselves.”

An online encampment reporting form, previously used only by city staff to gather information about numbers of people, locations, possible hazards and other data regarding encampments, now is available to community members.

Find the form here, on the Tempe 311 app or by visiting tempe.gov/311.

The HOPE team visits these reported encampments, assesses needs there and offers resources for housing and other services to individuals.

An enhanced encampment response was developed with some of the city’s nonprofit partners to prioritize safety and public health in parks, vacant lots and other places in Tempe.

For example, a temporary “resource village” was open for two weeks in August in the Salt River area near Tempe Town Lake.

A variety of assistance — from pet care and storage of belongings to identification card replacement and immediate shelter — was provided, as were medical care and mental health resources.

However, remaining in no-trespass areas such as the river bottom isn’t an option because of flooding, fire and other public health risks, city officials say. Individuals in these areas were notified that they could be cited or arrested for trespassing after Aug. 31.

Now through through December, the city will dispose of debris and hazardous material and address overgrown vegetation.

After this, the city will continue vegetation maintenance and monitoring the area to keep encampments from returning.

Finally, a homeless solutions dashboard was created to enable residents to view the city’s work with those experiencing homelessness and in addressing encampments.

It shows current information about reported encampments, progress in addressing them and other data, and can be found at homeless-solutions.tempe.gov.

Moving forward

Forrester had long ago lost her birth certificate and Social Security cards, but the HOPE team was able to help her replace both. The city obtained a housing voucher for her, which helps offset her rent, and also paid her security deposit.

Today, she is getting to know the city better, riding the bus to visit the Tempe History Museum or to play bingo at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center. She is meeting and greeting her neighbors, including ASU students about whom Forrester says, “I might remind them of their grandma.”

Her apartment is dotted with houseplants and other special touches, a small altar with a Bible and wooden cross, a blue “home sweet home” cup and her crocheting, taken up after 40 years of dormancy.

“I do wonder what would have happened if I didn’t have HOPE,” Forrester says.

“I’m grateful to God. He put Tempe in my life, and without them, I honestly don’t think I would have survived.”

From Page 4

the lives of those experiencing homelessness,” said Maricopa County Supervisor Jack Sellers, District 1. “I am grateful for this collaboration with the City of Tempe and Mayor Woods to expand the region’s shelter capacity and support services for people experiencing homelessness.”

In addition to providing a safe, indoor place to sleep, people staying at the housing complex will receive case management services. The City of Tempe’s Community Health and Human Services will provide connections to city and community resources such as employment through the city’s Tempe Works jobs program and longer-term shelter and housing to improve housing stability.

“We are grateful to Maricopa County for their leadership and partnership and this new opportunity to expand our comprehensive response to homelessness,” said Tempe Mayor Corey Woods. “Through new investments, strategies and partnerships, we are making progress in elevating the continued health, safety and quality of life of our entire community.”

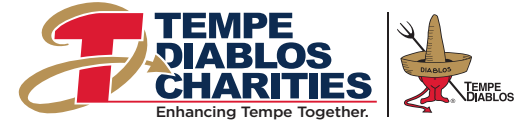
Tempe will operate the facility as a homeless shelter for the next 10 years, after which it will have the option to convert to an alternative use, such as developing affordable housing.

This investment is one of several announced in recent weeks by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors to collaborate with the cities of Avondale, Chandler, Glendale, Mesa, Peoria, Phoenix, Scottsdale and Surprise as well as the Human Services Campus, and St. Vincent de Paul to contribute more than \$30 million in solutions to the regional issue of homelessness.



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**OH, AND ONE MORE BONUS:
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Inaugural women's empowerment luncheon

Equipping women with the resources to aim their lives in a positive, productive direction despite adversities was the goal of a Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Division luncheon on May 12.

Women who either serve the Chandler community or live and/or work in Chandler were encouraged to attend.

The event will feature Steph "The Hammer" Roach as the keynote speaker. Roach is an

author, adaptive athlete and entrepreneur who will share her experiences and perspectives as someone who has turned her life's adversities into her greatest potential.

Born with cerebral palsy and given slim chances of making it out of the hospital alive, to having to fight cancer later in life, Roach is no stranger to overcoming life's hurdles.

In her presentation she shared her insight to alter one's perspective and use existing personal tools to triumph over challenges life may bring.

The keynote speech was followed by a panel of female leaders and champions from the Chandler community who reflected on their lived experiences and journeys in both

personal and professional lives. Panelists included:

- Chandler Councilmember Christine Ellis;
- Rhia Nkulu, radio talk show host;
- Sarina Ryczek, business owner and founder, SAGE186, LLC;
- Kelly Schwab, Chandler city attorney; and
- Patti Serrano, board member of Chandler Unified School District.

