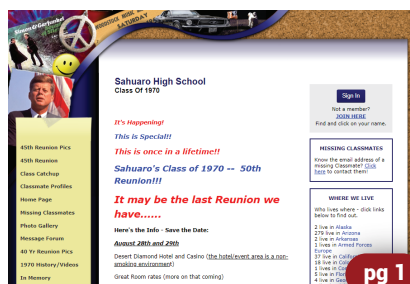




Sahuaro Cougar Foundation
PO Box 18181
Tucson, AZ 85731

Cougar Tracks Newsletter

January 2020 Edition



what's inside this edition:



pg 1 Founder's Corner

Sahuaro's inaugural Class of 1970 to hold a 50-year reunion this summer

pg 2 Cougar Tracking: News & notes about Cougars leading the way

Sahuaro's rich (and continuing) tradition of hiring from within



pg 4-5 Golf Tournament Entry Form, Sponsorship Information

Information on how to support the Foundation's only fundraiser

Founder's Corner - Notes from Dr. David Ashcraft Sahuaro's Ingaugural Class of 1970 to celebrate 50th year



Dr. David Ashcraft (1970)
Co-Founder and Founding
President of Cougar Foundation

The objectives of the Cougar Foundation clearly delineate the reason for its existence as stated in the mission:

The purpose of the Sahuaro Cougar Foundation is:

To perpetuate the history, traditions, and spirit of Sahuaro High School

To support the activities of its students and staff

*To provide services to the Alumni
To invoke a system of honors and awards that recognize the achievements of the students, staff, and alumni*

A half century of academics, athletics and other activities have seen the development and maintenance of deeply rooted traditions that have stood the test of time as has been repeatedly stated. In all of these, excellence has been the hallmark.

Over the years, the Cougar Foundation has raised a great deal of money, having gifted tens of thousands of dollars since its inception in the early 90's for the benefit of student scholarships and faculty mini-grants. In addition, many school improvement projects have been funded with the help of our donors and members.

A natural part of its mission is for the Foundation to serve as the de facto Alumni Association for the school. The primary function here is to disseminate news of upcoming class reunions and to maintain regular communication with Foundation members and others within the Sahuaro community.

Recognition of outstanding and deserving students, faculty, staff, and alumni, through annual awards, including induction into the Sahuaro Cougar Foundation Hall of Fame, is at the center of the Foundation's focus. The Hall of Fame itself is a Who's Who of amazing Cougars who have embodied and exuded the spirit of Sahuaro. Nominations for the Hall of Fame are accepted by the Board at any time during the year.




Inaugural Class of 1970 to hold its 50-year reunion this summer

Another Sahuaro first will be celebrated this summer as the inaugural Class of 1970 convenes for its 50th Reunion, the first such event in the school's history. The members of the first graduating class hold the unique distinction of having enjoyed "senior" status two years in a row. Sahuaro opened its doors in the fall of 1968 with just three classes, i.e. 9th, 10th and 11th grades.

As described by **Carol Orcutt Holly**, this "once in a lifetime event" will take place on August 28-29 at the Desert Diamond Hotel and Casino on Tucson's west side. Friday night will be a casual mixer, and Saturday evening will feature a resort casual barbecue with a DJ. A block of rooms will be reserved for those who desire lodging.

Class members are encouraged to visit the Class of 1970 website at **sahuaro70.com** and to spread the word about the reunion. Updates will be published as they occur.


All Sahuaro alumni are encouraged to check on reunion information and schedules by logging onto the Cougar Foundation website at **sahuarocougars.org**.



SAHUARO
COUGAR
FOUNDATION

PO Box 18181
Tucson, AZ 85731
sahuarocougars.org

This year, we will distribute over
\$25,000.00
in scholarships and financial aid



Scan the QR code above or visit sahuarocougars.org/scholarships

This year, the Cougar Foundation will distribute over \$25,000 in scholarships and financial aid to deserving Sahuaro seniors.

There are several opportunities for deserving soon-to-graduate Seniors to get funding for their continuing education or other education-related expenses. Seniors and their families should reference the Sahuaro High School Cougar Foundation website at **sahuarocougars.org/scholarships** to see all available funds.



Sahuaro Cougar Foundation Board of Directors

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**COUGAR FOUNDATION / HALL OF FAME
FOUNDING MEMBERS:**
Harry Johnson
Dr. David Ashcraft

Cougar Tracking: News and Notes



Jeffry Gardner (2002)
President, Sahuaro High School
Cougar Foundation

The 1994 Champion Football Squad Honored at the 4A Championship

Last month at the halftime of the Championship battle between Desert Edge and Mesquite, the Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) honored coaches and players of the team which earned the title 25 years ago.

Honored for coaching that team was Cougar Hall of Fame Member and prolific football coach **Howard Breinig** (who would retire after the season). In addition to Breinig, former assistants **Nemer Hassey** and **Will Kreamer** were honored.

