ARCADIA NEWS

Vol. 22 No. 9 | AWARD WINNING NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS SINCE 1993 | December 2014

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS, ARCADIA!

Local baker Kay Allison serves up her beloved family biscuit recipe during this season of giving. Read her story on page 32.

Arcadia parents and students rally around a beloved teacher fighting her fourth battle with cancer.

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For kids, Christmas cookies can be tough to construct, but a local baker offers ideal recipes for little hands.

Page 30

Rumors of development and safety at busy intersection have residents calling the city, begging for details.

Page 40

Courtesy CHEV.COM EST 1955

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ARCADIA NEWS
AWARD WINNING NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS SINCE 1993

Publisher: *Greg A. Bruns*
greg@arcadianews.com

Managing Editor: *Amanda Goossen*
editor@arcadianews.com

Proofreader: *Shirley Bruns*
shirley@arcadianews.com

Advertising Manager: *Donna Wirtel*
donna@arcadianews.com

Designer: *Michele Morrett*
michele@arcadianews.com

Office Manager: *Roni Mier*
roni@arcadianews.com

Arcadia News
Arcadia Home & Design
3850 East Indian School Road #1
(602) 840-6379 • arcadianews.com

Instagram

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DECEMBER

Photo courtesy of Desert Botanical Garden

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49 Hanukkah throughout the city
Take the family to a variety of Hanukkah themed events in December.

Cover Image:
Photo by NTK Photography

PRINCE OF PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

JOIN US FOR OUR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
O MY STARS...IT'S CHRISTMAS!
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OUR CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24
4:00 P.M. FAMILY CHRISTMAS WORSHIP
7:00 P.M. CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS WORSHIP
9:00 P.M. CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION WORSHIP

Preschool Registration for Fall 2015 begins February 1 for new families. We will be doing Preschool Tours during the month of January. Please call the Preschool Office at 480.947.5645 to schedule a tour. Prince of Peace Preschool was established in 1967 and offers a Christian-based, loving learning environment for all 2-5 year old children. We look forward to meeting your family!

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It's always better to give...

By Amanda Goossen

Editor's Notes

I am a big fan of gifts. My mom loves to reminisce about the moments from my childhood where I would give such enthusiastic oohs and aahs about each and every item I received on Christmas morning that all surrounding activities would stop. And whether I was 6 or even 16 (who am I kidding? It still goes on to this day), it was always a sincere excitement – a true moment of joy and bliss that no amount of squealing and "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!" could even measure.

To me, gifts are not only about receiving something you may have wanted. They are about the thought someone put forth. The act of going out and purchasing something with you in mind, about taking time to think about one individual human being who means so much to you, that you absolutely couldn't resist.

And although I love receiving presents, mostly because I'm a huge fan of surprises, I love giving them more than anything. I adore the idea. My favorite time to give is not on a birthday or even Christmas; it's on a random day, just because. Even something as small as an ice-cold tea on a hot summer day is gift enough.

Because, why not?

This month, *Arcadia News* has decided to show, through a variety of stories, ways in which you can give in our community. Whether it's to Helping Hands, an organization for single mothers, or Boys Hope Girls Hope, a charitable group giving to the youngest of our community, who not only need a stable home but an education. Or to a teacher who has given over 20 years to our local Prince of Peace Preschool and now needs the help of the community as she fights her fourth battle with cancer.

We also discuss stories of giving throughout our generous neighborhood. The students of St. Thomas the Apostle, no matter what grade they are in, give to a different area of the community throughout the entire school year.

And then there is the young Boy Scout who worked on a colorful comic book escape for kids fighting cancer, to earn his Eagle Scout ranking.

No matter what your beliefs this holiday, I wish you all a magical season full of love, joy and plenty of laughter with friends and family. Remember that even the simplest gifts, whether a smile to someone who needs it, a home-cooked meal or a monetary donation, can go further than you think.

Although we may hear it in passing all the time, remember this holiday, the simple phrase we take for granted: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy New Year and everything else you celebrate this silly, fun, happy, joyful, wonderful season! Thank you for reading *Arcadia News*.

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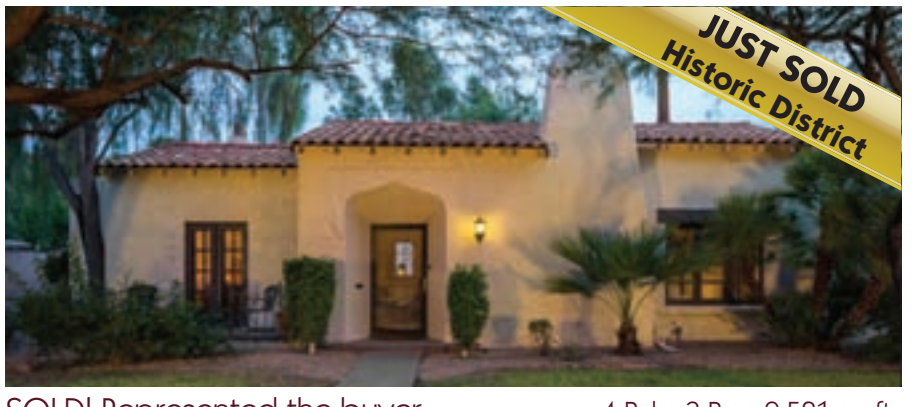
SOLD

SOLD! 5 Bd • 4 Ba • 3,408 sq ft
7511 N Tatum Blvd • Paradise Valley $920,000

SOLD! 3 Bd • 2 Ba • 2,376 sq ft
8 Biltmore Est 124 • Phoenix $949,900



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The contractual provisions and what they mean for you

By Tyler J. Carrell

Legal *Ease*

Like it or not, nearly everyone is a party in at least one contract. Some may take the time to read every word of contracts, such as an employment contract, and others may skim through contracts because of their length or dullness, such as mortgage or loan documents. Finally, there may be some contracts, such as online "terms and conditions" contracts, where most people immediately click "agree" and don't read them at all. Most attorneys would encourage people to read every contract before signing. While every contract is unique, there are some common contractual provisions you should be aware of that are included in many different types of contracts. Here are some of those common provisions and what they really mean for you.

Governing law; venue. This provision indicates that the law of a certain state or states governs the contract. In the case of a dispute regarding the terms or performance of the contract, this provision is designed to dictate the way in which the contract is interpreted. Since the laws of Arizona and the laws of another state may vary, the governing law provision attempts to alleviate any confusion of what law governs the contract. In addition, this provision may also state where any lawsuit related to the contract should take place (e.g., the Maricopa County Superior Court, Arizona). However, the venue provision may be separate from the governing law provision. But even if the governing law and venue are separate provisions, they are rarely, if ever, in conflict.

Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) or arbitration provision. This provision is included to cut down on potential legal costs, should a dispute arise between the parties of the contract. While a typical lawsuit may involve several pleadings, extensive discovery and a costly trial, many contracts dictate that any dispute be adjudicated at a less formal, but binding arbitration. In addition, the ADR section usually includes the process for selecting an arbitrator, or the person(s) who acts as judges or a jury at arbitration. Some contracts call for a three arbitrator panel, where each party selects one arbitrator, and then the two arbitrators choose the third arbitrator themselves. Other contracts simply call for the parties to agree upon a single arbitrator, or ask for the court to appoint an arbitrator if the parties cannot agree.

Severability; waivers. A severability provision is put into contracts to preserve the remainder of a contract in the event that a certain provision is held to be invalid. This provision prevents an "all or nothing" approach to the enforcement of a contract. If a party challenges a certain provision of a contract and argues that it is defective or should be unenforceable, the severability provision allows the parties (or a court) to strip the defective provision from a contract while continuing to enforce the remainder of the contract.

Attorneys' fees. In the event that a dispute arises under the contract, many contracts include a provision that awards the successful party its attorneys' fees and costs incurred to litigate or otherwise resolve the dispute. Even if this provision is not included, Arizona law, specifically A.R.S. §12-341.01(A), states in relevant part that: "[i]n any contested action arising out of a contract…the court may award the successful party reasonable attorney fees."

Counterparts. Finally, the counterparts provision usually appears near the end of a contract. This section allows the contract to be properly executed even if the parties do not sign the same copy of the contract. In my practice, many clients sign real estate contracts or (in the case of litigation) settlement agreements by signing a separate copy. In today's technological-minded society, this makes executing contracts much more convenient. A PDF copy of the contract is often included in an email to the client. The client then prints the contract, signs it and scans a copy back to his or her attorney. The attorney exchanges the signed copy with the opposing party (or their counsel), and the opposing party provides a copy that they signed. The counterparts provision ensures that even though the parties did not sign the same copy of the contract, the contract is still enforceable and was executed properly.

Tyler J. Carrell is an associate at Gallagher & Kennedy, where he focuses his practice on commercial litigation, real estate transactions and bankruptcy. For more information about Mr. Carrell, please visit gknet.com.

What's YOUR Story?

Email editor@arcadianews.com with your great news and inspirational stories about the community.

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Paradise Valley Estate

5500 N 67th Place • $2,200,000
5 bedroom / 5.5 bath • 5,773 square feet

Charming Arcadia Ranch

6243 E Monterosa • $1,895,000
6 bedroom / 4 bath • 4,593 square feet

Spacious Santa Barbara

6241 E Calle Del Norte • $1,495,000
6 bedroom / 5 bathroom • 4,800 square feet

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3111 N 53rd Street • $1,050,000
5 bedroom / 6 bathroom • 4,818 square feet

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Arcadia Real **Estate** Stats

2014 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS
(1/1/2014- 10/31/2014)

Active Homes -	133 homes
Homes Sold -	198 homes
Average Sale Price -	$976,564
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$283
Average Days On Market -	121 days

- There is currently 5 months of home inventory (based on 2013 sales results)
- 2014 home sales have decreased 22% this year. (based on 2013 sales results)
- Home prices have increased 13% this year. (based on 2013 sales results)
- $ Per Square Foot prices have increased 7% this year. (based on 2013 sales results)
- Homes are taking 27% more time to sell this year. (based on 2013 sales results)

2013 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT YEAR END SALES RESULTS

Homes Sold -	305 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$845,430
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$262
Average Days On Market -	88 Days

2012 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT YEAR END SALES RESULTS

Homes Sold -	282 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$777,607
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$235
Average Days On Market -	102 Days

2011 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT YEAR END SALES RESULTS

Homes Sold -	238 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$635,344
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$197
Average Days On Market -	124 Days

2010 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT YEAR END SALES RESULTS

Homes Sold -	202 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$670,142
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$200
Average Days On Market -	156 Days

2014 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS
(1/1/2014- 10/31/2014)

Active Homes -	92 Homes
Homes Sold -	167 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$448,509
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$207
Average Days On Market -	80 days

- There is currently 5 months of home inventory (based on 2013 sales results)
- 2014 home sales have decreased 7% this year. (based on 2013 sales results)
- Home prices have increased 9% this year. (based on 2013 sales results)
- $ Per Square Foot prices have increased 8% this year. (based on 2013 sales results)
- Homes are taking 17% more time to sell this year. (based on 2013 sales results)

2013 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT YEAR END SALES RESULTS

Homes Sold -	217 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$403,875
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$189
Average Days On Market -	66 Days

2012 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT YEAR END SALES RESULTS

Homes Sold -	207 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$326,316
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$158
Average Days On Market -	66 Days

2011 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT YEAR END SALES RESULTS

Homes Sold -	203 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$265,505
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$128
Average Days On Market -	102 Days

2010 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT YEAR END SALES RESULTS

Homes Sold -	145 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$294,278
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$142
Average Days On Market -	140 Days

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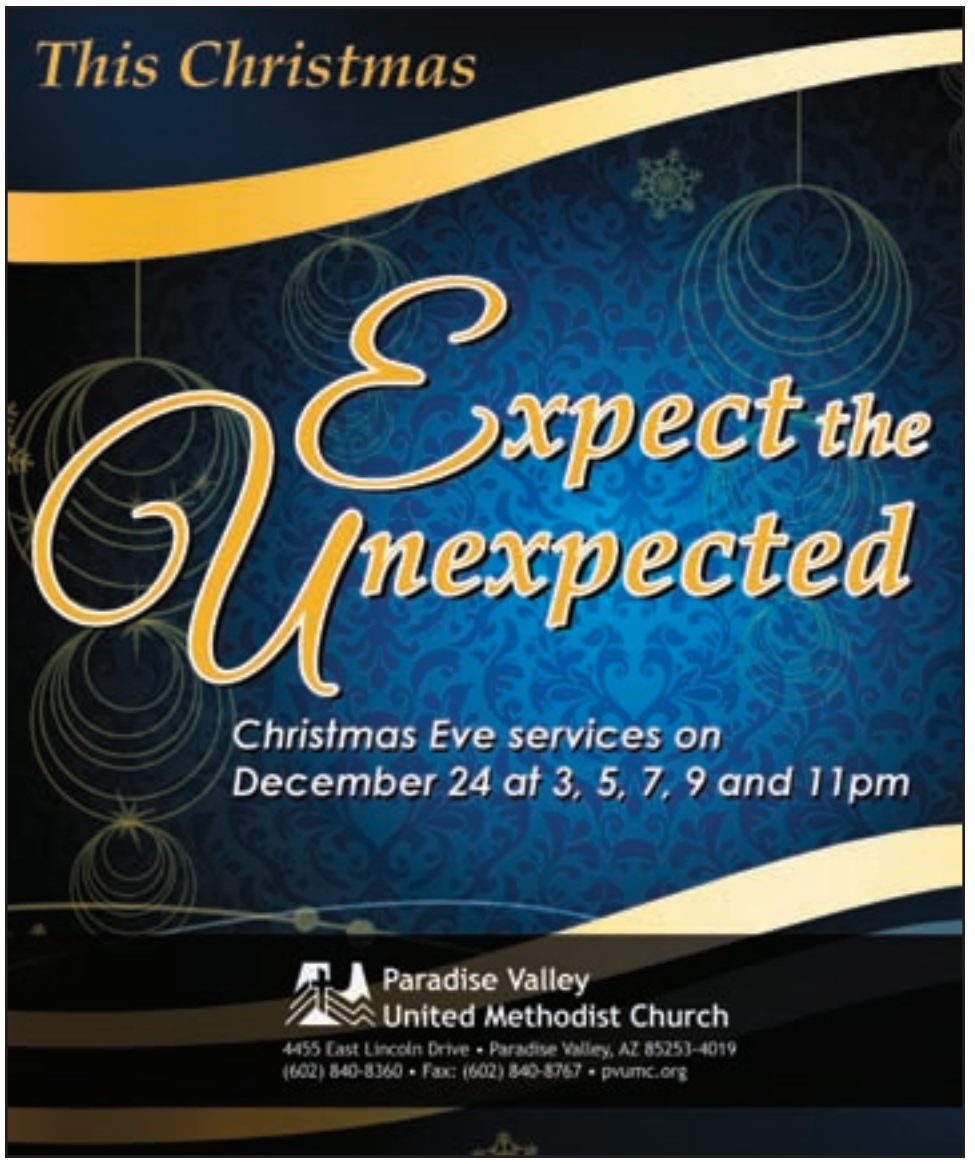

More deadly than Ebola?

By Ira Ungar, M.D.

Healthy *Tidbits*

While the headlines are all about Ebola, the disease you should be concerned about is a familiar one – the flu.

During the 2012 and 2013 flu season, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) said that 32 million Americans became ill with the virus. Nearly half needed medical attention, and 381,000 were hospitalized. Every year, thousands of lives are lost to the disease.

The most vulnerable are children, the elderly and those with chronic conditions such as diabetes, asthma and heart disease. The flu is much easier to catch than Ebola because the flu is spread by sneezing and coughing. If you touch something contaminated with the flu virus and then rub your nose, eye or mouth, you have a good chance of getting sick.

The following tips will decrease your chances of contracting the flu:

- Get a flu shot
- Wash your hands frequently
- Stay home if you're already feeling sick so you don't spread it to others
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow
- Avoid sharing beverages

Cold or flu?

While a cold may come on gradually, influenza hits suddenly with a high fever, chills, body aches, a cough and runny nose. You can feel miserable for a week or more.

Your doctor can give you medications to lessen the severity and duration of the flu. See your doctor right away because these drugs need to be administered during the first 48 to 72 hours of flu symptoms to be effective.

Beyond medication, these measures can ease flu symptoms:

- Alternate between taking acetaminophen and ibuprofen to lower fever and lessen body aches
- Rest
- Stay hydrated
- If your cough is keeping you up at night, ask your doctor or pharmacist for a medication to help soothe it

If you have severe chest pain or trouble breathing, cannot eat or drink or are dehydrated, call your doctor immediately. Since the flu virus can cause secondary infections such as ear infections or pneumonia, see your doctor if your fever persists for more than one week.

