

# sports & recreation

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## White Tank Library, Nature Center slates grand opening

By Nelson G. Mitchell III  
Special to the Independent

The White Tank Branch Library and Nature Center officially welcomes guests during a grand opening celebration 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13. The library and nature center is located at the entrance to Maricopa County's White Tank Mountain Regional Park, 20304 W. White Tank Mountain Road, Waddell, at the western end of Olive Avenue.

During the celebration, visitors can take part in nature mini-hikes, a children's story time program, reptile feeding, discussion with a teenage author, a puppet show, hiking preparation tips, a prize wheel, and more. Young guests can also participate in several hands-on activities to acquaint themselves with the plants and animals of the Sonoran desert.

The day starts off with performances from the Shadow Ridge High School marching band and the Mountain View School choir.

Supervisor Max Wilson, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, District 4, calls the facility a dream come true. "We are excited about opening this building to the residents of Maricopa County," he said. "There's no other county public-use building like it."

"This state-of-the-art eco-friendly green facility is an unprecedented partnership between the Parks and Recreation Department and the Library District. The residents now have a new library coupled with a new park gateway replete with live animals and compelling reading materials. The imaginative

See Center — Page 11



Submitted Photo

## 'Player of the Year'

Asha Hart, from Imagine Prep in Surprise, was selected as the "Player of the Year" by the Charter Athletic Association for junior high volleyball at the state All Star Championship Oct. 30. Asha maintains all As in academic classes and was selected by AZ Sky Volleyball club for their National 1, 13 year age team. She will be traveling to Europe next summer as a student ambassador with People to People (founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower) after being nominated and selected. Her school coach and math teacher, Kenneth Wolford, was at the championship to cheer the southwestern state team to a second place finish after going to game three.

## SCOREBOARD

Sun City Grand Softball  
Fall 2010 — Blue League  
Nov. 1

Wells Fargo 12  
Salt River Solar 4

Wells Fargo Bankers defeated Salt River Solar 12 to 4 behind the strong pitching of Will Franklin. Will gave up four runs in the first inning then shut down the Solar gang. Some strong defensive plays by Jan Huber in left field and a game ending double play

by Larry Smith and Jack Pendar helped the Bankers to their first win. A stimulus package of hitting led by Jeff Smith's 4-for-4 and Jan Huber and Shelly Rosenthal both 3-for-4 were all the main runs the Wells Fargo team would need to secure a victory. Good defense by the Wells Fargo team backed the effective pitching of Will Franklin as the bankers opened the fall season of Sun City Grand

See Scoreboard — Page 11

## Stroller Strides owner recognized

Kelly Nielsen, Surprise resident and owner of a local Stroller Strides program, was recognized as a finalist for the instructor of the year award at the company's national conference Oct. 14-16 in San Diego.

Stroller Strides of Peoria organizes exercise classes for local moms and their babies. The award recognizes franchisees who have demonstrated excellence in business strategy, community outreach and fitness expertise.

"I was honored to be recognized as a finalist of this award in front of my fellow Stroller Strides owners," said Ms. Nielsen. "Everyone involved in Stroller Strides is passionate about helping moms achieve their health and fitness goals. This acknowledgment demonstrates my commitment to the moms in the Surprise area community."

"We are pleased to recognize the success that Nielsen has demonstrated," said Lisa Druxman, founder of Stroller Strides. "This is an example of what can be achieved with passion and dedication. The new moms in the Surprise area have a resource that makes their fitness needs a priority."

The conference packed a full agenda of workshops, speakers and activities into two days, bringing attendees up-to-date on the newest developments in pre- and postnatal fitness.

The hour-long classes offered by Stroller Strides of Peoria emphasize cardiovascular activities and muscle-strengthening exercises using resistance bands and strollers, allowing moms to interact with their babies throughout their workout.

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