The 1994 team included some exceptional talent, including Omar Bacon, Aaron Dumsch, Tony Lucas, Ricky Solis and Nate Goerke.

Unfortunately, not all Cougars from that team are with us today. **Tony Saucedo** died in August of liver disease. His 1994 teammate, **Matt Louzensky**, had a commemorative football signed by dozens of Cougars; the ball was presented to Saucedo's son, Hayden, at the game.



Hayden Saucedo was presented with a signed ball in honor of his father and 1994 Cougar Championship Team Member Tony Saucedo, who passed away in August from liver disease.

Photo credit Bernadette Saucedo / Facebook

Steve Botkin a 'Coach of the Decade', per Daily Star Columnist Greg Hansen

In his annual write-up of Tucson coaching excellence, columnist Greg Hansen had glowing things to say about Sahuaro Cougar Foundation Board Member and the school's Activities Director Steve Botkin.

Says Hansen: "Under Botkin, the Cougars went 218-67 in the decade, the most victories by any high school basketball coach, boys or girls, in Tucson. Sahuaro reached the state semifinals in 2015, 2018 and 2019 and have opened this season 8-0. No girls basketball team in Tucson, any level, won a state basketball championship in the decade."

Cougar Foundation Purchases 22 Graphing Calculators for the Math Department

The Cougar Foundation Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve an expenditure for 22 graphing calculators. These calculators were gifted to the school's math department and are going to be used by Algebra 2 students who may not be in a position to otherwise purchase such expensive technology. Supporting the education of current Cougars is one of the most fundamental priorities for the Foundation.

Math teacher **Amanda Goodenow** made the request of the board, stating, "these [calculators] allow students to expand on the basic curriculum and include more data analysis and use that saved time to connect their research to real-world analysis".

Girls Basketball Team off to a hot start, leader Alyssa Brown honored

The #1-ranked (at the time of publication) Girls Basketball Team is off to a great start. At 14-0 overall and 6-0 in conference play, the Cougars hosted the Boyd Baker Tip-Off Classic over Thanksgiving break and saw great success:

The Cougars defeated Empire 64-32, Sunnyside 70-54, Catalina Foothills 54-30 in the semifinals and Salpointe Catholic 59-52 in the Championship game.

Additionally, the team saw success in the Flowing Wells Holiday Shootout, played over the holiday break, December 27-28.

They defeated Yuma Kofa, Rincon/University High, Georgetown (Austin, Texas) in the semi-fi-



Photo credit: Lisa Moore

nals 60-58 and Sierra Vista Buena 57-45 in the Championship game of the Flowing Wells Holiday Shootout.

Leading the team is Junior Alyssa Brown, who is averaging over 30 points per game and recently broke the school-high career scoring record of former Cougar **Sydney Harden**. (Did we mention that Harden is Brown's older sister and an Assistant Coach for the team?)

Learn more about Alyssa and her family influences in a great write-up by the Arizona Republic's Dana Scott at the Republic website: bit.ly/2NoHuRt

Tucson Parks Named Posthumously for Former Cougar Standouts

Despite renovation at the Lincoln Park Softball Fields, Cougar Hall of Fame Inductee **Julie Reitan** now has her name on the newest set of softball fields at Lincoln Park. Though the four original fields were named after her in an effort to honor the late Sahuaro softball champion and University of Arizona standout softball player, the new fields were nameless until last year when the City Council voted to expand the name to the new fields as well.

Reitan was only 21 years old and a member of the World Champion Wildcat Softball team when she died in 1997 due to complications from diabetes.

Reitan is not the only Cougar who has been honored with a park naming. Army Sgt. 1st Class **Todd M. Harris**, who graduated from Sahuaro in 1992, died in 2010 in Afghanistan after his unit was hit by small-arms fire.



A former football standout at Sahuaro, the special forces soldier was a member of the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat team, part of the 10th Mountain Division based at Fort Drum, N.Y.