Ira Ungar, M.D., practices family medicine at Scottsdale Healthcare Primary Care Arcadia 101, 4840 E. Indian School Road, Suite 101, 480-882-7350.

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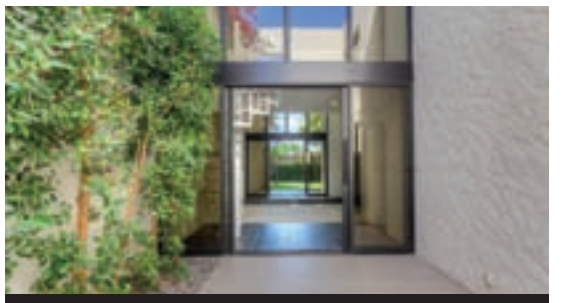
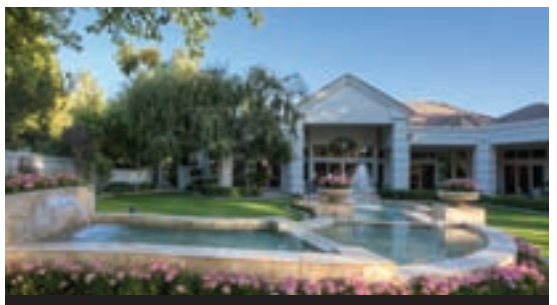


ARCADIA

SOLD

4652 N 40th Street, Phoenix, 85018
$447,000
1,752 sq.ft. | 3 bed / 2 bath
Pure Al Beadle design located just steps from LGO



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BILTMORE

PENDING

2422 E San Miguel, Phoenix, 85016
$1,475,000
4,127 sq.ft. | 4 bed / 3.5 bath
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BILTMORE

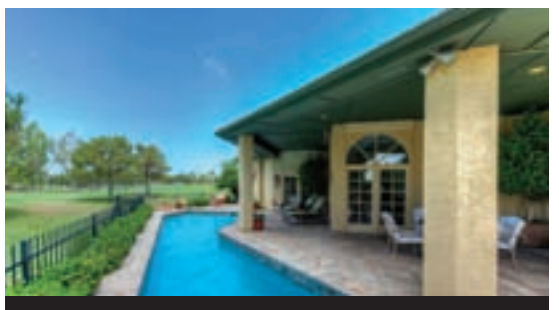
ACTIVE

3326 E Medlock Dr, Phoenix, 85018
$839,000
2,609 sq.ft. | 4 bed / 3 bath
Beautifully remodeled home in the Biltmore Heights subdivision

BILTMORE

ACTIVE

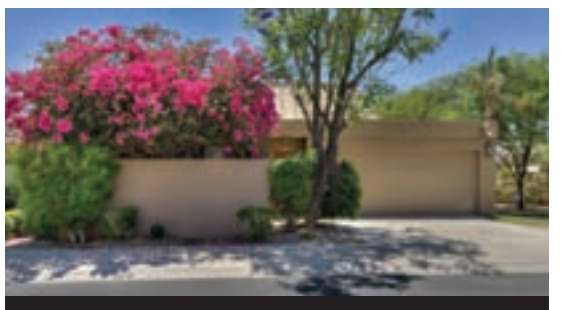
2802 E Camino Acequia, Phoenix, 85016
$615,000
1,624 sq.ft. | 2 bed / 2 bath
Biltmore Villa with full hotel amenities included



BILTMORE

SOLD

3047 E Marshall Ave, Phoenix, 85016
$745,000
2,780 sq.ft. | 2 bed / 2 bath
Biltmore Shores home located on hole 1 of the Adobe Course



BILTMORE

SOLD

3031 E Stella Ln, Phoenix, 85016
$540,000
1,888 sq.ft. | 3 bed / 2 bath
Completely updated gem located in Colony Biltmore

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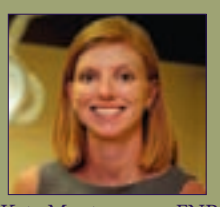
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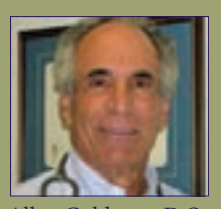
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The community takes vote

By Megan Brown

Arcadia residents know this small area of Phoenix for its desirable location, character and most importantly, its superior sense of community.

In a neighborhood meeting on October 23, the Arcadia Osborn Neighborhood Association discussed options to lessen the impact of increased urban density on the charm of the area.

Part of Arcadia's appeal to many people is the vast number of local businesses and the commonplace sight of children playing, adults walking and neighborhoods coming together.

Concerns for the neighborhood include the threat of urban sprawl, commercial development and traffic patterns and volume in areas designed for residential use.

Dr. Chirag Kapadia, who is the primary contact for the Cheery Lynn-Flower Neighborhood Association, led the neighborhood meeting in coming up with ways to minimize adverse effects stemming from an increased vehicle presence on the roads.

The focus for the solutions is coming up with cheap, potentially temporary fixes to increase pedestrian safety in high-traffic areas.

Initial efforts will begin by striping lanes, specifically those on 54th Street between Osborn and Thomas roads. Striping lanes will provide buffers between pedestrians and local traffic, promote bike safety and help slow traffic by visually narrowing roads, Kapadia said in an email interview.

Earll Drive between 54th and 48th streets is expected to utilize the same solution.

"If it proves to create problems, it's easy to reverse from a nuts and bolts standpoint [because] it's just paint," Kapadia said of striping the roads.

Another consideration for the roads is the use of speed bumps, however, they have been difficult to receive approval for in the past, and thus, may not be a realistic solution for the time being.

In addition to looking for immediate solutions to improving pedestrian safety, the Arcadia Osborn Neighborhood Association has requested that the city install a four-way stop at 52nd Street and Earll Drive. However, due to permit issues, this request was not approved. Although the association attempted to appeal this decision through the staff of City Council District 6, they did not receive feedback.

The Arcadia Osborn Neighborhood Association has requested that the public and neighbors to the area "develop a consensus on how to approach this issue, so we are able to speak to developers and the city coherently about what we want in our area."

Petitions for Arcadia Osborn Neighborhood Association ideas will be distributed relatively soon and questions should be directed to the association's primary contact, Neal Haddad, at 602-667-0429.

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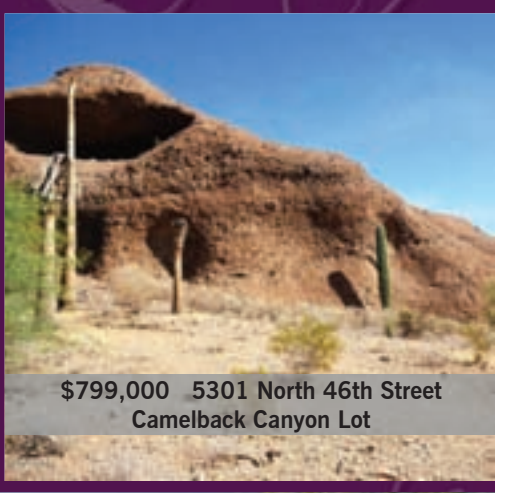

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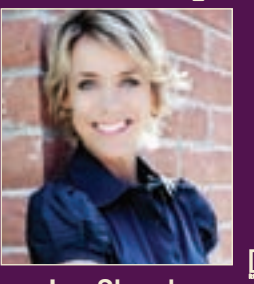

Jen Sheedy

Teacher of the Month

CLS kindergarten teacher Ms. Brinkman has taught kids like Austin for over 13 years.

Keeping the kids engaged

By Christina Surrano

Ah, kindergarten! For most students today, that's where the academic journey truly begins. Christ Lutheran School kindergarten student, Austin Bean, along with parents, Janet and Mike are so excited about his kindergarten teacher, Ms. Liane Brinkman, that they nominated her for the *Arcadia News* Teachers We Love award.

"Kindergarten really is the foundation for liking school and if every child had a Ms. Brinkman for their kindergarten teacher, then we would see a positive change in our kids' view of school," said Janet.

When asked what made teaching her career choice, Brinkman chuckled and said that before college, teaching was absolutely not a consideration. Her parents were both Lutheran schoolteachers and she laughingly admitted that like most young adults, she wanted to be nothing like her parents.

It was only after a college advisor encouraged her to aide in a second-grade classroom that she not only chose to pursue teaching, but truly fell in love with it.

Brinkman has been teaching for 13 years total, taking time off to be at home with her two children who are now in grades three and seven.

She makes a special effort to get to know a student's individual background and history, believing it to be tremendously useful in determining how best to help them on their educational journey.

"Kids can tell when you are sincere or not, and these kids really do jive with her. She understands them, appreciates them, and wants them to do their very best," Janet attested.

The Bean family appreciates the creative and gentle ways in which Ms. Brinkman is able to keep the kindergarteners engaged, like using sign language to signal to the class to be quiet, go to the restroom, etc. She uses a "rock jar" in which students work together as a class to earn a reward, adding or removing rocks based on behavior. This way, the students help each other to make good choices. According to Janet, Austin said, "I do not ever want to have to take a rock out of that jar!"

When asked what she has learned about herself through teaching, Brinkman laughed and said, "All things are possible."

Brinkman has taught other grades from kindergarten to junior high. Sometimes taking on a new grade level was intimidating, especially kindergarten. CLS students are reading and writing seven to eight full sentences by the end of the year.

She said that her faith gives her the confidence to take on new challenges, "If God calls me to do it, then he is going to equip me to do it too. I have learned never to say never."

Her hope for each student is that by the end of the year, they leave with a sense of confidence that they are readers and writers, that they see their progress, are proud of their accomplishments and know that they are capable of anything. She also hopes to see them grow in their own faith.

Brinkman says that she feels blessed to work with the entire CLS community, administrators, parents, students and the other teachers. "Every one of the teachers here would be as deserving of this award," said Brinkman.

Teachers chosen for the Arcadia News *Teachers We Love Award receive an Arcadia News tote and T-shirt, a $125.00 gift certificate from Salon Sandoval, a gift certificate for dinner for two at The Henry and an invitation to an end of the year luncheon for the year's winners at The Henry.*

To nominate your teacher fill out the form on page 18 or on arcadianews.com.

Behind the Business

By Katie Mayer
Photo by NTK Photography

When Phoenix resident Anita Calihan's brother-in-law passed away a little over a year ago, one restaurant placed his favorite salad on its menu in his name.

The salad is the "Calihan Cobb" and the restaurant is Keegan's Grill.

In a sea of trendy Arcadia eateries offering kale salads, gourmet olive platters, locally-sourced this and organic that, Keegan's still serves up made-from-scratch hot barbecue ribs, rich soups and other comfort food in a cozy atmosphere.

"It's a busy world we live in and people don't always have the time to make some of the food they've grown up eating," said Keegan's co-founder, Paul Burdick. "One of the things we try to do is keep it consistent. We don't tinker with things too much."

And the philosophy is working. On November 7, the local restaurant attracted more than 500 adults and children to its 25th anniversary celebration at its original location near 32nd Street and Camelback Road. Even the Budweiser Clydesdales, their uniformed delivery team and iconic Dalmatian came out to the event to celebrate.

Guests sipped craft beer brewed locally for Keegan's 25th anniversary, mingled with friends and enjoyed the horses. The restaurant also created commemorative T-shirts and held a contest offering a 25 percent discount for one year to 25 winners.

"Our granddaughter and grandson thought the horses were so neat," Calihan said.

Keegan's co-founder, Don Weissmueller said the Clydesdales have been to his restaurants several times through the years and that they are always a hit with the crowd.

"Fortunately we have a good relationship with Budweiser. When they are in town for larger events, we can tag on for that," Weissmueller said.

Keegan's first opened its doors in November 1989 after Weissmueller and his business partner Paul Burdick left Big Four Restaurants restaurant group to establish a place of their own.

Keegan's Grill recently celebrated its 25th anniversary with the Budweiser Clydesdale horses.

Having years of experience in the industry, the two founders had a clear vision for their restaurant and knew where it should be located – they were just short on name ideas. So Weissmueller's wife opened up a baby book and the name "Keegan's" was born.

Today the restaurant has a total of three locations, which are in Chandler and Ahwatukee, in addition to Phoenix.

With the original location in Camelback Corridor, where new restaurants open their doors one day and disappear the next, thriving for 25 years isn't easy. In fact, succeeding for 25 years as an independent restaurant anywhere isn't easy, according to experts.

David Scott Peters, founder of local restaurant training and coaching company therestaurantexpert.com, said competing in Arizona's marketplace is tough and that independent restaurants face many challenges.

"The Phoenix marketplace, in general, is the chain restaurant capital of the world," Peters said. "The reason chain restaurants have lines of people is that they are consistent and they give their guests the same product and service every day."

Independent restaurants that remain successful for decades provide guests with a one-of-a-kind experience, excellent customer service and great food, Peters said. They also control costs and pay close attention to their profitability.

According to a 2005 study published in The Cornell Hotel and Restaurant Administration Quarterly, more than a quarter of all restaurants fail within their first year and small independent operations are most at risk.

Keegan's, like everyone, faced hard times during the recent economic decline, but the founders said they weathered the storm and are now up 5 percent from last year. The company has always worked to remain an affordable dining option, Burdick said.

"People eat differently today than they did in 1989," Weissmueller said. "We've tried to adapt. People are eating healthier today than they ever were before."

Examples of how Keegan's adapts include offering small plates, remodeling their restaurant and providing healthier options. However, the restaurant still offers its staples and daily specials and is careful about ensuring their customers can count on longtime favorites.

"You need to focus on your core values and what your core concept is, because otherwise you estrange the group that really got you to the table," Burdick said.

And at Keegan's that group is loyal. Like the '80s and '90s sitcom Cheers, at Keegan's "everybody knows your name." Their customers also know each other's names. Even the general manager of the original location, Ramsey Clark, has worked at Keegan's for 25 years and has become well acquainted with many customers.

"There has been a lot of friendships between customers develop at the different locations through the years," Weissmueller said.

And both Weissmueller and Burdick plan to keep it that way.

"We don't have any intentions of going anywhere," Burdick said. "We hope to be a fixture in the neighborhood for the next 20 years."

Weissmueller added, "We are certainly very thankful for the community's support."

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Nonprofit breaks cycle of poverty through education

By Katie Mayer

A student sits at the dining room table with school books open and a computer nearby. The refrigerator is stocked with snacks, the TV and other distractions are silenced, and mom or dad is close by to help with questions.

This is what homework time looks like inside the homes of many Arcadia families.

But for others locally and around the Valley, a routine like this does not exist, and completing school assignments can be impossible.

Maybe the parents work all night and the student has to care for younger siblings after school. Perhaps the student also has to work all night to help support the family. Or maybe the student is simply hungry, and with a growling tummy, struggles to focus on homework.

Within months, the student falls behind in school. With no help completing assignments and no way to catch up, the youth soon abandons the dream of getting an education.

Statistics show that situations like these perpetuate the cycle of poverty through generations of families, but one local organization is breaking the pattern by giving at-risk children a chance at success.

Boys Hope Girls Hope is an international nonprofit organization which helps children become leaders through education and life skills coaching. The local Phoenix chapter of the organization currently serves 92 students from sixth grade through college.

The Phoenix chapter has served Valley students since 1989 and the organization boasts an 86 percent college graduation rate among participants. This is 50 percentage points higher than the national average for youth facing similar challenges.

"We take kids who have the capability to succeed, but there is just no way in their current environment they will reach their full potential," said Nicole Bidwill, volunteer executive director of the organization. "We educate them, nurture them and give them life skills training, test preparation, help them with college applications and essays. We do everything that their parents would do."

Boys Hope Girls Hope offers both residential and nonresidential programs. In the residential program, eight boys and eight girls live in a home environment with full-time staff acting as parents to create a family atmosphere.

The students' days are highly structured with group chores, homework time, prayer time and meals together, said Jennifer Koeninger, an Arcadia mom who volunteers with the organization and whose husband is chairman of the board.

In the nonresidential program, youth are picked up from school every day and complete their homework assignments and prepare for tests before returning home to their families.

"The kids who live with us have families who want them to live with us, and the kids want to live with us," Bidwill said. "The families – they want something better for their children."

The students with Boys Hope Girls Hope are offered residential and nonresidential programs.

She added, "College has to be part of what they want. The whole idea here is to break the cycle of poverty."

Boys Hope Girls Hope was founded in 1977 in Saint Louis, Missouri by Catholic Jesuit priest Paul Sheridan and Bidwill's father, William "Bill" Bidwill, who is principal owner and chairman of the board of the Arizona Cardinals. Boys Hope Girls Hope is privately funded through donations and relies heavily on volunteers.

Many of the students who are in the program have the opportunity to attend some of the Valley's top Catholic schools and nearly all go to college, while some even go on to the nation's top universities.

"They are being raised to be leaders," Koeninger said.

But even with such rigorous academics and ambitious goals, the program still understands the importance of helping young people in life, even as they head off to college.

