



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Midnight at the Oasis

YUMA, AZ, JANUARY 2020 --- The Caballeros de Yuma are saddened to announce the cancellation of the 2021 Midnight at the Festival. For the first time since the inception of the event, Midnight at the Oasis will not be held in 2021. While the planning of the event had been ongoing, the pressures of the increased cases of COVID-19 in the state and surrounding areas have put the Caballeros in a situation where the event must be cancelled. "While every indication showed that our patrons, entrants and sponsors were behind our efforts to hold the event in March, we decided it would be prudent at this time to safeguard everyone's health," said Travis Smith, chairman of the event. "We determined that cancelling the event for this year is the right thing to do to avoid contributing to the coronavirus spike that currently has given the State of Arizona the highest infection rate in the world." One aspect of Midnight at the Oasis that everyone looks forward to is the car raffle. The 1937 Ford Humpback set for raffle this year is temporarily on hold. The raffle will take place at a later date. Please look for updates on social media and our website.

The Caballeros de Yuma held two events in November and proved that returning to live events safely was possible. The organization went to great lengths to safeguard the health and safety of guests at those events. While plans were underway for the March event with extensive measures in place, the uncertainty related to the coronavirus pandemic led to the decision to cancel. Mr. Smith also stated that "we appreciate the support we have received from the City of Yuma regarding this decision. We were widely praised for the safety protocols we put in place for our recent fall events, and we wanted to be able to provide patrons and participants the same safe environment and great Caballeros de Yuma experience during Midnight at the Oasis, but with the restrictions in place and the sheer size of the event we determined it would be best interest of the safety of the community, the entrants, and the patrons to cancel the event given the current risk to all".

The annual car show attracts nearly 1000 cars from all around the Southwest to Yuma, AZ. With up to 30,000 patrons throughout the weekend it is easily one of the largest events in the Desert Southwest. With a show and shine held daily Friday through Sunday, and concerts held Friday and Saturday night, the annual event is beloved by many throughout our community. Annual donations to organizations that help assist the Caballeros de Yuma during the event topped \$85,000 in 2020 just before the pandemic hit. It is also many of our non-profit food providers largest fundraiser each year. The loss of this event this year will be tough on many.

El Presidente for the Caballeros de Yuma, Rodney Short, stated "we had hoped that all the challenges of 2020 would have been behind us by now, but with the recent surge and delays in the vaccine, 2021 is not getting any easier. We hoped to give our community another great event as the Caballeros always do, but with the restrictions required to hold an event at this time, we felt we would be doing a disservice to our patrons, participants and sponsors if we were to try and hold the event." The Caballeros wish to again thank all of our past sponsors for Midnight at the Oasis. Without them Midnight at the Oasis could not be held annually for our community. The Caballeros de Yuma's plan will be to come back with a version of Midnight at the Oasis in 2022 that you will not want to miss.

Currently, the Caballeros de Yuma have no plans to alter the rest of their 2021 schedule, which includes the Annual Yuma Territory Marathon and Half-marathon on January 30th, the Bull of the Desert Strongman event on February 13th, Flag Raising Ceremony on July 4th and Tacos and Tunes on September 24th and 25th. Check out our website <http://www.caballeros.org> and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more information