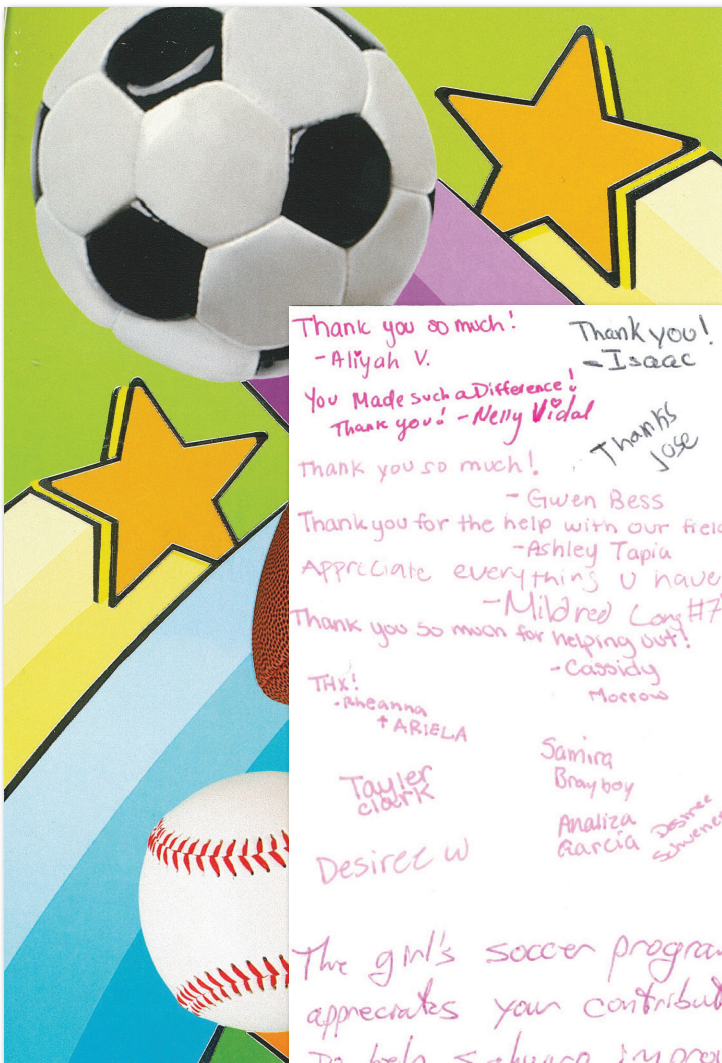
The effort to rename Golf Links Park on the northwest corner of Golf Links and Craycroft Roads was spearheaded by friends and survivors of Harris, who joined the armed forces in 1998. The park was officially renamed in July of 2019.



Photo Credit: @AndrewKVOA, Twitter

Cougars Lead the Way!

Do you know a Cougar whose stories and accomplishments should be honored here?
Email jeff@sahuarocougars.org



We'd like to say THANKS right back to the Girls Soccer Program and head coach **Dave Kruszewski** for their wonderful card! Last year, Senior Athletics Trainer **Becky K. Fajardo, MS, AT** spearheaded the rebuilding of the practice fields. The Cougar Foundation and **Maggie Mundle at Horizon Distribution** contributed to the effort. Knowing that these efforts are appreciated makes it worthwhile!

Want to learn more about the practice field restoration project?

Read the April '19 edition at sahuarocougars.org/cougar-tracks-newsletter/



Photo credit: Jeffry Gardner

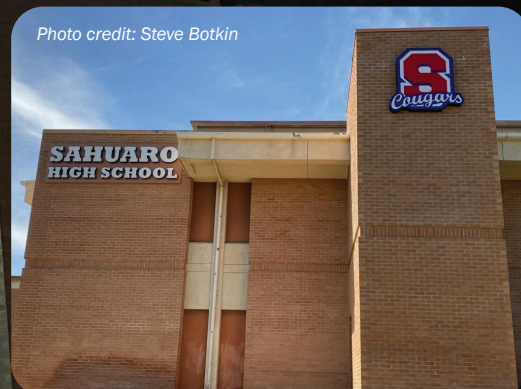
SAHUARO HIGH SCHOOL

The new Sahuaro sign prominently displayed on the Library and 300 Buildings was the final project in a series on improvement meant to help celebrate our school 50th. Additionally, we made improvement to the lighting, sound and mics in the auditorium, new sound portable equipment for the gym (for events and assemblies), a new scoreboard for our girls softball program and new permanent PA system for our football field. These projects were funded from Gifts and Donations and facility rental income.

Unfortunately, we fell short of our goal of adding a press box to this list. We have very proud of these projects and hope they will be enjoyed by our school for many years to come, in addition to making our venues more viable for rental income to help fund future improvements.

Bobby Estrella, Principal

Photo credit: Steve Botkin





Sahuaro High School Cougar Foundation

Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday April 18, 2020

Forty Niner Country Club

Join us for 18 holes of golf at the world-class Forty Niner Country Club!

Win cash at the **money hole!** Enjoy a **delicious lunch!**

Win some fabulous **raffle** or **silent auction** prizes!



Cindy Rarick
Sahuaro Class of 1978
Former LPGA Pro
Honorary Tournament Chair

» Contact Information

Name _____ Phone _____
Email _____
Company _____
Address _____

☐ **YES**, I would like to donate a raffle prize!
a Foundation representative will contact you. Donations are tax-deductible, ID 86-0720942.