Seating is limited and RSVPs are required.

Register online at chandleraz.gov/WEL.

To learn more about the programs and events offered by the City's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Division, visit chandleraz.gov



Summit Middle School's robotics team just returned from the Robotics World Championships in Dallas, Texas, where they won their division and finished ninth overall, out of more than 800 teams. The boys competed in front of over 10,000 people, plus livestream viewers.

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SPORTS

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The Aztecs and Padres fall short in playoffs

The Aztecs finished the regular season as the No. 10 seed and faced No.23 Maryvale in the 6A Conference Play-In on May 2. After defeating Maryvale 3-0 (25-10, 25-11, 25-13) the Aztecs lost the hard-fought battle to No. 7 Shadow Ridge, 3-2, in the first round of the state playoffs on May 5.

Corona won the first set, 25-20, but lost the second set 21-25. The Aztecs then rallied to defeat the Stallions 25-22 in the third set before losing the fourth set 24-26, thus sending the match into a fifth set.

It was a close back and forth set with Shadow

Ridge finally getting ahead to defeat Corona, 17-15.

Corona ended the season 16-16, 7-3 in 6A Central Section.

Twelve of the 17 players will graduate on the 2023 roster, including setter Cade Banks who not only led the team in assists with nearly nine per set, but was second on the team in blocks, service aces and third in digs.

Cade, with 733 assists, is ranked No. 3 in the AZ Conference 6A in assists. He is ranked No. 10 out of 25 named in the Arizona Top Performers list of players in that stat category.

Banks was named to the All-Region first team and for the third year in a row to the Tempe All-City team.

“What can I say about Cade? He is going to be hard to replace in our program,” said head coach Geoffrey Horewitch. “Not only was he the starting setter all four years on varsity and a team captain for the last two years, but he was also an indispensable part of our program. He helped make sure we were always going in the right direction.”

Next spring Corona will also miss outside hitter Jon Seddon, who led the team in kills, kills per set

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(2.9) a set. He led the team in hitting percentage at 0.272 and service aces with over 35.

Seddon was second on the team in service aces per set, digs and digs per set. His 234 digs placed Seddon at No. 13 on the list of top players in AZ Conference 6A. Seddon was named to the All-Region second team.

“Jon, a four-year varsity player, was a staple player in our program” said Horewitch. “He was our team captain and a leader playing almost every point for us the entire season.”

The Aztecs will need to replace four middle blockers Toby Lim, Ollie Hinder, Andrej Mesihovic

and Antonio Lopez.

Lim was second in hitting percentage with 0.234 and was third on the team in kills per set, total blocks and assists while Hinder led the team in blocks with close to two block a match. Hinder also had the third highest hitting percentage plus was third on the team in kills.

“Toby Lim played all four years on varsity and from the start always had the ability to dominate as the best player in his position in the state,” said Horewitch. “He loved to joke and always tried to lighten the mood when his teammates got down.”

“Ollie’s main focus, as a coach’s kid, was to

get better in order to help the rest of the team,” said Horewitch. “He was a major part of Corona’s basketball team so we only had him in the program for two years but he made an impression because he was named to the Tempe All-City team and to the All-Region Honorable Mention.”

Mesihovic played in 40 sets where he averaged close to one kill and one block per set while Lopez averaged 0.4 kills per set and 0.6 blocks a set.

“Volleyball was Andrej second sport and this season was his first year playing volleyball,” said Horewitch. “He is strong willed and worked hard to continue to improve his volleyball skills and



to prove to himself he had the ability to play volleyball. He worked well with everyone on the team and was very supportive.”

“Antonio Lopez was the most positive person on our team, constantly supporting and pushing everyone to work hard and do better,” said Horewitch. “His goalkeeper abilities from playing soccer really helped him play middle blocker.”

The team will also need to replace senior outside hitter Nathan Magro who was second on the team in kills and kills per set at 1.6. Magro was named to the All-Region second team.

“Nathan was one of those athletes who could play most positions on the court and did just that for us during his four years playing varsity,” said Horewitch. “He would do whatever was needed for the team to be successful. He ended up being a great outside hitter for us this year.”

Defensive specialist Kai Becker will be missed for his serving and defensive abilities. He was third on the team in service aces and services aces per set averaging 0.3 service aces per set. He averaged 1.6 digs a set as well and earned All-Region Honorable Mention this season.