"We nurture them through college, help them get set up in their dorm rooms [and] send them care packages like many parents do," Bidwell said.

"The amount of support they get is incredible," Koeninger said. "For all of them, it's life changing."

In the organization's video, several youth talk about the positive impact the organization has had on their lives.

Carlos, one of the boys featured in the video, said in the film that he and fellow program participants came to Boys Hope Girls Hope because they wanted a better education and a chance at a better life.

"Even though there are events that may be so tragic that you lose every bit of hope and every bit of faith in what you want to achieve," Carlos said, "places like Boys Hope Girls Hope give you back that sense of hope."

To support Boys Hope Girls Hope, visit bhghaz.org. The program qualifies for the Arizona Working Poor Tax Credit and relies on financial contributions to operate. Donations of food, gift cards, toiletries, cleaning supplies and any standard household items are also needed. The program is also in need of qualified mentors to volunteer.

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Community unites for teacher's fourth fight with cancer

By Larissa Garza

Arcadia residents have teamed up to fundraise for Prince of Peace Preschool teacher, Susan Keller, who was diagnosed with cancer in her back.

Keller has been diagnosed with cancer four times since 2002 including breast, lymph nodes, liver and now most recently, her back.

Since her cancer returned, Keller has found new treatments that have worked for her through the Cancer Treatment Center of America in Chicago. However, since it is out-of-state treatment, the costs are much more expensive.

"Insurance covers some, but it is still incredibly expensive," said Keller.

Keller said she hopes this is the last time that she will have to go through remission.

Keller has been teaching at the Prince of Peace Preschool for over 20 years.

In order to help cover the funds, Jenifer Swisher, a parent of two students who attended Prince of Peace Preschool, has organized a fundraiser to help fund these treatments for Keller.

"She's already fighting cancer, the last thing she needs to worry about is the finances that go with it," said Swisher.

Swisher said she was amazed at the fact that Keller still comes to work with a smile despite going through chemotherapy.

"She's given so much to our community and our kids. You just want to help a person like that. The Arcadia community is very powerful," said Swisher.

Prince of Peace teacher Susan Keller has given two decades to the community and now needs our help.

Many other residents have lent a helping hand, including one of Keller's coworkers, Gretchen Baumgardner.

One of Baumgardner's daughters, Olivia, fought cancer at the same time as Keller four years ago and although she never taught Olivia, they formed a lasting bond, said Baumgardner.

"She truly loves being at school. The kids lift her up and she just has the biggest smile regardless of the financial lows," said Baumgardner.

Swisher encourages anyone who is able to donate to Keller, please do. However, if money is tight, prayers are just as impactful to Keller, said Swisher.

"She needs the emotional support as well. She is not fighting this alone," said Swisher.

So far, the fundraiser has raised over $5,000 towards Keller's medical expenses, but the hope is to raise over $20,000, said Swisher.

"I have a very strong faith and it has carried me through all of this. It gives me a lot of comfort," said Teacher Keller.

To make a donation or to send a prayer, visit Teacher Keller's Give Forward site: giveforward.com/fundraiser/fs66/teacher-susan-keller

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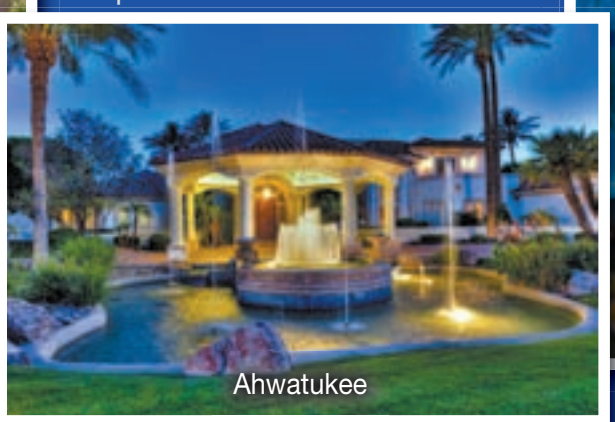

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Students give back through a plethora of opportunities

By Megan Brown

For most eighth-grade students, an ideal Saturday wouldn't be spent tackling a huge community service project, but students from St. Thomas the Apostle School are teaming up with St. Vincent de Paul to change the life of one Phoenix family.

STA Serves, the service initiative in place at the St. Thomas the Apostle School, was developed to foster the idea of service as something students would continuously strive for throughout their lives. Each year, students in every grade, pre-K through eighth, tackle a service project for people and organizations in their community.

STA school counselor of 14 years Pam Hudgins oversees the program for the school and said it was created to encourage students to welcome and enjoy service activities.

"Our goal was to instill in our students that service was something that they would always embrace and that service to others would become a natural part of their lives, no matter what their age or what schools they moved on to after STA," Hudgins said in an interview.

This year, the eighth-grade team has partnered with the 180-year-old service organization St. Vincent de Paul in their Fresh Perspectives program.

The program serves to aid in-need families in making home improvements and provides donated furniture and décor to fill the home. Many of the families struggle to put enough food on the table and without the help of Fresh Perspectives, a lot of these expenses and improvements would be inconceivable.

The mini home makeover initiative will take place Saturday, December 13. Donations of furniture, dishes and cutlery, paint and linens will be used to transform the home into a beautiful family environment.

"We are hoping to be able to help the family make some minor repairs [and] improvements over the next couple of weeks, but most of the work will be done on the actual day of the makeover," said Stacey Kelly, an STA parent who's involved in the project. "On the day of the makeover, we will be painting the interior of the house, moving in and rearranging new furniture and household items, hanging pictures, etc."

The school expects that there will be nearly 100 percent participation from the eighth-graders with about 60 teens making a difference in this family's life.

In the four years the STA Serves program has been in place, students from every grade have had tremendous success with their distinct assignments.

Third-graders from STA have cultivated a relationship with residents from the Arizona Grand Senior Living Community where the students visit the center almost monthly to engage in games, crafts and singing with the residents. The relationship has made a significant impact on the livelihood of the seniors who live there.

In addition to this, fourth-graders have worked closely with the Down Syndrome Network of Arizona in which they participate in a slew of events throughout the year including, but not limited to, walking in the annual Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk, creating crafts for the organization's Christmas party, and hosting play dates with Down Syndrome children and their families.

When STA Serves began, one of the program developers and mothers from St. Thomas the Apostle School, Emily McLaughlin, determined the program should focus on community helpers, the arts, the environment, the military and families in need.

"We developed one [community focus] for each grade level so as students moved through the grade levels at STA, they would have the opportunity to experience service in different areas," McLaughlin said. "We were thoughtful in pairing the right focus and organization with the right grade level of students."

Aside from the grade-specific service assignments students participate in throughout the school year, STA hosts several school-wide, service-related events. One such event is the Annual Mane Event where students, teachers and parents donate their hair to make wigs for cancer patients.

Pre-K and kindergarten students at St. Thomas collect stuffed animals for Bears for the Brave and fourth graders work with the Down Syndrome Network.

"Like many experiences in life, exposure and awareness go a long way to help shape and form our children," McLaughlin said. "If presented with these opportunities at an early age, service to others can be a way of living instead of something we force our children to do."

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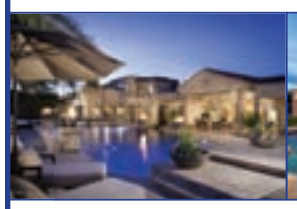					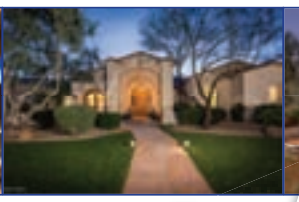	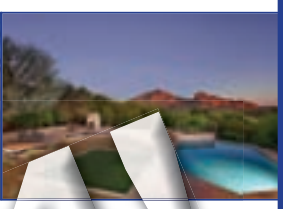
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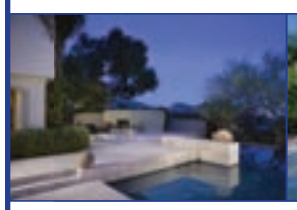	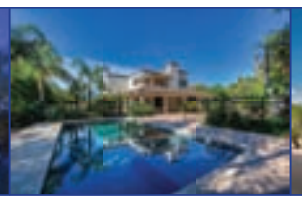					
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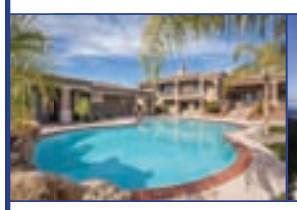		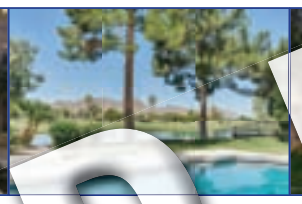		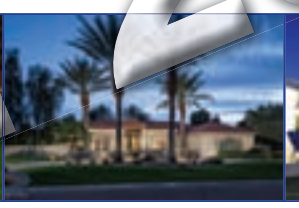		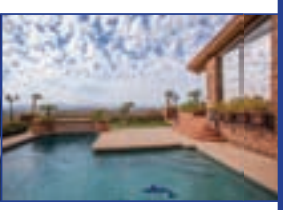
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		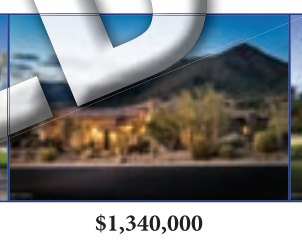		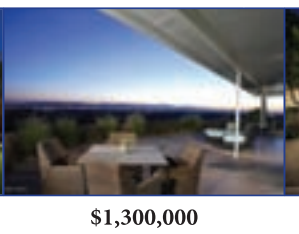		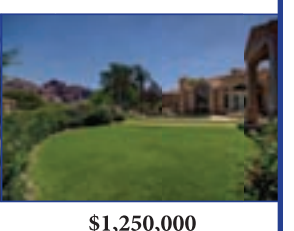
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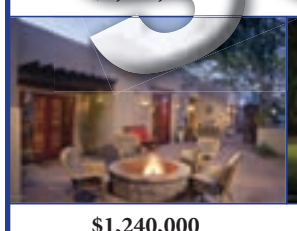	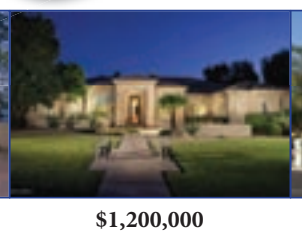	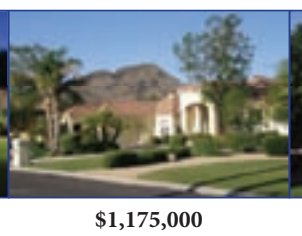	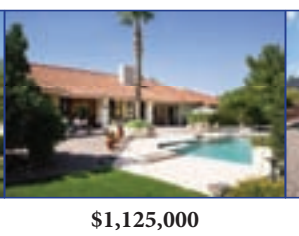			
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	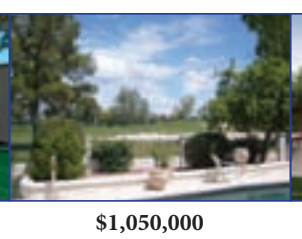			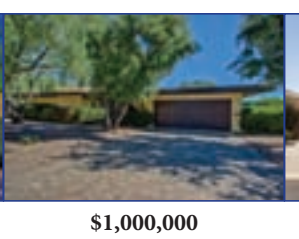	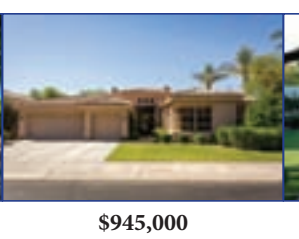	
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Scholarship delivers hope and support to single moms

By Michelle Donati-Grayman

Seven years ago, Rachael Thomas moved from Tennessee to Arizona with her 1-year-old son to escape an abusive relationship.

She enrolled at Glendale Community College and began a work study program. It was there she learned about a scholarship that would change her life forever.

Founded in 2001, Helping Hands for Single Moms is a community-based nonprofit that assists single mothers who are working, raising a family and pursuing a college education. It started with Chris Coffman, a minister who was in search of something with which his congregation could help. A fateful encounter with a young child and his mother narrowed his focus.

"He said it hit him like a ton of bricks," says Joanne Grady, program director for Helping Hands for Single Moms. "Single moms need help – an education would change their lives."

The organization currently assists about 90 single mothers a year. Some receive partial scholarships, while others receive a scholarship plus, which includes an unrestricted monthly stipend to assist with living expenses. Recipients are required to attend regular support and educational meetings. They also receive assistance from more than 60 community partners, which help with needs ranging from a AAA membership to dental care.

"Being a single parent can be isolating," Grady says. "Many of these women have no family or support here locally. At our meetings, they are surrounded by other single moms who are also college students. It really changes them."

Thomas received the scholarship and monthly stipend, which she used for childcare and food costs. Through the program, she learned how to clean up her credit which enabled her to buy a home and a car. The organization's annual Holiday Happiness event generally provided the only Christmas gifts her son received while she was in school.

Gift donors wrap gifts at the annual Holiday Happiness event.

Grady says that when a single mom completes the program – by either earning an associate or bachelor's degree – her confidence and self-esteem skyrockets.

"When we go to graduation and we know what it took to get there, it's just amazing," Grady says. "We see women transform."

Thomas is one of the transformation stories Grady has experienced. She earned an associate degree in general studies at Glendale Community College and recently graduated from Northern Arizona University with a bachelor's degree in public administration. She is currently employed with the Maricopa County Superior Court and is in the process of applying to law school and master's programs to pursue a career in criminal justice.

She now serves on the organization's alumni group and spends time trying to give back to the organization by volunteering with her son.

"I'm forever indebted to them," Thomas says. "They were the reason for my success in school. I can never repay them for what they did."

Helping Hands for Single Moms' annual Holiday Happiness event will be held on December 13. Gift donors sign up to provide holiday gifts for the children of low-income single mom college students. Donors shop from the kids' wish lists, then meet with the mom whose children they shopped for and wrap the gifts for her children together. For more information, visit regonline.com.

Monetary donations to Helping Hands for Single Moms qualify for the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit. To donate, visit helpinghandsforsinglemoms.org.

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Rescue Mission feeds Phoenix with seasonal campaign

By Mallory Gleich

Ah, the holidays. A time of thanks, caring and giving. A time to look back on the previous year and celebrate good things to come in the new year. Many organizations are gearing up for their holiday meal drives and donation campaigns. For one such organization, the campaign has already begun.

"Feeding Phoenix: More than a Meal" is the Phoenix Rescue Mission's campaign to help the hungry and less fortunate people around the Phoenix area. The campaign started on October 31 and runs until New Year's Eve. The focus of the campaign is aimed at collecting several different items for homeless persons, such as food, water, toiletries and blankets.

The campaign featured several different events during the holiday season. On November 9, there was an event called the "Frozen Turkey Open House," where people could drop off a frozen turkey and tour the mission's facilities. The event took place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and a lunch was provided for those who donated.

On the November 22, the mission held an event called "Fill-a-Box, Feed a Family," in which people could come to the mission's shelter and build a Thanksgiving dinner box and deliver it to a family in need.

The latest event, which will happen on December 20, is called "Winter Wonderland." This event is held at the mission's shelter and is geared towards less fortunate families. Sponsors are able to choose a family and donate items off of that family's wish list, which they can drop off at the shelter from 9 a.m. to noon that day.

Phoenix Rescue Mission's shelter is located at 1801 S. 35th Ave. in Phoenix.

The mission is also looking for volunteers to help put together sack lunches for their community kitchen on Christmas Eve. "Assembly Elves" should arrive at the shelter before 9:30 a.m. The event will end at 1 p.m. and families are more than welcome to join!

Along with volunteers, the mission is also accepting donations for their "Winter Wonderland" event. The campaign is asking for 1,000 new, unwrapped toys for children up to 12 years old. Along with gifts for children, the campaign is also asking for gifts for parents, such as towels, pillows, perfume, toiletries and jewelry.

Clothing and toiletry items are also being accepted and will be distributed to the homeless living on the streets during the holiday season.

To learn more about the "Feeding Phoenix" campaign, to volunteer or donate for the upcoming holiday, visit phoenixrescuemission.org or call the volunteer hotline at 602-346-3363.

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Branch Williamson earned his Eagle Scout by painting a comic book mural for kids.

Joining Batman to ease ills

By Leona Meditz

While comic strip superheroes and their sidekicks fight dastardly villains intent on controlling the world and inflicting misery on mankind, it takes a village of real life heroes to make a difference in today's world. And someone has to lead the village. The true-life story of how Arcadia teen Branch Williamson transformed into an Eagle, helping Batman bring joy to sick children, inspires more than any comic fantasy.