☐ **YES**, I would like to join the Cougar Foundation (add \$15)

» Player Information

Name _____ Phone _____
Email _____

Name _____ Phone _____
Email _____

Name _____ Phone _____
Email _____

Name _____ Phone _____
Email _____

» [A] Golf and Lunch Selections

Golf and Lunch _____ x \$80* = _____

Fdn Membership _____ x \$15 = _____

Lunch Only _____ x \$15 = _____

Donations _____

[A] Subtotal _____

» [B] Sponsorship

Title ☐ \$5000 Red ☐ \$2500

Blue ☐ \$1000 Plat. ☐ \$400

Hole ☐ \$225 Tee ☐ \$175

Green ☐ \$75

[B] Subtotal _____

Total owed: (total of sections [A] and [B]) _____

\$80 registration for pre-payment only; payment on the tournament day will cost \$90/player

Event Information

Registration 6:30am

Start Time 7:30am

Contact Information:

Fran Johnson	520-247-0336
Fred Knapp	520-609-6392
Debbie Glasser	520-360-3788
Jeffry Gardner	520-990-1190
Ed Rothlisberger	520-465-9048
Amy Fitch-Heacock	520-331-2261

Find out more at sahuarocougars.org

Sponsor the event!

Sponsors are incredibly important to the results of the tournament - and it's a great way to have your business seen by local, well-qualified residents.

We assure you that your sponsorship will be of tremendous value to your company and that the Cougar Foundation will work hard to promote and support those who have helped us support the Sahuaro community.

To find out about all the sponsorship opportunities available for this years' event, please see the next page!

Please mail this form to the Sahuaro Cougar Foundation - PO Box 18181, Tucson, AZ 85731

Checks should be made out to Sahuaro Cougar Foundation. If you prefer to use credit card, enter information below or visit sahuarocougars.org



Name on card: _____
Card # _____

Expires: ____ / ____
CSC/CVV: _____





Sahuaro High School Cougar Foundation

Charity Golf Tournament

Saturday April 18, 2020

Forty Niner Country Club

Last year the Sahuaro High School Cougar Foundation distributed **over \$25,000 in scholarships** to graduating seniors towards their college education. These scholarships are paid for by our only annual fundraiser – our charity golf tournament.

Based at the beautiful Forty Niner Country Club on Tucson's northeast side, the tournament has attracted hundreds of golfers, local businesses, and the Sahuaro community at large. Golfers, by and large, tend to be affluent and businesspeople. Guests enjoy 18 holes of golf, a delicious catered lunch, prizes and so much more.

We assure you that your sponsorship will be of tremendous value to your company and that the Cougar Foundation will work hard to promote and support those who have helped us support the Sahuaro community. Whether you support the Cougar Foundation's efforts with a Title Sponsorship, one of our subsidiary sponsorships, a raffle prize or other form of support, please accept our sincere gratitude!

Title Sponsorship (limit 1) - \$5000

- Exclusive position as the ONLY Title Sponsor
- Tournament foursome with preferred seating at Lunch
- Additional lunches provided for up to 2 lunch guests
- Strong association with the Sahuaro Community
- Opportunity to insert prizes into golfer's goodie bags
- Opportunity to insert literature into golfer's goodie bags
- Opportunity to speak to event attendees at the lunch
- Visibility for your company name/logo
- Tournament literature
- On-course signage (includes 1 tee sponsorship)
- Golf Cart signage
- Cougar Foundation Website and social media
- Thank-you letters to participants

Other sponsorship opportunities

Sahuaro "Red" Sponsorship (limit 3) - \$2500

- Tournament foursome with preferred seating at Lunch + 2 lunch guests
- Visibility for your company name/logo
 - Tournament literature
 - On-course signage (includes 1 tee sponsorship)
 - Cougar Foundation Website and social media platforms
 - Thank-you letters to participants
- Strong association with the Sahuaro Community
 - Opportunity to insert literature in golfer's goodie bags
 - Special recognition during lunch

Sahuaro "Blue" Sponsorship (limit 5) - \$1000

- Tournament foursome + 2 lunch guests
- Visibility for your company name/logo
 - Tournament literature
 - On-course signage (includes 1 tee sponsorship)
 - Cougar Foundation social media platforms
 - Thank-you letters to participants
- Strong association with the Sahuaro Community
 - Opportunity to insert literature in golfer's goodie bags
 - Special recognition during lunch

Platinum Sponsorship - \$400

- Tournament foursome + admission for up to 2 additional lunch guests
- Visibility for your company name/logo
 - On-course signage (includes 1 tee sponsorship)
- Strong association with the Sahuaro Community
 - Special recognition during lunch

Hole Sponsorship (NEW!) - \$225

- Set up a tent with exclusive signage on the hole of your choice.
- Meet every golfer, gather leads and distribute literature/goodies

Green Sponsorship - \$175

Tee Sponsorship - \$125

If you'd like to sponsor the event, please contact Fran Johnson at 520-247-0336