“Kai was a key starter for us this past season helping the team out a lot with his defensive skill set,” said Horewitch. “We could always count on him to be calm and even keeled on the court, no matter the situation.”

Omar Leon, playing defensive specialist, was third on the team in digs per set with 1.9 but was first on the team in aces per set averaging 0.5 aces per set.

“Omar was another one of our players who we could count on to be calm and collected while playing defense on the court this past season,” said Horewitch. “He always strived to be the best teammate possible and supported everyone on and off the court.”

Opposite hitter Walter Moffatt averaged close to one kill and one dig per set while defensive specialist Ewing Baker saw action on the court in 37 sets serving the ball over 100 times to earn more than 50 points.

“Walter Moffatt has a cannon of an arm he used when playing both outside and right-side hitter for us this past season,” said Horewitch. “He improved tremendously on the court and always had a very steady demeanor during games.”

“Ewing Baker only played volleyball a couple of years but was one of our hardest working players,” said Horewitch. “He was always one of the first players into the gym where he developed a great serve and ended up being one of our serving specialists.”

Playing outside or opposite hitter, Zachary Jones averaged one kill and one dig per set while earning All-Region Honorable Mention his first season playing volleyball.

“You would never guess from watching Zachary Jones on the court that volleyball was his third sport,” said Horewitch. “And that this was his first year playing volleyball.”

“Zachary had a very fun personality that he used to get everyone on the team to celebrate.”

The five players left after the seniors graduate include the leading passer on the team, junior libero Luke Vlcek who not only led the team in digs with 335 digs or close to four digs a set but was ranked No. 1 in 6A Central, No. 3 in the top performers in AZ Conference 6A and No. 14 in the Top Performers in Arizona.

The additional returning players should include current junior outside hitter Joseph Azzlyn Potts, junior setter Jake Peshak, junior middle blocker Bo Dolinsek and junior opposite Micah White.

Dolinsek gained valuable experience playing in 49 sets averaging close to one kill and 0.6 blocks a set while Potts played in 57 sets digging up 1.4 balls a set and 3.2 digs a match.

Peshak and White saw action on the court where Peshak averaged one dig per match and White had two kills.

Corona Beach Volleyball

Corona’s beach volleyball team ended the regular season with an 11-0 regular season record

and were ranked No. 2 in Division I entering the 2023 AIA Beach Volleyball Division I State Championship.

Each team consists of five pairs listed as Pairs 1-5. Corona’s first pair was senior Kierstyn Barton and senior Ella Lomigora.

Playing on pair No. 2 were two sophomores: Alyssa Aguayo and Emma Uribe.

Making up the third pair was junior Maggie Beauer and freshman Erin Clark while the fourth pair was senior Maddie Cohen and junior Julia Owens.

Playing on the fifth pair was senior Brianna Mitchell and freshman Adrya Vance.

The Aztecs defeated No. 15 Perry, 4-1, in the first round, on their home courts at Kiwanis Park on April 17.

Unfortunately, Corona lost in the quarterfinals to No. 7 Queen Creek, 3-2, on April 19 and were eliminated from the tournament.

Queen Creek went on to lose in the finals to the No. 1 seed Sandra Day O’Connor.

Corona’s top pair of Lomigora and Barton qualified as the No. 6 seed in the Division I Pairs State Championship.

Lomigora and Barton had a bye in the first round but were defeated May 3 by Desert Mountain pair in the second round, 21-18, 21-16, at Casteel High School.

Marcos Beach Volleyball

Marcos de Niza had 19 players come out for beach volleyball this spring where the team played in Division II. The top five pairs played in 11 matches.

The No. 1 pairs team was junior Giselle Orndorf and junior Isabella Rodriguez while sophomore Laquira Alexander and junior Isabella Newell made up the No. 2 pairs team.

Playing at the No. 3 pairs spot were two freshmen: Angelina Arispe and Nevaeh Lizarraga.

The No. 4 pairs team was freshman Ilya Molina and sophomore Yulissa Morales while the No. 5 pairs team was junior Mariah Estrella and freshman Madison Staroszik.

