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‘LARGER THAN LIFE’

Wildcat teams coached by Lute Olson, shown in 2009, have been in 23 NCAA tournaments in Olson’s 24 seasons at the University of Arizona and won the championship in 1997.

Michelle Gardner | Arizona Republic

The University of Arizona men’s basketball program is one of the nation’s elite. Former players are on the roster of many NBA teams, and the McKale Center is sold out on a regular basis as fans take in the exploits of the next crop of Wildcat greats.

Jeremiah Dibble, a lifelong UA basketball fan, places a ball below the statue of Lute Olson at McKale Memorial Center on Friday in Tucson.

See OLSON, Page 6A

SPORTS: Respect for popular coach who ’walked the walk’ runs deep across state of Arizona.

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People march down Pennsylvania Avenue during Friday’s March on Washington in the nation’s capital.

USA TODAY NETWORK

Michelle Gardner | Arizona Republic

Community rallies in Phoenix, activists called for an end to systemic racism and police brutality.

Thousands march, seek racial justice

Thousands of marchers and speakers rallied in the nation’s capital Friday, marking the 57th anniversary of the historic March on Washington where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his “I Have A Dream” speech. Organizers spoke out about racism, police enforcement, suppression of voting rights and the power of voting in November to bring about change.

Many expressed sorrow and frustration over the many deaths of Black Americans at the hands of police. In Phoenix, activists called for an end to systemic racism and police brutality.

More news coverage at azcentral.com and inside on Pages 3A and 6A

USA TODAY NETWORK

See HOT, Page 7A

Valley hits 50th day of 110 degrees

Emily Wilder and Ian James | Arizona Republic | USA TODAY NETWORK

Friday marked the 50th day to reach 110 degrees or higher in the Valley this year. Before 2020, the previous record for most days a calendar year to reach 110 degrees was 33 days set in 2018. Phoenix surpassed that on Aug. 9 and has hit it almost every day since then.

Phoenix passed the scorching milestone on Friday afternoon when the temperature at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport hit 111 degrees. “It’s not like we barely broke this record,” said National Weather Service meteorologist Matthew Hirsch. “We’ve sort of obliterated it.”

The heat, Hirsch explained, is largely a result of persistent high pressure this summer. High pressure nor-