The stage was set over 100 years ago in 1909, when American newspaper man W.D. Boyce – who was lost in London – was directed to his destination by an unknown Boy Scout who refused a tip due to his "duty" as a Scout. From the beginning, Boy Scouts of America was a collaborative effort. Impressed by the incident, Boyce incorporated the BSA on February 8, 1910 with Edward S. Stewart and Stanley D. Willis. Senior YMCA administrator, Edgar M. Robinson led the Boy Scouts as a national organization. Today over 2.6 million boys are led by over 1 million adult volunteers. Collaborative teams – core to Eagle Scout training – are promoted, denoting higher levels of proven leadership. Additionally, Eagle Scouts entering the U.S. armed forces start at Private First Class (E3 rank), shaving the typical one-year promotion time.

Branch Williamson began his journey to Eagle rank as a Cub Scout in September 2005 at Pack 107 All Saints' Episcopal Day School. In September 2014 he became Senior Patrol Leader in charge of 68 boys in Troop 401 at Church of the Beatitudes. While leading boys, he learned that being open to new ideas required creativity and being comfortable with making mistakes.

Ready to fly from the Boy Scout nest, Williamson began making plans to attain Eagle Scout rank. One of the Scouts in Williamson's troop is the son of a modern day Bruce Wayne, Charles Keller.

Keller rides terminally ill children in his Batmobile. When one child asked to see the Batcave, Keller transformed an ugly industrial bay storage unit into a 1966 Batcave replica worthy of the Batman legacy – except for one blank white wall. Williamson, seeking to spread his Eagle wings, offered to create a mural

Williamson enlisted architect Catherine Gates to design mural renderings. Three or four engineers planned mural execution. Meanwhile, Williamson organized his den to pressure wash, prime and paint the detailed mural. Participating Scouts earned service hours, helping them climb up their own Scouting tree. The project itself took four months from concept through completion and involved 86 volunteers devoting 326 hours of their time.

"One smile from an ill child makes all the preparation, planning and painting worthwhile," states Williamson.

The Batman and Eagle legacy is perpetuated as the Grand Canyon Council Board of Review awarded Williamson Eagle Scout status on September 11, 2014. Williamson's next flight is earning his medical degree to serve our armed forces.

Happy Holidays to all our members

from Santa's *favorite* workshop!

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Trash turned into creative costume at the REfashionED event in Scottsdale. Photos by John Aho.

REfashionED fashion show supports teacher supplies

By Christina Surrano

Picture a fashion show at the swanky Saguaro Scottsdale in mid-October, featuring fabulous, wearable creations made of…garbage!

Are you wondering why on earth anyone would do such a thing? "Reduce, reuse, recycle" is the message that Barbara Blalock, founder of Treasures 4 Teachers, hoped to drive home with members of the community by hosting this event.

Blalock feels that there is a common misconception about recycling. "A lot of people believe you should recycle, but recycling is the last thing you should do. The first thing you should do is to reduce. If there is still stuff left over, then you want to reuse. Treasures 4 Teachers is all about reuse. If it goes to the next cycle, which is recycle, there is energy used in the process."

Twenty-one outfits created by artists, teachers, students and community members were entered into the competition and modeled. There were even teams of participants as young as 12.

Treasures 4 Teachers is a nonprofit organization that gets unwanted materials, usually destined for the landfill, to teachers who need classroom supplies. It is estimated that the average teacher in America spends $500 to $1,200 of personal funds on classroom supplies every year. For an annual Treasures 4 Teachers membership fee of $35, a teacher can have access to free and low-cost materials.

Materials come from businesses and private individuals. Anyone can donate. Some individuals even collect donations from family and friends and make regular deliveries. Materials are constantly moving through the warehouse located in Tempe.

The event was a community effort, with individual as well as corporate sponsors and volunteers. Funds raised went to help pay for Treasures 4 Teachers operations as well as to sponsor teacher memberships.

For more information visit treasures4teachers.org.

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7 PM Chrismas Eve Eve Worship Service

Wednesday, Christmas Eve
3 PM For Families with Small Children
5 PM Family Christmas Celebration
7 PM Contemporary Carol Service, with Candlelight
9 PM Traditional Carol Service, with Candlelight
11 PM Candlelight Carol Service, led by Motet Choir

Thursday, Christmas Day
10 AM Festival Communion Service

New Year's Eve
7 PM Meditative Worship Service

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That Others May Know

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8:30 & 10:30 A.M. –Contemporary
12:30 P.M. –Spanish Service
Wednesday Worship 7:00 P.M.
Saturday Worship 5:00 P.M.
Saturday Youth-Led Worship 6:00 P.M.
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O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree...crafting with kids

Kids' Corner

By Lisa Weisenburger

Everything becomes a craft project during the holidays: making cards, wrapping presents, decorating cookies. Even decorating the Christmas tree is one giant craft project! This Christmas I thought it would be fun to dig out a craft I made with my mom when I was a little girl.

These magazine trees take a little bit of time. The more pages, the better looking the tree is, but it takes longer to complete. Growing up we always had Reader's Digest magazines in the house. The first magazine tree I ever made was with a Reader's Digest. Since then, I have found that old paperback books work well, too.

The one you see here I got at a charity used book sale for 10 cents. Let me tell you, that's pretty inexpensive paper in the crafting world. If you use an old book or magazines, 200 pages makes a nice, full tree. There are a few new page-folding techniques out there but the one shown here is what I grew up with and is kid friendly. The finished product, decorated and done in several different sizes, makes a darling centerpiece or mantel decoration. Get your kids started and they will be so distracted you may get your holiday cards addressed in one sitting!

SUPPLIES

- Old paperback books or magazines
- Glue or double-sided tape
- Spray paint (optional)
- glitter (optional)

STEP 1

Bend the magazine or book backwards and forwards breaking the spine as though you've read it a thousand times.

STEP 2

Starting with the cover, fold from the top right hand corner down into the spine, so it becomes a triangle.

STEP 3

Repeat on the same page, with the lower right corner folding up to meet the first fold.

STEP 4

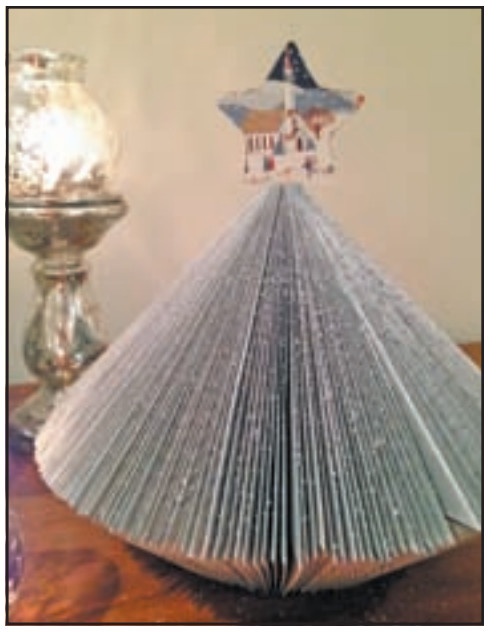
Repeat until you've done the whole magazine. Watch all of your recorded family Christmas movies while you do the folds – it can take awhile!

STEP 5

Stick the covers together with a little glue or double-sided tape and redistribute the pages to form a circle.

STEP 6

You can leave the magazine trees as is. For more flare, paint them, sprinkle them with glitter or attach a star decoration on top. I used recycled Christmas cards from last year cut in the shape of a start and attached to a skewer.



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Valley offers a variety of family holiday experiences

By Heidi Jaenicke

Ignite the spark of the winter season by stargazing underneath the Arizona skies.

Stargazing, ice skating, Christmas tree lighting and sipping on high tea are a few of the creative ways one can commemorate this time of year.

One can look at the astronomical beauty of the Southwest during Las Noches de lãs Luminarias, a 37-year-old Desert Botanical Garden tradition, running November 29 through December 30. Las Noches de las Luminarias offers garden attendees the chance to walk through the many trails of the park while enjoying the glow of over 8,000 hand-lit lights. Each night throughout this event there will be 10 different performers playing an eclectic mix of music.

"Being in Arizona, where you don't have those physical signs of winter like snow and real cold temperatures, this event really helps mark the beginning of the holiday season and celebrate winter as well," says Marsha Flynn of the Desert Botanical Gardens.

This will be the first year the Desert Botanical Gardens features stargazing for guests with the guidance of professional astronomers from the Phoenix Astronomical Society.

If you're looking for a more prim and proper way to celebrate the holiday, the Phoenician will cater to these cravings with their Holiday Tea, a special seasonal version of their Afternoon Tea, held in the hotel lobby from 2-3 p.m. each day.

Running until December 30, diners will have the luxury of sipping on a selection of fine loose-leaf teas and finger sandwiches. Alongside this elegant meal guests will have the option to spoon homemade preserves and Devonshire cream on top of freshly baked scones and choose from a variety of sweets, cut perfectly into almost bite-sized pieces.

Great for a group of friends or for a mother and daughter, the high tea is an experience honoring girl time.

Fall Movies in the Park pulls out the red carpet instead of the Christmas tree for holiday mall-goers. This event allows the audience to get comfortable in the center lawn of the Biltmore Fashion Park and watch classic movies while embracing the fresh winter air. This gathering is occurring every Friday evening at 7:30 from now through December 12.

Arcadia Farmers Market promotes the gift of giving quality produce to neighborhood residents throughout the colder months. Those visiting the market will have the opportunity to enjoy the selection of seasonal fruits and vegetables, holiday inspired baked goods, beauty products and handmade gifts on sale while supporting local businesses. This outdoor market takes place every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., located in the Scottsdale Unified School District parking lot.

Sports enthusiasts can swirl around one another instead of the shopping crowds at Arcadia Ice Arena and enjoy indoor ice skating. While some places throughout the Valley host outdoor makeshift ice arenas, this one is the real deal.

Whether you're in the mood for a high-end holiday afternoon or relaxing evening watching movies while sipping hot cocoa, the activities in Arcadia this winter are bound to spread the holiday spirit.

(Right) Time for Afternoon Tea at the Phoenician, as they offer a holiday version of their daily 2-3 p.m. tea time. Enjoy with girl friends or the precious young lady in your life.

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Longtime friends create casual, yet cool, pizza hangout

Places *We Liked*

Forge
2502 E Camelback Rd
theforgepizza.com

By Amanda Goossen

At Forge, it's about much more than just the pizza.

When Forge Pizza opened in the Union at the Biltmore Fashion Park in early October, a major void was filled.

The Union shopping area, created with local businesses in mind, opened in late 2012 with a flagship restaurant ready to anchor the plaza. When that concept was unsuccessful, the locally driven fairway was missing a major piece of the puzzle.

Enter Forge Pizza.

With well-equipped owners, a proven concept and a local connection, Forge Pizza is just what the east side of the Biltmore Fashion Park hungered for.

Industrial-inspired décor paired with high ceilings and a fabulous outdoor seating area, this new spot should be your go-to place.

Flash back a dozen years or so. Friends Michael Karp and Andy Byrnes were Sigma Chi fraternity brothers in New Orleans at Tulane University. They kept in touch as the years passed, each staying abreast of the other's accomplishments.

Michael Karp went on to open the successful Barbacoa and Table 24 in Orinda, California. Both eateries are comfortable, yet chic neighborhood hot spots that bring rave reviews from locals and foodies alike.

Andy Byrnes became a renowned local architect, builder and founder of the Phoenix-based design-build firm, The Construction Zone.

The two college buddies worked together over time, developing the design of Karp's restaurants with Byrnes knowledge and experience.

(Top left) Pepperoni pizza, (top right) soft serve ice cream, (bottom) Crispy Cheese Curds.

Throughout the years, Karp would ask his friend to go into business with him many times, but to Byrnes, while he was intrigued, it never quite made sense.

It has been said, however, that the restaurant bug, once bitten, is hard to shake.

Eventually the men, along with Karp's partner in Barbacoa and Table 24, Bob Burke, would come together to create Le Bon Temps Restaurants.

Le Bon Temps' first endeavor was Forge Pizza at the Jack London Square in Oakland, California in early 2013, armed with an experienced and top-notch chef. Chef Jeffrey Amber (former executive chef at XYZ, Chow, Moose's and other San Francisco hot spots, as well as guest chef at the prestigious James Beard House in Manhattan) would take a pizza and beer concept and shatter every expectation.

Forge Pizza began with an uncomplicated approach. They wanted to make pizza. The best pizza.

They wanted a place for people to hang out, a place to watch the game and eat high-quality food, a place where a casual business meeting can happen just as easily as a family meal after church on a Sunday afternoon.

With Chef Jeffrey Amber at the helm of food and beverage, intricate recipes, fresh ingredients and creativity would be at the forefront of the menu.

Beer, pizza and burgers would get an upscale, yet unpretentious approach.

The pizza is unlike any you will try in this pizza-saturated town. Unleavened yeast is the key ingredient in the dough, giving it a depth about which few can brag. Seasoning sprinkled on the outside crust makes eating even the last bite, a treat. The steel-clad Valoriani pizza oven is not only a fabulous decorative element to the small restaurant; it cooks up a fast and crispy pie.

The real star at Forge however, might not be the pizza, but the abundance of other truly delicious items on the menu.

Start with Crispy Cheese Curds. Dream up the best bite-size mozzarella sticks you can, with a light and airy batter and luscious gooeyness, served alongside a local craft beer or an ice-cold Coke. Yes, your dream has come true at Forge.

Move on to any of the four salads and find a successful dish. My personal favorite is the Crispy Cobb which pairs fresh greens tossed in a red wine vinegar dressing with crispy chicken breast, avocado and blue cheese. More like a deconstructed Cobb salad than the traditional, Chef Amber brings this old reliable dish to the 21st century with massive success.

Other Forge faves are the Long Cooked Ribs, Oven-Baked Eggs, Chicken Wings and Brussels Sprouts.

And to top it off, Forge has a memorable way to end the meal: soft-serve ice cream.

Served in to-go cups to allow restaurant goers the ability to head out after the meal, the menu of toppings was created to satisfy every type of palate.

Choose caramel apples or Lucky Charms, magic shell or pistachios. Or go outside your comfort zone and add olive oil and sea salt to the vanilla ice cream and experience an earth shattering combination you never knew existed. You might just drizzle the Italian cooking oil on your ice-cold treat for the rest of your life.

Kid-friendly Christmas cookies with local pastry expert

Places *We Liked*

Jewel's Bakery and Cafe
4041 E Thomas Road
602-714-5243
jewelsbakeryandcafe.com

Photos by NTK Photography

GINGERBREAD MEN

Servings: About 36 cookies

DOUGH INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups (390 grams) all-purpose flour, or 3 1/2 cups Jewel's Gluten Free All-Purpose Flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1/2 cup granulated white sugar
- 1 large egg
- 2/3 cup unsulphured molasses (To prevent molasses from sticking to the measuring cup, first spray the cup with a nonstick vegetable spray.)

CONFECTIONERS' FROSTING INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar (icing or powdered sugar), sifted
- 1 1/2 tablespoons milk or light cream
- food coloring, optional

PREPARATION

Gingerbread Men

- In a large bowl, sift or whisk together the flour, salt, baking soda and spices.
- In the bowl of your electric mixer, with the paddle attachment, (or with a hand-held mixer) beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add the egg and molasses and beat until well combined. Gradually add the flour mixture, beating until incorporated.
- Divide the dough in half and wrap each half in plastic wrap and refrigerate until firm (at least 2 hours or even overnight).
- Heat the oven to 350 F. Place the rack in center of the oven. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper.
- On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough to a thickness of about 1/4 inch. Use a gingerbread cutter to cut out the cookies. With an offset spatula, lift the cookies onto the baking sheet, placing each cookie about 1 inch apart. If you plan to hang the cookies or use them as gift tags, make a hole at the top of the cookies with a straw or the end of a wooden skewer. If cookies are a little soft, place the baking sheet (with the cookies) in the fridge for about 10 minutes. This will prevent the cookies from losing their shape.
- Bake for about 8-12 minutes, depending on the size of the cookies. They are done when they are firm and the edges are just beginning to brown. Remove the cookies from the oven and cool on the baking sheet for about 1 minute. Transfer cookies to a wire rack to cool completely. If desired, you can press raisins, currants or candies into the dough for eyes and buttons while the cookies are still warm. Otherwise, confectioners' frosting can be used to decorate the cookies. Store in an airtight container.

Confectioners' Frosting

- In an electric mixer (or with a hand-held mixer), beat the butter until smooth and well blended. Add the vanilla extract. With the mixer on low speed, gradually beat in the sugar. Scrape down the bowl and beater. Add the milk and beat on high speed until frosting is light and fluffy (about 3-4 minutes). Add a little more milk, if needed. Tint frosting with food coloring, if desired. Place the frosting in a pastry bag fitted with a decorative tip and decorate the gingerbread men as desired.