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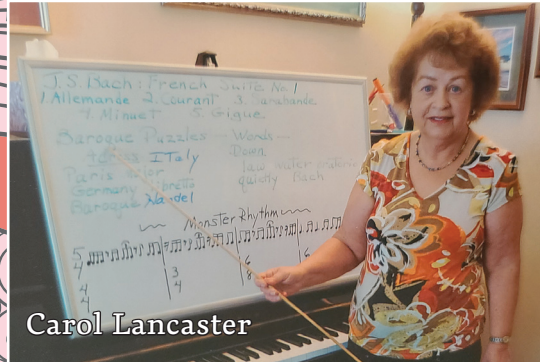
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'Best friend tough love'

Several times throughout *Book Club: The Next Chapter*, the sequel to the 2018 comedy, one of the characters uses this phrase before offering a critique, usually not terribly tough, of one of the other three. In that spirit, I'm tempted to offer the returning quartet of leading ladies—Candice Bergen, Jane Fonda, Diane Keaton and Mary Steenburgen—some unsolicited movie critic tough love: cranking out this sort of girls-night-out fluff shouldn't be all they do in the valedictory stretch of their careers.

But I can't do it. These four women are all great stars, first-

rate actors and classic screen beauties. In some cases they won their chops gradually—Bergen had a pretty rough start, for instance, but eventually developed killer comic timing—while others, like Keaton, seemed to find a one-of-a-kind persona early on. Each of them, however, has a splendid body of work to be proud of, and if now they want to make money doing relatively harmless, undemanding fare like this, they've earned the right.

That said, this one is *really* fluffy. But so what? There's a sense in which movies like this are critic-proof. As

with *80 for Brady*, another emeritus chick flick from earlier this year (also featuring Fonda), the stars here are such good company that the feeble plotting and rambling dialogue and platitudes about pursuing your dreams at any age become a shared smirk between them and the audience.

You may recall the line up, lifelong friends who stay in touch through a book club: Keaton's character, conveniently named Diane, is a reserved widow who defaults to finding reasons not to have adventures and has never scattered her husband's ashes. Fonda plays Vivian, a successful

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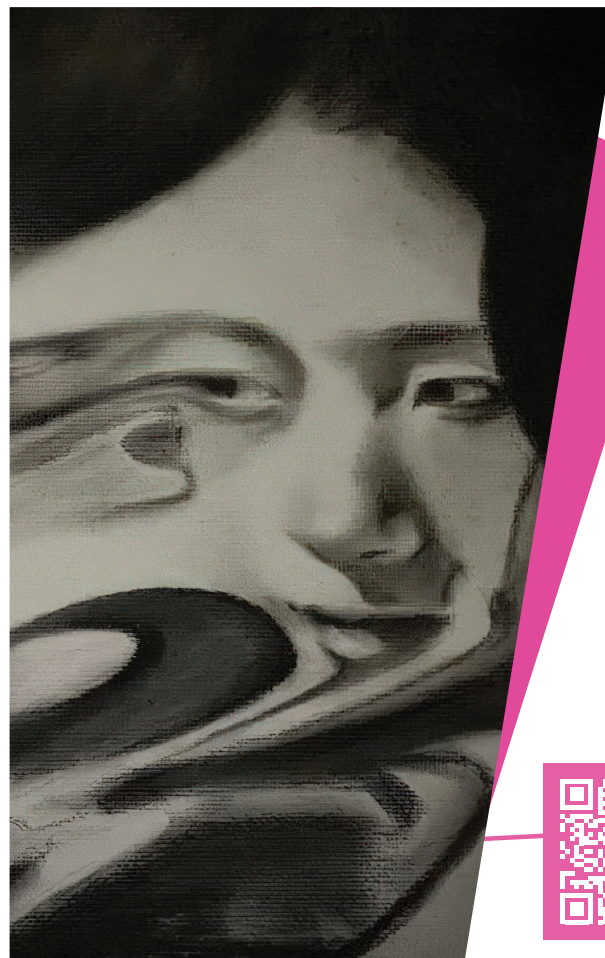
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You may recall the line up, lifelong friends who stay in touch through a book club: Keaton's character, conveniently named Diane, is a reserved widow who defaults to finding reasons not to have adventures and has never scattered her husband's ashes. Fonda plays Vivian, a successful hotel magnate who has never married. Part One linked Vivian up with Arthur (Don Johnson) and Diane up with Mitchell (Andy Garcia).

Steenburgen plays Carol, a married chef; here her husband Bruce (Craig T. Nelson) has had a heart attack and she's policing his bacon intake. Bergen rounds out the quartet as Sharon, the long-divorced and still single retired federal judge.

Last time around the ladies were reading *Fifty Shades of Grey*, which rather embarrassingly stirred them up erotically. This time, after a long COVID lockdown, their selection is Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*, which helps inspire them to go on a trip, a bachelorette party for Vivian, who has at last agreed to marry Arthur. So the four of them tour Italy; first Rome, then Venice, then Tuscany.

You can imagine the results, again directed by Bill Holderman from a script he co-wrote, again, with Erin Simms. The ladies cavort, from montage to montage, making low-hanging-fruit lewd jokes about classical sculptures, or trying on wedding dresses. They get robbed, and the case is handled without much urgency by a venerable and impressively unformed officer of the *polizia* (played by Seven Beauties himself, Giancarlo Gianinni). They flirt with guys, although Sharon being the only fully unattached one, she's the only one that gets to fully cut loose in this way. And through it all, they drink wine. Lots and lots of wine.

Like many other directors, Holderman leans hard on the Italian locations, and the movie looks great. It sounds great, too; the soundtrack has Bette Midler singing "Mambo Italiano" and Italian-language versions of pop hits from The Monkees to Hall and Oates. And it's hard to completely dismiss any movie that features Hugh Quarshie singing "Gloria," in Italian, accompanied by Mary Steenburgen on the accordion.

Book Club: The Next Chapter is rated PG-13 and plays at Harkins Tempe Marketplace, Chandler Fashion 20, Chandler Crossroads, Tempe Marketplace, AMC Abwatukee and other multiplexes Valleywide.

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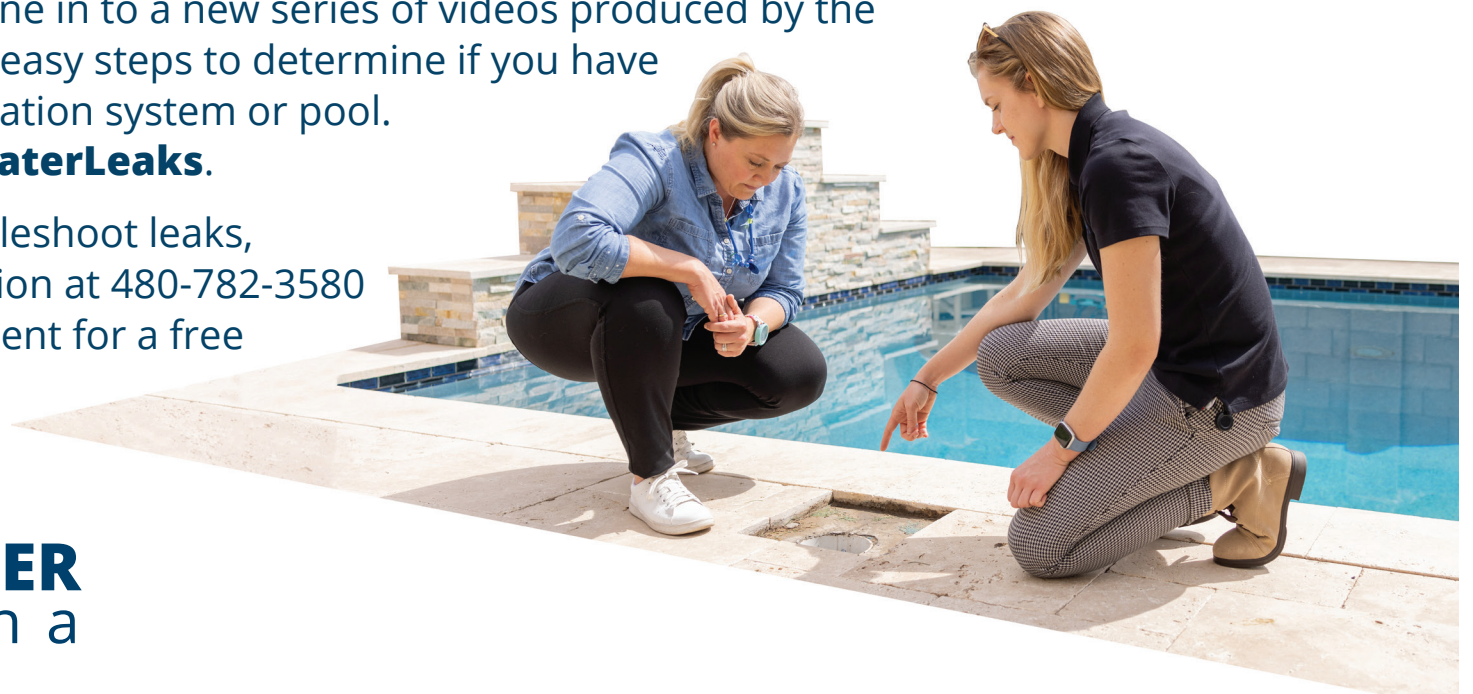


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