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THUMBPRINT COOKIES

Servings: 20 cookies

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 large egg, separated
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 cup all-purpose flour, or Jewel's Gluten Free All-Purpose Flour
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup hazelnuts, almonds, pecans or walnuts, toasted and finely chopped*
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup raspberry jam

PREPARATION

- In the bowl of your electric mixer (or with a hand-held mixer), beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy, about 2-3 minutes. Add the egg yolk and vanilla extract and beat until combined.
- In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour and salt. Add the flour mixture to the batter and beat just until combined. If the batter is too soft to roll into balls, refrigerate for about 30-60 minutes.
- Heat the oven to 350 F. Place the rack in the center of the oven. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- In a small bowl, whisk the egg white until frothy. Place the finely chopped nuts on a plate. Roll the dough into 1-inch balls. Taking one ball of dough at a time, dip first into the egg white and then lightly roll in the nuts. Place cookies on the prepared baking sheet, about 1 inch apart. Using your thumb or the end of a wooden spoon, make an indentation into the center of each cookie and fill it with about 1/2 teaspoon of jam.
- Bake for about 12-15 minutes, or until cookies are set and the nuts have nicely browned. Remove cookies from the oven and place on wire rack to cool.

* TOASTED NUTS

- Heat oven to 350 F. On a baking sheet, spread the nuts and bake for 8-10 minutes (almonds, pecans and walnuts). The nuts are done when they are light golden brown in color and fragrant. Toast the hazelnuts for about 15 minutes, or until fragrant and the outer skins begin to flake. Remove nuts from the oven and place the hot nuts in a dish towel. Roll up the towel and let the nuts sit (steam) for a few minutes, then rub the nuts in the towel briskly to remove the skins. Let the nuts cool completely. Once the nuts have cooled, place them in your food processor and process until finely chopped. Alternatively, you could chop them by hand.

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Hot breakfast for the family

Arcadia's *Cookbook*

By Amanda Goossen
Photos by NTK Photography

Their land was vast and their duties plenty. The Van Hofwegen tradition of raising cattle had been sewn intricately into their soil as well as their family spirit, for generations.

Growing up on a Tolleson, Arizona dairy farm did more than teach young Kay Van Hofwegen about milking cows. It was an education on strength and family tradition.

At the family farm, the children woke to change feed and care for the calves. For Kay it was the only life she knew and a memory she treasures.

"I would get on the school bus in the morning after doing my chores and my friends would say, 'You smell!'" said Kay. "I had no idea what they were talking about."

The straw in her hair was part of her heritage.

Kay's maternal and paternal grandparents both owned dairy farms. Her parents, David and Janet, grew up only miles from each other, both beginning morning chores with the crow of a rooster.

As their relationship grew, Janet would ride her horse over to the Van Hofwegen land and watch her future husband work on the yard.

When the two married at just 18 years old, they decided to start their own farm. There they'd carry on family traditions with their own children, instructing them on how to care for animals and tend to their land.

For their daughter Kay, however, a city life was in her future. Moving to Illinois for college, she'd choose to study social work. After earning her degree she returned to Arizona, where she married her husband, Chip and became Kay Allison. Finn (6), Noah (4), and Kate (2) came next, keeping this young and energetic mother busy. The traditions of her youth, though, kept nagging at her.

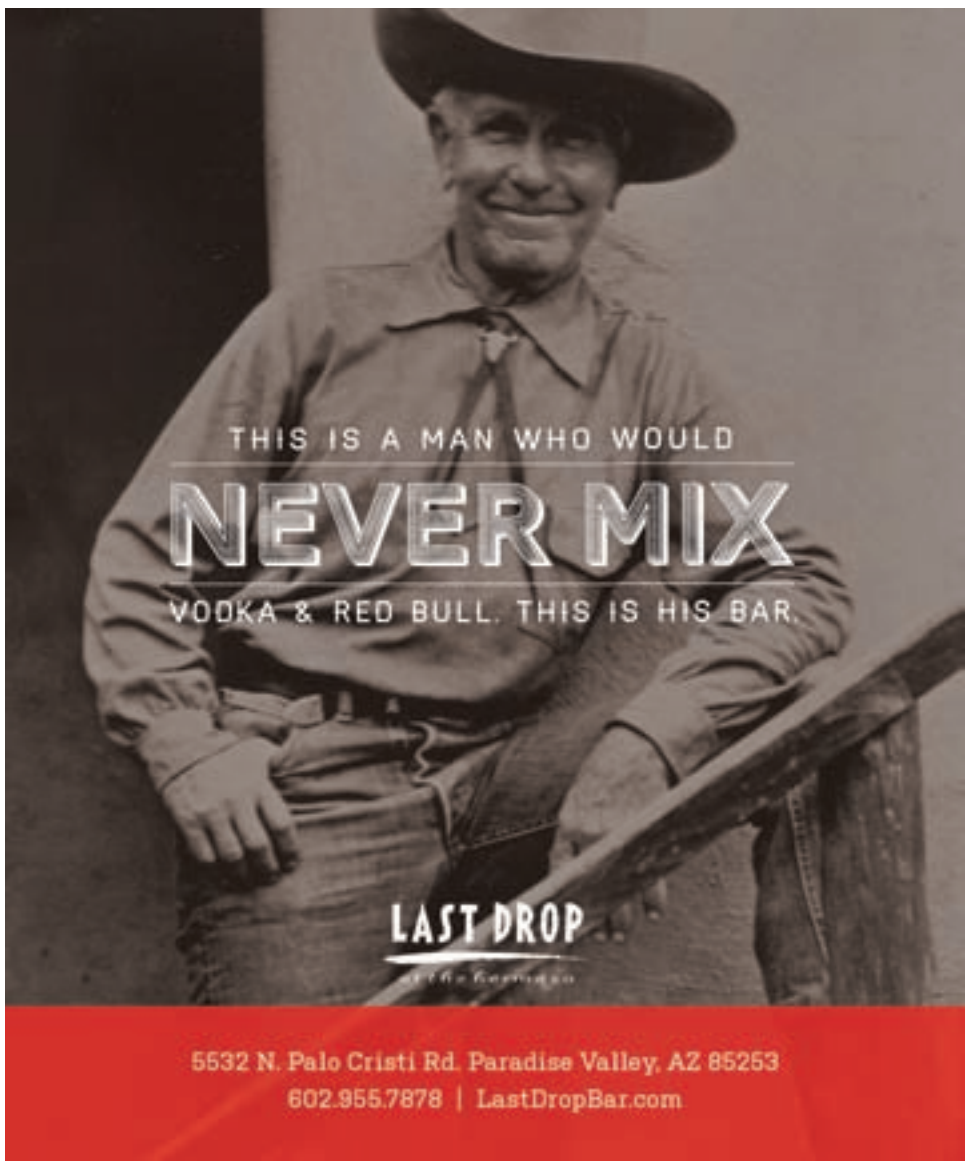
"As a kid we always ate breakfast and dinner together," said Kay. "My dad would get up early to work and come in for breakfast. My mom would make a huge hot meal."

Buttermilk biscuits were always a key player in the breakfast rotation.

"We ate biscuits two to three times a week," said Kay. "The rotation was biscuits, muffins, biscuits, pancakes, biscuits."

Biscuits, eggs and bacon made up the meal of Kay's childhood. Buttermilk biscuits and homemade strawberry jam, her mother's trademark.

When looking to reconstruct certain memories from her past, inviting her mother's recipes back into her home only made sense.



"There are certain things I've tried to carry on," said Kay. "We do a hot breakfast every morning, my kids just don't have cows mooing outside."

A couple years ago, when Kay decided she wanted to start a small business, she began researching her vision. A friend in the food truck industry mentioned the key to success – choosing one item you are really good at and building a business around it.

"I thought, 'I know; I can do biscuits,'" said Kay.

Soon after this sudden epiphany, Kay spoke to the owner of Royal Coffee Bar, Hayes McNeil, about his need for a simple baked item at his stores. Kay jumped at the chance.

At the beginning of 2014, Rise Biscuits Co.'s biscuits were sold at Royal Coffee Bar at the Biltmore Fashion Park. Served with a side of homemade strawberry jam and a honey stick from Crockett Honey, the biscuits were popular amongst guests.

Flavor Friday brought special additions to the biscuits. Peach, raspberry, blackberry, Nutella, blueberry and lemon were added to the flaky cake, giving a dessert-like element to an already perfect old-fashioned breakfast staple.

Throughout the year, Rise Biscuit Co. would evolve; eventually selling the biscuit flour mixture at Royal Coffee Bar, rather than the biscuits themselves. Handmade tea towels, biscuit cutters and both the gluten-free and buttermilk biscuit mixes can be found online at risebiscuitco.com along with the recipe to make Kay's biscuits.

Each Saturday Kay can be found downtown at the Phoenix Public Market, smiling bright with her beaming grin, passing on her childhood tradition to an entirely new generation.

With each miniature cake she hands out, Kay Allison reminds the world that you can take the girl out of the farm, but you can't take the most cherished childhood memories out of the girl.

To find out more, go to risebiscuitco.com.

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Local spirit maven is the character behind the cocktail

Hey, *Bartender!*

By Amanda Savage

Full name: Travis Nass
Position: Spirit Guide of Last Drop at the Hermosa

Where was your first job?
I worked as a paperboy in Alaska when I was 12.

When did you get your start in the bar business?
My first bartending job was at Benihana, filling in when they were short-handed.

Where may have people seen you around town?
At a vintage store or antique store, Cartel Coffee, a dog park or a farmers market. But in all likelihood: a bar.

How do you spend your free time?
Hugging my wife and my dog.

What's your guilty pleasure?
Flower Child

What's a fact people might not know about you?
I used to be a teppanyaki chef at Benihana.

Travis Nass is the man behind the cocktails at Last Drop at the Hermosa Inn.

What is your favorite thing about being a bartender?
Making people's day better. Nobody goes to a bar to feel worse and I feel very lucky that people choose to come visit us for that.

What about your least favorite thing?
Cutting people off. It is an awkward situation for everyone. Don't make me do it. If a bartender puts water in front of you, drink it. If a bartender puts food in front of you that you didn't order, it is time to stop drinking and call an Uber.

If you could only pick three things that embody a great bartender, what would they be?
A great bartender is a gracious host, with an amazing memory and is great at multitasking.

What's the oddest request you've ever gotten from a customer?
The most recent weird requests that I can remember are warm milk by the pool, and a Shiraz and Coke.

It's a given that as a bartender you get hit on, or see others get hit on, what is the worst pickup line you've ever heard?
Any. Chances are if you are using a line, it is the worst.

What's your go-to drink when you're out?
I don't really have a go-to drink. I think it is my duty to drink everything, so I switch it up a lot. Lately, it has been a lot of agave and cane spirits.

Where are some of your favorite local spots to hang out at (besides Last Drop, of course)?
I usually end up at Crudo, Shady's, The Gladly or The Parlor since they are all just down the street from work. And I have been loving the Linger Longer Lounge lately.

What's your favorite cocktail from Last Drop?
The Fernet-Me-Not is all of my favorite things in a glass. Ransom Old Tom Gin, Fernet Branca, Yellow Chartreuse and AZ Bitters Lab's Orange Sunshine Bitters. A great nightcap and a nice contemplative sipper.

What's a festive winter/holiday drink everyone should try? (Please include a recipe.)
I am a huge fan of flips. They are a really old style of drink made with a whole egg, similar to egg nog but without the cream. They can be made with pretty much any spirit or liquor; here are two of my favorites:

SHERRY FLIP
- 2 ounces sherry (Pedro Ximenez or Oloroso)
- 1 whole egg
- grated nutmeg, for garnish

Shake like hell, strain into a port glass. Garnish with fresh grated nutmeg.

RUMCHATA FLIP
- 1 1/2 ounces Rumchata
- 1/2 ounce Fernet Branca
- 1 whole egg
- grated nutmeg, for garnish

Shake like hell, strain into a port glass. Garnish with fresh grated nutmeg.

It's your day off, you have nothing to do, money is not an object – what would you be doing?
Hugging my wife and dog – with a cocktail. And maybe some jerky, or pickles.

Create a seasonal cocktail for every festive occasion

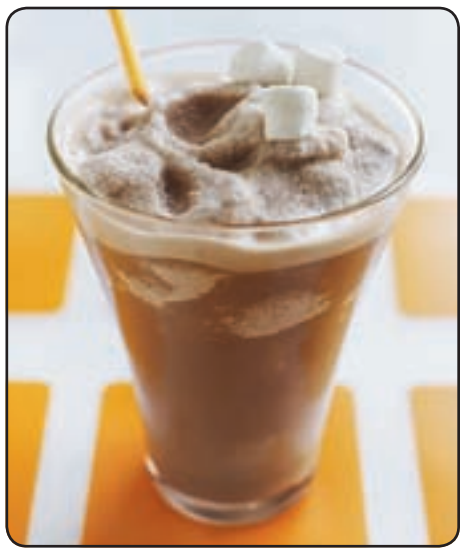
Recipes from Kim Haasarud's book *101 Sangrias and Pitcher Drinks*

SPICED PEAR CIDER

INGREDIENTS
- 1 ounce spiced pear infusion (see recipe below)
- 6-8 ounces apple cider, heated
- 1 cinnamon stick, for garnish
- 1 pear slice, for garnish

SPICED PEAR INFUSION
- 4 pears, cored and halved
- 1 liter 10 Cane Rum
- 3 cinnamon sticks
- 2 whole anise stars
- 2 vanilla beans (split lengthwise)
- 1 tablespoon whole cloves
- 1/2 cup raisins
- Heat oven to 350 F. Wrap cored and halved pears in aluminum foil. Roast for about 25 minutes, or until softened. Once cool enough to handle, cut into slices. In a clean, dry jar, combine sliced roasted pears and remaining ingredients. Let it sit for 48 hours. If a stronger pear flavor is desired, let it sit for another 48 hours. Strain the mixture and then bottle it.
- Fill a coffee mug with hot apple cider and add Spiced Pear Infusion. Garnish with cinnamon stick and pear slice.

FROZEN HOT CHOCOLATE



INGREDIENTS
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons sugar (or to taste)
- 1 ounce water
- 1 tablespoon unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 ounces Godiva chocolate liqueur
- 3 mini marshmallows, for garnish
- gourmet chocolate pieces, for garnish

PREPARATION
- In a saucepan over medium heat, combine the milk, sugar, water, cocoa powder and vanilla. Stir constantly until it starts to boil. Place in fridge until completely cooled.
- Combine the cooled hot chocolate and chocolate liqueur in a blender with 4 ice cubes. Blend until smooth. (Add and blend additional sugar, if needed.) Pour the blended mixture into a glass. Garnish with mini marshmallows and chocolate pieces.

PASSION ROUGE

INGREDIENTS
- 1 ounce Grand Marnier
- 1 ounce passion fruit liqueur
- 3/4 ounce passion fruit puree
- 3/4 ounce orange juice
- 2 dashes of Angostura Bitters
- 1/2 ounce pasteurized egg white
- 1 ounce champagne
- orange twist, for garnish
- ground nutmeg, for garnish

PREPARATION
- Combine the Grand Marnier, passion fruit liqueur, passion fruit puree, orange juice, bitters and egg white in a cocktail shaker with ice. Shake vigorously for 10 seconds. Add about an ounce of champagne to the mix and stir. Strain the mixture into a martini glass. Garnish with orange twist and a sprinkle of nutmeg.

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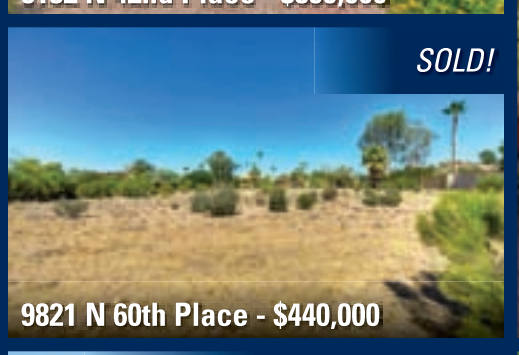

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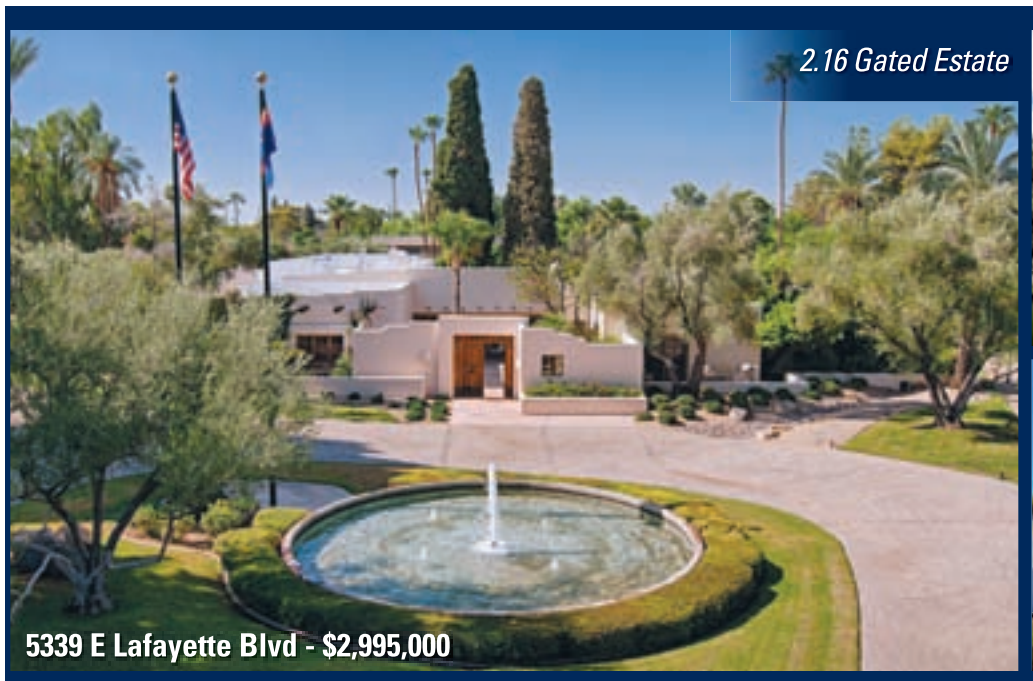

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Master the art of the vegan cookies in time for holidays

Veggie *Beat*

By Amanda Savage

Sweets are as synonymous with the holidays as snow, presents and family.

Baking has never been my strong suit, even before I was concerned about alternative ingredients. It seems so easy, just mix everything together and throw it in the oven, right?

Baking becomes especially difficult when you take eggs, milk and animal byproduct out of the mix. While most holiday cookies are vegetarian, very few are naturally vegan. It's also interesting to consider that substituting fatty ingredients like butter, and traditional sugar for sugar substitutes (while I'm wary of these) can greatly decrease the amount of calories in holiday cookies, helping you fight that battle of the holiday bulge with which we all seem to struggle.

By substituting ingredients like eggs and milk with vegan friendly products, cookies can be eaten by all.

For a long time I've tried to master the vegan cookie. They exist, and good ones at that. It definitely took some experimenting to get it right. I've tried all the different egg substitutes you'll find on the Internet – from applesauce, to bananas and flax – none seemed to quite meet the challenge. The flavor may have been there, but the consistency always seemed to turn out either too brittle and dry or too soupy.

Some vegan and food blogs offer complete reconstructions of classic baking recipes. However, I've found that it's easiest to follow classic cookie recipes, and simply swap out a few of the animal-based ingredients for vegan ones. Original Earth Balance can be substituted for butter, soy or almond milk for regular milk; the challenge comes with eggs and buttermilk.

I've heard good things about egg replacers like Ener-G, but I've personally never tried them; although, I have had success with silken tofu. It may sound strange, but the flavorless soy-based food goes unnoticed in the finished baked product. It's important to completely blend the tofu when you mix it in with the other wet ingredients to avoid unsightly tofu chunks, so an electric beater or blender is necessary. Tofu is sold as a large block. I cut this into quarters, and use one quarter of the block as a substitute for one egg.

One of the best parts about fresh cookies is the soft, doughy inside that's usually achieved with creamy ingredients like buttermilk. I've found that a mixture of three-fourths unsweetened coconut-based yogurt and one-fourth parts almond milk substitutes the texture and flavor of buttermilk well.

The sugar cookie recipe I use from Food Network called for 4 teaspoons of buttermilk, so I substituted 1 teaspoon of almond milk with 3 teaspoons of unsweetened coconut-based yogurt. Viola, chewiness achieved!

For chocolate chip cookies, substitute dark chocolate chips found at Whole Foods for Nestle.

While most homemade frosting recipes can use the substitutions listed above, you can also purchase accidentally vegan icing. Duncan Hines Classic Vanilla and Chocolate frostings are vegan, as are many other grocery store frostings. (Most ingredients include sugar and water, but watch out for gelatin and traces of dairy.)

If homemade isn't quite your thing, check out Peta's I Can't Believe It's Vegan list. Peta's list includes "normal" foods found in grocery stores that happen to be vegan, and there is a whole section on baking products.

There are also local spots like Nami, Braggs Factory Diner and Urban Cookies that offer vegan baked goods.

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- 7-8 lb. spiral-cut ham (bone-in or boneless)
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup maple syrup
- 2 cups pineapple juice

PREPARATION

- Place ham inside crock, with flat side down.
- Rub the brown sugar all over ham, getting all sides.
- Next, whisk pineapple juice and maple syrup together in medium bowl; pour over the entire ham.
- Cover and crock on LOW for 4-5 hours.
- About 1 hour before serving, begin to baste the ham with the liquid every 15 minutes. Let ham rest for 15 minutes before slicing and serving.

NOTE: Nutrition and serving size based on bone-in-style ham.
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Busy intersection has rumors flying, parents concerned

By Danika Worthington
Photo by NTK Photography

The City of Phoenix approved zoning for a neighborhood center on the southwest corner of Indian School Road and 56th Street, sparking speculation among community members of a new drive-thru Starbucks, which has been met with varying concerns.

Firebrand Group LLC and Frontera Development have a joint venture to build a 5,000 square-foot neighborhood center set to start construction in early 2015, according to Andrew Miller with the Firebrand Group.

Although Miller said he could not comment on any specific businesses planned for the center until projects break ground, the approval for a drive-thru and the property's leasing rate have many members of the community guessing that a Starbucks will fill the space.

A two part zoning hearing ended on June 5 when the city approved zoning for a drive-thru and outdoor dining under the stipulation that the buildings stay below 20 feet, a "pork chop" feature is added to ensure right turns only, the Zoning Administrator approves the wall and landscape plans, and that building permits are applied for and paid for within a year. The hearing did not approve variances to reduce the street setback.

A handful of community members attended the hearing to voice their concerns about the possible drive-thru Starbucks.

Among them was Richard Rea, president of the Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association. Rea said he had concerns regarding the setback, landscaping, size of the buildings and lack of appropriate parking. He mentioned that Kitchen 56, the restaurant across the street, already uses the lot for additional parking.

He also said some neighbors are concerned about the safety of a drive-thru Starbucks considering Hopi Elementary School, Veritas Preparatory Academy and Ingleside Middle School are nearby and have students who use that intersection to walk to school.

"The time people typically go to Starbucks…is the same time a number of people are going through [the intersection] and kids are walking to school," Rea said.

He said Ingleside currently has a crossing guard but Veritas does not. Nicole Rizkallah, assistant headmaster of operations at Veritas, said the school board, neighborhood associations and current traffic guard are looking at the possible impact of the neighborhood center before deciding if they need to provide extra safety, such as an additional crossing guard.

Among the concerned neighbors at city hall was Amy Owens, who expressed concerns that the intersection was already unsafe and more kids could be hit if a drive-thru Starbucks was added. Owens' son was hit while walking to school when a car did not pay attention to the crossing guard.

"For local people, we understand the corner. We get it," Owens said. "We know there are schools nearby. If you don't know that, you would not be as careful."

She said she is ok with a Starbucks, although she wishes it were a more local venue. She said her main concern is the drive-thru because she fears people will not be as careful. Roughly 100 people have emailed her in support of her view, she said.

Susan McCartan, who also attended the hearing with her husband, shared similar concerns about the drive-thru. She said she was worried people would not be as vigilant when pulling out of the property with their coffee or while putting away their money.

"I'm against this drive-thru because it's a busy and dangerous intersection," McCartan said. "Kids have already been

hit there. To even add one more potential danger, such as a drive-thru, is not worth any child's life."

She said a traffic study was not done in the area, so the group did not have any evidence to support their view at the hearing.

Rea, Owens and McCartan all expressed concerns about the added traffic a Starbucks would bring, especially during the morning when the intersection is already crowded with school traffic.

Kerry Wilcoxon, who works at the street transportation department of the City of Phoenix, said he had not heard if a study had been done for the area but he doubted that one would be.

He said the new development would only add some traffic and would not be enough of an impact to require a study.

Miller said Frontera Development and Firebrand Group welcomed people to voice their concerns. He said, however, that the new development would not exasperate traffic and safety issues, but rather, possibly alleviate some concerns.

He said the group consulted a traffic engineer who said there was no correlation between a drive-thru and safety issues.

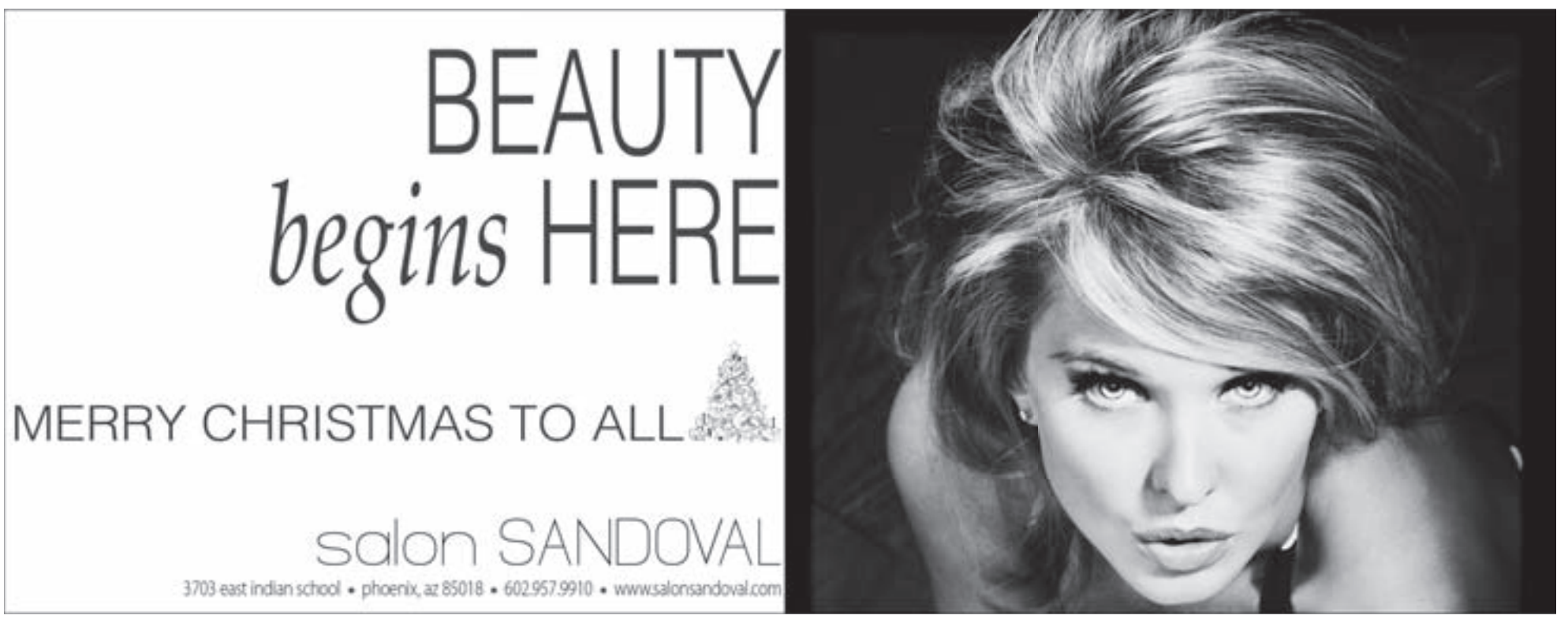
"In fact, vehicles in drive-thrus move forward very slowly and do not back up like most parked cars," Miller wrote in an email. "As a result, there are some who believe that this provides greater safety in a retail center."

He also said the small retail center would cause only a minor increase in traffic. The center is also located at the sole light in a 2-mile stretch between 48th and 64th streets and in an area with few commercial buildings. He said many cars drive quickly through this stretch, typically averaging 50 mph instead of the posted 40 mph.

"We believe that our development will actually have a calming effect to local traffic," he wrote. "When drivers see a commercial property, they naturally tend to slow down and this improves safety."

Miller also mentioned that the corner used to serve as a high-volume service station for about 40 years.

At this point, many are in agreement that only time will tell if a new Starbucks will aggravate or calm safety and traffic concerns.



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Kindra as a child, standing in front of her mom's perfect Christmas tree.

Makings of a masterpiece

Girl *Next Door*

By Kindra Hall

My mother is a tradition-artist. She can whip up a tradition on a whim and it will last a lifetime. And if you have ever known a tradition-artist you know the holiday season is nothing but a blank canvas – the perfect place to create their masterpieces. And growing up my holidays were just that – a masterpiece.

As if a direct descendant of Mrs. Claus herself, my mother dominated Christmas. Her cassette player was the first station to switch to all Christmas music on November 1. She baked cookies from the recipes of our ancestors. She painstakingly wrapped 24 individual Nativity figurines – one for each night leading up to Christmas Eve – that my brother, sister and I would take turns unwrapping as we gathered around a fire while singing Christmas carols. On Christmas Eve we wore matching, handmade Christmas pajamas and ate a single scoop of ice cream out of special Christmas bowls before heading to bed where she sang a song, and said a prayer with each of us.

Not enough? For my first Christmas my mother "helped me make" a special ornament for each member of our extended family (and one for Santa). Every year, each child did this until we were in high school: dough art candy canes, clothes pin Dorothy with red glittered shoes, skis made out of Popsicle sticks.

If Pinterest had been around when my mom was running Christmas, she would have blown that thing up!

But even after all that, no tradition was more sacred, or grander than that of decorating the family Christmas tree.

The tree decorating always started out ugly. My mother fought with the artificial branches that had to be placed in the green metal pole in a specific order. She then wrestled with a thousand variously colored Christmas lights that had become lazy over the summer and would now refuse to light. I rarely heard my mother swear except at the beginning of this festive holiday. My brother, sister and I hid in the basement until the tree was standing and lit, but otherwise empty.

The decorating was our job.

Once the sun had disappeared and the snow outside glowed blue in the Minnesota darkness, my father, younger brother, sister and I would gather around my mother who sat on the floor surrounded by boxes of ornaments. Each one telling a story from our past: ornaments from generations before, newer ornaments with our faces as babies, ornaments my grandmother made – including three needlepoint unicorns – and of course the ornaments that my brother, sister and I made.

Each one a treasure. Each one to be handled with the utmost care. And after hours of decorating, after my mom placed an angel on the top of the tree, we turned out the rest of the lights in the house, sat on the sofas and stared at our masterpiece.

And while some may have called it gaudy, we spent the next month circling that tree, running our fingers gently over the years of memories that hung there.

Unfortunately, I did not inherit my mother's mad-tradition-making skills. My first few Christmases as a mom have been a little awkward as I've been "trying-on" traditions. I've fought the crowds at ZooLights with two children under 2 and a reluctant husband. I tried baking cookies

Continued on page 43

Masterpiece

Continued from page 42

but they were super ugly. I thought about making ornaments, but sheesh, that's a lot of work. Right now the best I've got is watching Santa fly in on a helicopter at the Arizona Country Club – which for this Minnesota native is still surreal – and a reminder set in my phone to get some milk in case Santa doesn't like Almond Breeze.

There is absolutely nothing about "my" Christmas that resembles a masterpiece.

But just as I was about to get discouraged, I turned to my mother who reminded me of our tree-decorating tradition – and its slightly awkward evolution.

You see, as Christmases passed and the tradition continued, it changed. It happened ever so subtly, as my mother slowly lost control of her teenage children. Instead of finding the perfect place for each item, we used the tree to make statements. My sister would place the ornament with her photo squarely over the ornament with mine. My brother's Lego men and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle action figures began making their way into the branches.

Instead of the plastic needlepoint unicorns being placed inconspicuously among the Christmas balls, they now traveled in a herd across the front of the tree ridden by a clothespin Dorothy, an angry ballerina, and Boba Fett wearing Popsicle stick skis. And during the decorating, we took turns distracting mom as we sneaked Homie figurines my sister bought from the quarter machine at the grocery store in with the family heirlooms.

These new decorating tactics did not please my mother. She would spend the morning after the tree ceremony combing every artificial twig looking for the offending faux-ornaments and huff and puff every time she found one. She would shake the intruders at us, asking if we had no respect for tradition.

But that's the thing about tradition, no matter how hard you try to preserve it, things change. Children grow and families expand, and just like adolescence, these times of transition can be a little awkward, hormonal and uncomfortable.

My mother assured me this didn't make me a tradition failure, I was just at the beginning of a new masterpiece.

And to help with the transition, she gave me a box. Filled with ornaments.

Ornaments from my childhood. Ornaments with my face as a baby. Even a Lego man and a needlepoint unicorn. Ornaments I had made every year since birth and given to Santa – who was now giving them back to me.

Whatever your traditions – old and perfected, or new and awkward – may you have a blessed holiday, a Merry Christmas and a masterpiece of your own.

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Discover snow in December

Where's the *Neighbor?*

By Kaley Kalil

Looking for some fun, nearby places to play in the snow and spread holiday cheer this winter? Come December, the Grand Canyon State should have you covered. Here are four places within a three-hour drive that will have the entire family getting their snow on (and give the girls a legitimate reason to wear those furry Ugg Boots!

1. Wing Mountain Snow Play Area (north of Flagstaff)

Known as Northern Arizona's organized snow play area, Wing Mountain offers sledding, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and good ol' fashioned playing in the snow. Cheer on

Continued on page 45

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Snow

Continued from page 44

the kids as they race down the slopes in sleds and inner tubes. Teach them the ins and outs of building a snowy Olaf of their own. (Don't forget the carrot for his nose!) When the ground is blanketed in snow, Wing Mountain is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., seven days a week. Visit snowplayaz.com for more information as we near snow season.

2. Mormon Lake Lodge (southeast of Flagstaff)

Located 30 miles southeast of Flagstaff and 2 1/2 hours north of Phoenix, Mormon Lake Lodge offers all sorts of family activities for enjoying the snow. Snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and bring-your-own snowshoe trails are just a few ways to enjoy the spectacular scenery surrounding this remote 300-acre retreat. The old-fashioned, western style steakhouse and saloon opens for the season on Thanksgiving Day. The lodge provides a warm and cozy gathering place for your family to enjoy your own home-cooked turkey dinner with all the fixin's, without having to clean your oven.

3. Grand Canyon Railway's Polar Express (Williams)

All aboard the Polar Express! This classic and well-loved children's book comes to life in Arizona every holiday season starting in November. Pajama-clad families board the 1930s-era train in Williams, Arizona, for a fun-filled, 30-minute ride to the North Pole. A jubilant bunch of onboard elves sing, dance and lead a read-along session on the way to visit Santa and his elves at Santa's Village. Chocolate chip cookies and hot chocolate will ensure the kids don't sleep much tonight, while special gifts hand-delivered by Santa himself will get the family in the mood for spreading Christmas cheer.

4. Arizona Snowbowl (Flagstaff)

Located 14 miles outside of Flagstaff on the spectacular San Francisco Peaks, Arizona Snowbowl has been home to both novice and expert skiers and snowboarders since 1938. With 40 runs, 777 skiable acres, six chair lifts and an 11,500-foot summit elevation, this ski resort is bound to impress the whole family. Bring life back into your fingers and toes while sipping hot chocolate and enjoying a hot meal at one of two ski area lodges. For families with small children, please note that sledding and snow play are prohibited at the Snowbowl ski area. Nearby dedicated snow play areas can be found at arizonasnowbowl.com. The resort operates from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. All-day lift tickets range from $35-$69. Kids age 7 and younger ride free.

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Nativity scene collection creates year long traditions

Retirement *Now what?*

By Jean Hodgson

Do you collect anything? Many people would say yes, and then tell you about their passion for stamps, coins, antiques – the list continues.

Our nativity collection began simply enough when my husband's mother gave us the manger scene from his boyhood. Then a couple more became part of our traditional holiday decorations. Next, when our children were small, I made a set of stuffed figures that they could safely handle. Then we saw one on a trip that just had to come home with us. Over the years this humble beginning has evolved into a collection that is the primary focus in several rooms of our home, to say nothing about the full closet that stores the overflow during the offseason. We truly have Christmas here every day of the year!

Last summer we met Susan Topp Weber who owns a Christmas shop in Santa Fe and is the author of Nativities of the World. In the introduction to her book she writes, "Nativities are simultaneously simple and amazing. They are simple because they all tell a similar story, the depiction of the birth of Jesus under humble circumstances. They are amazing because they are made in such a tremendous variety of styles and materials and levels of sophistication in a great many countries of the world. Because of this variety they are fascinating to look at, and for some enthusiasts the urge to collect them, or to improve them every year, is almost irresistible."

Her words ring true to us in so many ways as we consider what makes each of our nativities unique. Some are crafted from unusual materials that are related to their country of origin. For example, banana leaves from Nigeria, wool from Ireland, marbles from Chile and homespun fabric from Poland. Traditionally we expect sheep and donkeys to be among the animals at the manger, but some of ours include pigs, llamas, zebras, giraffes and aardvarks.

How large is the usual nativity set? Ours range from one carved in the head of a match stick that can only be appreciated with the help of a magnifying glass, to a ceramic set we finished as a family project that fills our entire bay window.

The family nativity collection (bottom) comes from sculptors all over the world, including an Irish artist (top).

Which characters do you expect to see? The Holy Family might be accompanied by wise men, shepherds and angels – but one of our sets also includes a wise woman!

Of course, many of our nativities are reminders of places we have traveled over the years. These are far more significant to us than what would usually be considered a souvenir, and on several occasions we have had the added privilege of meeting the artist that created the final product that we now enjoy in our home.

Many additions to our collection are treasured because they were thoughtful gifts from friends and family members. The purchases of some have benefitted charities around the world as they support community projects and create employment opportunities in areas of great need.

Nativities had their origins in Europe centuries ago, but now museums in numerous locations are dedicated to this subject and there is even an international organization called Friends of the Creche. Christmas in miniature all year long!

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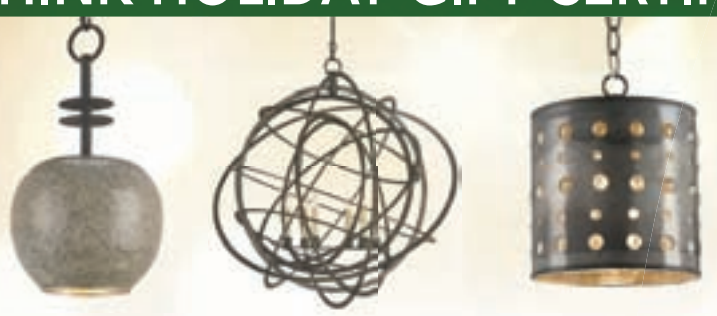

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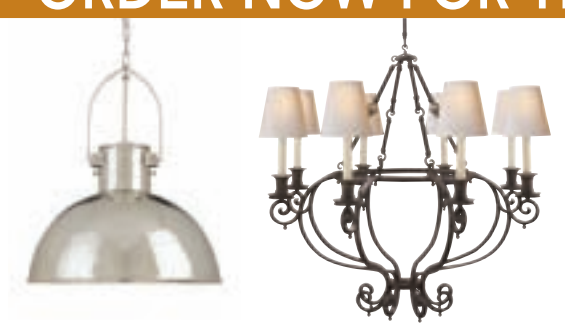

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Courtesy to the Trade

All Saints' expands campus, adding new athletic fields

By Mallory Gleich

For more than 50 years, All Saints' Episcopal Day School has been home to pre-K through 8th-grade students in the surrounding areas of Phoenix. Recently the school celebrated their latest expansion, which allowed for new athletic fields, a garden area, a larger parking lot and a brand new walkway dubbed "All Saints' Way."

This is not the first expansion for the school. All Saints' school was founded in 1963, and since then has experienced a great deal of change. In 1988 an art and music building, a library, a sports area and computer labs were added to the campus.

From then until 2006, several other buildings were added, including the David John Watson Academic Building and the Father Carl G. Carlozzi Gymnasium. The construction also added Manning Hall, which serves as a meeting place and cafeteria.

In 2007, a couple of other facilities were built, specifically a pre-K center complete with classrooms and a new playground, a new band room and a memorial garden.

The school celebrated their newest development with a dedication ceremony that took place on October 22.

In addition to the garden and athletic fields, there is also plenty of open space that will eventually become more classrooms and possibly a performing arts center.

On October 22, a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrated the opening of All Saints' larger campus.

"The plan is, in future phases, that [the new expansion area] will become the new front entrance to the school," said Chief Development Officer Tina Burgoz.

Burgoz explained that what they build next is based on future survey results detailing what the parent population's priority is for the school.

The first phase of the expansion dealt with property acquisition and putting in regulation size football and baseball fields.

"We couldn't play baseball here before, so this is the first season we'll be able to have baseball games on our own field," explained Jessica King, the communications manager for the school.

All Saints' Way used to be an actual street used by the public. After the acquisition, the school purchased the street and turned it into a walkway that connects to the new parking lot.

"With this new extension, the school has essentially doubled the size of the current campus, so there is lots of room for growth," said Burgoz.

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Hanukkah throughout city

By Amanda Goossen

Menorah Building Workshop at Home Depot

Hosted by Chabad of the East Valley. Home Depot at 725 W. Warner Rd., Tempe. Build your own menorah, childrens activities, Hanukah treats. For children of all ages and parents. RSVP required. Sunday, December 14 at 10 a.m.

Hanukkah Menorah Lighting

A nightly menorah lighting with applesauce and latkes takes place at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess in the resort lobby. Sunset, December 16 – 24.

Hanukkah Menorah Lighting

A nightly menorah lighting takes place at sunset at The Phoenician in Scottsdale, in the resort lobby. December 16 – 24.

Chabad West Valley Menorah Lighting

Celebrate Hanukkah with a Grand Menorah lighting along with live music and entertainment. 7 p.m. at Fountain Park, Westgate Entertainment District, Glendale. Saturday, December 20.

Mazelpalooza

Join Young Jewish Phoenix for Mazelpalooza 2014 at Livewire, Scottsdale. Join over 600 of your friends from around the Valley at the largest gathering of young Jewish adults. Mazelpalooza is sponsored annually by Young Jewish Phoenix, a project of the Jewish Community Association of Greater Phoenix. 21+ only. Wednesday, December 24.

All events subject to change. Check with the location prior to the event.

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Healthy Packs are distributed at ANLC after being packed at Vista del Camino Food Bank.

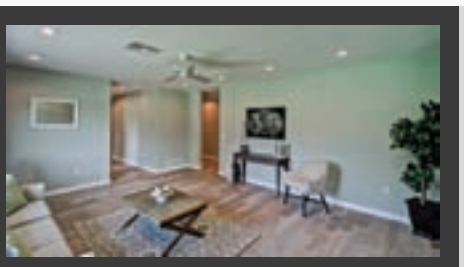
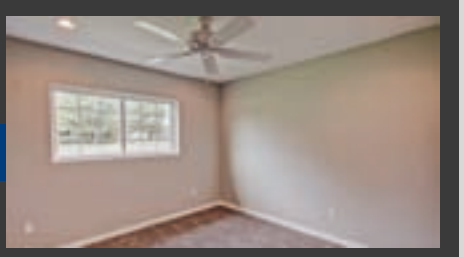
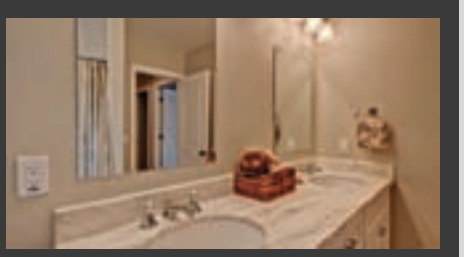
Healthy packs for students

By Kassidy McDonald

According to the United Food Bank, statistics show that, "Arizona is tied as the worst state in the U.S. when it comes to child hunger, and the fifth worst for overall food insecurity."

Statistics like these have created a need for programs like Healthy Packs, a 501(c)(3) organization designed to provide nutritious meals to students with insufficient access to food on weekends. They do this through packing meals that students can take home and eat while they are not in school. The program is aimed at combating child hunger in the Scottsdale community and filling a hunger gap for students that don't have the means to

Continued on page 52

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ANLC

Continued from page 50

receive adequate nutrition over weekends when school isn't in session.

The Parent Teacher Organization at Arcadia Neighborhood Learning Center (ANLC) started Healthy Packs in 2010 and since then it has grown largely and expanded into other schools. In 2011, ANLC was approached by Scottsdale Leadership (an organization dedicated to informing, inspiring and empowering leaders to champion and strengthen the interests of the community) to make the program more sustainable. They partnered with Vista del Camino Food Bank to help run the program. Vista del Camino hires volunteers to keep Healthy Packs running and provide fundraising assistance. Volunteers are used to help provide the food, pack meals, go on grocery runs and provide transportation to get the packs to the schools on Fridays so that the students can have them over the weekend.

The packs are given to the students that qualify on Fridays and they include two breakfast meals, two lunches and snacks. The expectation is to cover the meals over the weekend that they would normally get during the school day.

Community specialist for ANLC and Kiva Elementary, Rosita Pinedo stated, "Our hope is to make the program truly sustainable and provide Healthy Packs to as many schools as we can. Currently there are about 7,000 students in the Scottsdale Unified School District that qualify for the national free or reduced lunch program. We are trying to target as many students as possible that may not have any food over the weekends. Parents and teachers are reacting very positively to the program and we encourage the community to get involved."

Packed by volunteers, the brown paper sacks are filled with breakfast and lunch for the weekend.

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From my family to yours, best wishes for a happy holiday season!

I have lived in Arcadia for over 13 years and have longtime connections at Hopi, Ingleside, Arcadia High School, Arizona School for the Arts and Prince of Peace preschool and church. I live, breathe and run in Arcadia every day!

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Leading Boys & Girls Club

By Mallory Gleich

Kathy Kramer, an 18-year Arcadia resident, has been named executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of the Greater Scottsdale Foundation. Kramer brings more than 30 years of experience to this position.

"I went to NAU, and I wanted to go into public relations. I worked for the Red Cross here in town and they said, 'If you want a job, you'll be a fundraiser.' So I've been doing this ever since I got out of college," said Kramer.

Kramer's main focus is managing the fund for the Greater Scottsdale Foundation. Basically, she manages a kind of savings account for the program.

"There are nine clubs in our area, with 18,000 kids who utilize our programs. I manage the assets of the foundation," said Kramer, who works with 15 independent community leaders and trustees.

Kramer has had strong ties with the Boys & Girls Club. Not only has she done work with them, but her children also participated in programs offered by the club. Her children went to Hopi Elementary School and Arcadia High School and attended the programs at the Barker branch.

"It's a positive place for kids to go," said Kramer. "There's sports and homework hour and they have tutors that come down from ASU. It's how you have faith in yourself to go out and become a leader."

Kathy Kramer

Along with providing a safe and educational environment for the surrounding area's kids, the Boys & Girls Club also provides a Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas gift activity program. Kids can come in and make a gift to bring home for the holiday. The club also does an adopt-a-family wish list of sorts where people can provide items such as clothing and gifts to the family they adopt.

The Boys & Girls Club recently celebrated its 60th anniversary in the Greater Scottsdale area, and Kramer is excited to join the foundation in its mission to provide safety and education to the kids in the area.

What's Happening, Arcadia?

DECEMBER 2014 EVENTS

ASU Concerts at the Center: Big Band Night

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts
7380 E. Second St.
7:30 p.m., Dec. 1

ASU concert performances will showcase faculty and students at ASU's Herberger Institute School of Music. Admission is $10.

scottsdaleperformingarts.org

Christmas at the Fairmont Scottsdale

7575 E. Princess Dr.
Dec. 1, 2014-Jan. 4, 2015

Christmas at the Fairmont includes many activities that are open to the public, including a holiday rink, four-story Christmas tree, nightly 3-D shows, train rides, carousel, photos with Santa, menorah lighting and more!

scottsdaleprincess.com

Las Noches de las Luminarias

Desert Botanical Garden
1201 N. Galvin Parkway
5:30-9:30 p.m., Dec. 1-23

The 37th year of Las Noches de las Luminares will have over 8,000 hand-lit luminaria bags. It will also provide entertainment groups and cider.

dbg.org

Meet Me Downtown Phoenix Social Walk/Run

Check in on the corner of CityScape, downtown
5:15-6:30 p.m., every Monday from Dec. 1, 2014-Mar. 9, 2015

Meet Me Downtown Phoenix is a weekly get-together, with the goal of building health and fitness awareness. It includes a 3-5 mile run, ceremonies, awards and prizes. The night also offers restaurant discounts for participants.

meetmedowntownphx.com

NRG Holiday Ice Rink at CityScape

CityScape Phoenix (Between First Ave. and First St. and between Washington and Jefferson streets)
Dec. 1, 2014-Jan. 5, 2015

CityScape is hosting the Valley's largest real ice rink. There is $6 skating and all the proceeds from the rink will be donated to Valley charitable organizations.

cityscapephoenix.com

Santa HQ, presented by HGTV

Scottsdale Fashion Square
7014 E. Camelback Rd.
10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday-Saturday
11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sundays
Dec. 1-24

Scottsdale's Fashion Square is bringing Santa's Workshop into the food court. Children can have an interactive experience with Santa and have photos taken on his lap.

santa-hq.com

Sixth Annual Gingerbread House Competition

340 N. Third St.
Dec. 1-31

The Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel is hosting the 6th Annual Gingerbread House Competition. Partnered with Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts, this competition gives students a chance to win a scholarship for tuition with Le Cordon Bleu. To enter, go to the Sheraton's website.

sheratonphoenixdowntown.com

The Polar Express

Grand Canyon Railway Hotel
235 N. Grand Canyon Blvd., Williams, AZ
5:30-7:30 p.m., Dec. 1, 2014-Jan. 4, 2015

The Polar Express offers an hour-long train ride to the "North Pole." It has entertainment such as elves, singing and dancing. The train will stop and give kids a chance to see Santa and drink hot chocolate.

thetrain.com

ZooLights

455 N. Galvin Parkway
5:30-10:30 p.m., Dec. 1, 2014-Jan. 11, 2015

ZooLights is an annual event held at the Phoenix Zoo. It is a kid-friendly event that offers a view of the zoo at night, decorated with festive lights and light shows. ZooLights offers camel rides, wagon rides and a stingray bay. Tickets range from $8-$18.

phoenixzoo.org

ALAC Christmas Celebration and Mercado

Arizona Latino Arts & Cultural Center
147 E. Adams St.
5:30-10 p.m., Dec. 5

ALAC will celebrate the first Friday of December with live entertainment, food, venders and paintings. Admission is $20.

alacaz.org

Artlink First Fridays

5 E. Roosevelt St.
6-10 p.m., every Friday starting Dec. 5

This event is aimed at celebrating the downtown Phoenix culture. There will be over 70 art galleries, venues and there will be shuttles starting at Phoenix Art Museum. Admission is free.

artlinkphoenix.com

Holiday Pet Festival

WestWorld of Scottsdale
16601 N. Pima Rd.
10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dec. 6

The Pet Festival will hold animal rescues, animal care specialists and pets up for adoption. There will be animals available for people to take home as well as pet products for sale.

holidaypetfestival.com

Continued on page 56

Boy Scout Troop 6

Boy Scout year-end review

By Casey Greene

For many years (since 1934), Boy Scout Troop 6 has done service projects and given back to the community. Troop 6 is the local Arcadia troop, and for the past nine months our Scouts have done service projects that benefit Arcadia and the area around it. Our biggest service projects are the Eagle projects. These range from building a trail to helping create a school garden. Troop 6 has one of the largest numbers of Eagle Scouts in Arizona, so naturally there will be a ton of Eagle projects. In the past nine months, our Scouts have completed 10 Eagle projects. Take a look at how Troop 6 is serving Arcadia residents.

Let's start at the beginning of 2014. Jacob Staudenmaier's Eagle project was at Shemer Art Center. We planted an orchard and put down mulch, beautifying the grounds and donating needed supplies

Continued on page 55

The Scouts work on a service project at Ingleside Middle School.

Boy Scout

Continued from page 54

and funds. Two weeks later, Dallas Greene completed another Eagle project at the Pioneer Living History Museum where we built a wheelchair ramp, refurbished decks and the gold panning area. Austin Suder also did a project at the museum, designing and building a working gallows that has become a hit for school children and wedding parties alike. At the Pioneer Living History Museum they serve over 25,000 school kids every year, so Greene and Suder's projects benefits our community greatly because this museum is a fun way to teach children about the history of Arizona.

Other Scouts chose to do projects that gave back to education in the Arcadia area. Ethan Lipson's Eagle project was at Tempe Solel Preschool. Max McCauley's project gave back to our very own Ingleside Middle School. We helped build garden beds, add irrigation, planted a tree and put in a plaque for a previous student.

Lastly, Carter Chamberlain, a student at Arcadia High School, gave back to his school by making improvements to the robotics club facilities.

The other four Eagle projects helped the community in other ways. Cedrick Lorch's improved the grounds at the Phoenix Boys' Choir. Wesley Spencer's chose to hold his Eagle project at Handlebar Helpers. They took apart bikes to be rebuilt and held a bike drive, netting over 30 bikes. Will Moody's Eagle project was completed at General Cooks Trail where Troop 6 refurbished a mile and a half of the trail. Riley Johnson just finished building a tortoise and iguana habitat at the Animal Welfare League, one of the largest no-kill shelters in Arizona, for his Eagle project.

Troop 6 has given back to their community in many ways through their various Eagle projects! The successes mentioned above are just the ones done this year. Our tradition of service is a source of pride to our troop, and growth for our Scouts. We think the "season of giving" should last all year!

What's Happening, Arcadia?

DECEMBER 2014 EVENTS

Scottsdale Fifth Ave. Arts Festival

Scottsdale Waterfront
7155 E. Fifth Ave.
Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 5-7

Scottsdale's Arts Festival will include live music, a wine garden and many boutiques from which you can shop.

artisanmarketsaz.com

Carnival of Illusion: An Evening of Old-World Magic

Phoenix Parlour at the Arizona Biltmore Resort
2400 E. Missouri Ave.
5:30-8 p.m., Dec. 6, 13 and 20

The Carnival of Illusion is a roadshow that will have magic, mystery and intrigue. It is described as an evening of Old-World magic, with a top-rated attraction. Tickets range from $41 to $60.

carnivalofillusion.com

Ultimate Santa Run

Wesley Bolin Plaza
1700 W. Washington St.
6:30-10:30 a.m., Dec. 6

The Santa Run is a 5K run/walk to celebrate the Christmas spirit in downtown Phoenix. Runners dress up in Santa costumes and celebrate the end of the run with milk and cookies. They will also hold a toy donation drive to provide children in need with Christmas gifts. Early-bird tickets are $25 and full-price entry is $60.

ultimatesantarun.com

Phoesitvus 2014

14 E. Pierce St.
4-9 p.m., Dec. 10

There will be over 100 local vendors at the Public Market to provide shopping for the holiday season. There will also be a beer garden and carolers. All proceeds will benefit the Phoenix Public Market.

phxpublicmarket.com

Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade

Tempe Town Lake
620 N. Mill Ave.
5 p.m., Dec. 13

The Tempe Town Lake Boat Parade will feature over 50 boats that have been decorated in honor of the Christmas spirit.

millavenue.com

Sixth Annual Festival of Trees

Arizona Center
400 E. Van Buren St.
6-9 p.m., Dec. 12

The Annual Festival of Trees will be a night of entertainment with food, drinks, an art auction and DJ. There will also be a runway show with designers from around the Valley. All proceeds will benefit arts for youth and adults with behavioral health illnesses. Tickets range from $15 to $75.

festivaloftreesphoenix.org

Third Annual Waterfront Fine Art & Wine Festival

Scottsdale Waterfront
7135 E. Camelback Rd., #155
10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Dec. 5-7

The Scottsdale Waterfront will hold a festival for Thunderbird Artists, including wine, chocolate and arts. There will be jewelry, live entertainment and sculptures at the festival. Admission is $3.

thunderbirdartists.com

Arcadia Holiday Festival

The Vault Wine Storage
(behind Pete's Fish) 4117 N. 44th St.
1-5 p.m., Dec. 7

Arcadian residences and local businesses gather to get to know the neighbors and the neighborhood businesses. The Vault Wine Storage plans to make this an annual event. Children from the School of Rock will be performing and there will be games, raffles and free tastings of the local cuisine. Walking or biking is recommended as there is limited parking.

thevaultwinestorage.com

Cowboy Christmas

Old Town
Indian School Rd. to Second St. and Scottsdale Rd. to Brown Ave.
12-4 p.m., Dec. 13-21

The Cowboy Christmas will celebrate Western culture. There will be wagon rides, reenactments and visits with Santa. There will also be opportunities to purchase Western gifts for the holidays.

historicoldtownscottsdale.com

Mannheim Steamroller Christmas

ASU Gammage
1200 S. Forest Ave.
8 p.m., Dec. 26

The 30th anniversary celebration of the Mannheim Steamroller Christmas will celebrate Chip Davis's tradition of the group's annual tour.

asugammage.com

To have events considered for the Calendar, submit information to calendar@arcadianews.com by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Calendar listings may be edited and published by *Arcadia News* as space allows and at the discretion of the editorial team.

2014 goes out with a bang

Music *Notes*

By Craig Goossen

The live music landscape in Phoenix won't go quietly as 2014 nears an end. Our yearly visit from Los Angeles legends X & The Blasters, the great Fleetwood Mac and the one, the only, Willie Nelson, all will hit stages in Phoenix this month. Looking back on this great year makes you take special notice of how lucky we are to live in a city where top-notch artists take the time to play for us, not to mention the local scene we have brewing that, according to many, is terribly underrated.

Each month I select songs for a monthly music mix. The process for this month's music mix was great fun, but difficult, as these artists have incredible catalogs and selecting one track is never easy. When the mixes are complete, they go on heavy rotation in the house, the car and the office through the entirety of the month. The songs I selected this month help spark anticipation, stirring intense excitement to see these artists live on stage. To prep for this month's picks, you may want to do the same. Break out your music collections or get on the Internet and get the music juices flowing.

X
SEE HOW WE ARE
(1987)

This is really a double bill seeing that the mighty X brings their buddies The Blasters along to open the gig. If you made it to last year's show, you know how amazing it was and there's no doubt this year will be as good, if not better. These two bands are true American classics and missing their visit is not advised.

X will perform on Sunday, December 7 at Crescent Ballroom, 308 N. 2nd Ave. in downtown Phoenix. Tickets are $36 and the show is 21 and older.

FLEETWOOD MAC
STORMS
(1979)

Fleetwood Mac's mid-70s to early '80s recorded output is nothing short of amazing. Perfect songs heavily drenched in love, hate and everything in between. This selection from the misunderstood double album Tusk showcases the class and craft of guitarist Lindsey Buckingham and the expressive beauty of vocalist Stevie Nicks.

Fleetwood Mac will perform on Wednesday, December 10 at U.S. Airways Arena, 201 E. Jefferson St. in downtown Phoenix. Tickets start at $44.75.

RYAN ADAMS
GIMME SOMETHING GOOD
(2014)

Ryan Adams has crafted a catalog that's exciting, diverse and loaded with the highest level of song craft that you could ask of a musician. He's got the goods and thankfully he likes to hang in his very own studio in Los Angeles and jam, record and hit the road. This show is an early Christmas present.

Ryan Adams will perform on Wednesday, December 10 at ASU Gammage Hall, 1200 S. Forest Ave. in Tempe. Tickets start at $30.

SPOON
I TURN MY CAMERA ON
(2005)

Spoon will surely have the crowd bopping their heads to their groovy goods. This track, an oldie but a goodie from the Austin, Texas band, should be a good indication of what you're in store for if you're adventurous enough to take an easy drive to the Marquee on a Monday.

Spoon performs on Monday, December 15 at the Marquee Theatre, 730 N. Mill Ave. in Tempe. Tickets are $28.

WILLIE NELSON AND FAMILY
TWILIGHT TIME
(2013)

I know, this is not technically a December show, but this is Willie Nelson and if you don't purchase early you'll blow the chance to see this legendary voice in a choice setting. What an exceptional stocking stuffer this ticket would make for the music lovers in your life.

Willie Nelson and Family will perform on Sunday, January 4 at the Celebrity Theatre, 440 N. 32nd St. in Phoenix. Tickets start at $60.

All acts are subject to change. Check with the venue prior to attending.

Festive films to inspire a very merry celebratory season

Julie *@ the Movies*

By Julie Demetros

The holidays are just around the corner – time for shopping sprees and preparations to begin! However, be sure to take a break once in a while and enjoy a good movie or two between all the chaos. Here are some of our picks that will keep everyone in the holiday spirit.

The Santa Clause (PG)

Another better-known Christmas film, The Santa Clause features Scott Calvin (Tim Allen), a divorced dad who accidentally scares Santa off the roof one Christmas night. When the legendary figure disappears after he hits the ground, Scott finds himself being forcefully recruited as the new Santa Claus, and told to take over the delivery of presents across the world each year. Though he resists his new responsibilities, they begin seeping into the rest of his life anyway and he is grudgingly dragged back to do his new, annual job whether he likes it or not. His young son, on the other hand, is thrilled that his father is the new Santa. However, Scott's ex-wife and her boyfriend are worried about what they believe are lies that Scott is feeding the impressionable kid. This movie is a good one for the whole family to watch, especially when accompanied with lots of hot chocolate.

The Hebrew Hammer (R)

If Christmas isn't really your cup of tea, but humor and Hanukkah is, then maybe The Hebrew Hammer is the right holiday movie for you. Doubling as the eponymous superhero, the Jewish stud Mordechai Jefferson Carver has to save Hanukkah from Santa Claus' evil son, Damian. When Damian has had enough of doing things his father's way, he takes over the role of Santa Claus and tries to do away with Hanukkah for good. The Hebrew Hammer and his allies, Esther Bloomenbergensteinenthal, and the head of the Kwanzaa Liberation Front, Mohammed Ali Paula Abdul Rahim, are ready to face the threat Damian poses and save Hanukkah.

Elf (PG)

This is probably one of the most well-known holiday films. In Elf, Will Ferrell plays a grown-up man-child. This is only distinguishable from his other movies by the fact that it's Christmas themed. One day in the North Pole, Buddy the elf learns that he isn't actually an elf but a human adopted and raised by one of Santa's elves. Distraught and full of a feeling of not belonging, Buddy sets off on a quest to find his biological father, Walter Hobbs.

Buddy travels to New York City, where his birth dad works and lives with his wife and son. However, Walter seems to prioritize work over everything else in his life, including Buddy, when the human-elf approaches claiming to be his long-lost son. However, Buddy is persistent and quickly makes friends with the rest of Walter's family and a nice lady working in a large department store in New York City.

Together, this patchwork group of people has to help save Santa and essentially all of Christmas by finding the holiday spirit within themselves.

The Nightmare Before Christmas (PG)

This animated film is perfect for the whole family to enjoy. In this world, each holiday has a corresponding town full of colorful characters who make their day possible. In Halloween Town, the Pumpkin King Jack Skellington decides this latest Halloween wasn't enough and it was time to try something new. On a walk through the woods he discovers the door to Christmas Town, and finds the joyous place of snow, lights and music to be just what he needed. So he convinces the citizens of his beloved town to help him create a Christmas of their own this year to give the world instead of their usual one. However, things don't go according to Jack's plan and he finds the world isn't as appreciative of his hard work as he expected. Full of fun and music, one of the best parts of this movie is that it can be watched in both October and December for two different holidays.

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Writer takes time in France to tour culinary destinations

Book *Club*

BOOK OF THE MONTH

Mastering the Art of French Eating

BY ANN MAH

By Amanda Goossen

On December 18, the *Arcadia News* Book Club will have the honor of an evening with author, Ann Mah. At 6:30 p.m. the book club will gather at the Saguaro Library to discuss *Mastering the Art of French Eating*. We will talk with Mah for 30 minutes via Skype and enjoy refreshments as well as a $5 raffle for books and gift certificates to local restaurants. If you'd like to join us, email amanda@arcadianews.com.

Recently, *Arcadia News* had the chance to talk with Mah about her book. *Mastering the Art of French Eating* is rich with history, intricate food knowledge and abundant detail. As Mah embarked on her dream journey, she not only experienced a taste of France's cheese and wine, she indulged in the culture and learned about her own strength and character.

Ann Mah

AN: What were you the most excited about when you got the news that you'd be moving to France?

AM: I have always been fascinated by the connection between food, and place, and history in France. I was excited to discover, firsthand, this sense of continuity, the way a recipe grows from the land, takes root, and is cooked and eaten in that same spot for hundreds of years.

AN: A journalist by trade, did you always expect to write a book?

AM: I always dreamed of writing a book – a dream so precious, I was almost afraid to voice it! After working in book publishing for many years, I understood the difficulty and enormity of the task.

AN: What is the most memorable meal you had while embarking on your culinary tour?

AM: Some of my fondest memories are from my trip to Brittany, a region I loved as much for its buttery buckwheat galettes, as the warm welcome I received there. Being invited into people's homes, cooking homemade crêpes, listening to their childhood stories – these were experiences that touched me very deeply.

AN: Who was the most entertaining character you came across through your travels?

AM: If food can be considered a character, I'd say andouillette, or tripe sausage, from a city called Troyes. It has a very pungent odor and is very divisive – even French people either really love it or really hate it. It's not for the faint of heart!

AN: Just as Julia Child did, you turned your time in France into a culinary experience. How do you feel about being compared to or mentioned alongside with Julia?

AM: I think those of us who love Julia are touched by her story for different reasons, whether you're a late bloomer, kitchen unconfident, or professionally unsatisfied. For me, I was – and am – inspired by the graceful manner with which she faced the challenges of life as a trailing spouse. I look at the loving teamwork of her marriage with Paul Child – unwavering despite personal and professional disappointments, and untimely overseas relocations – the success that bloomed from hard work and sheer will, despite the upheavals of diplomatic life. And I feel hopeful.

AN: What is your all-time favorite meal to cook?

AM: I love making slow-braised dishes like boeuf bourguignon or blanquette de veau – something that you can look forward to all day.

AN: You are setting the holiday table. Who from the past or present would you invite to dinner and why?

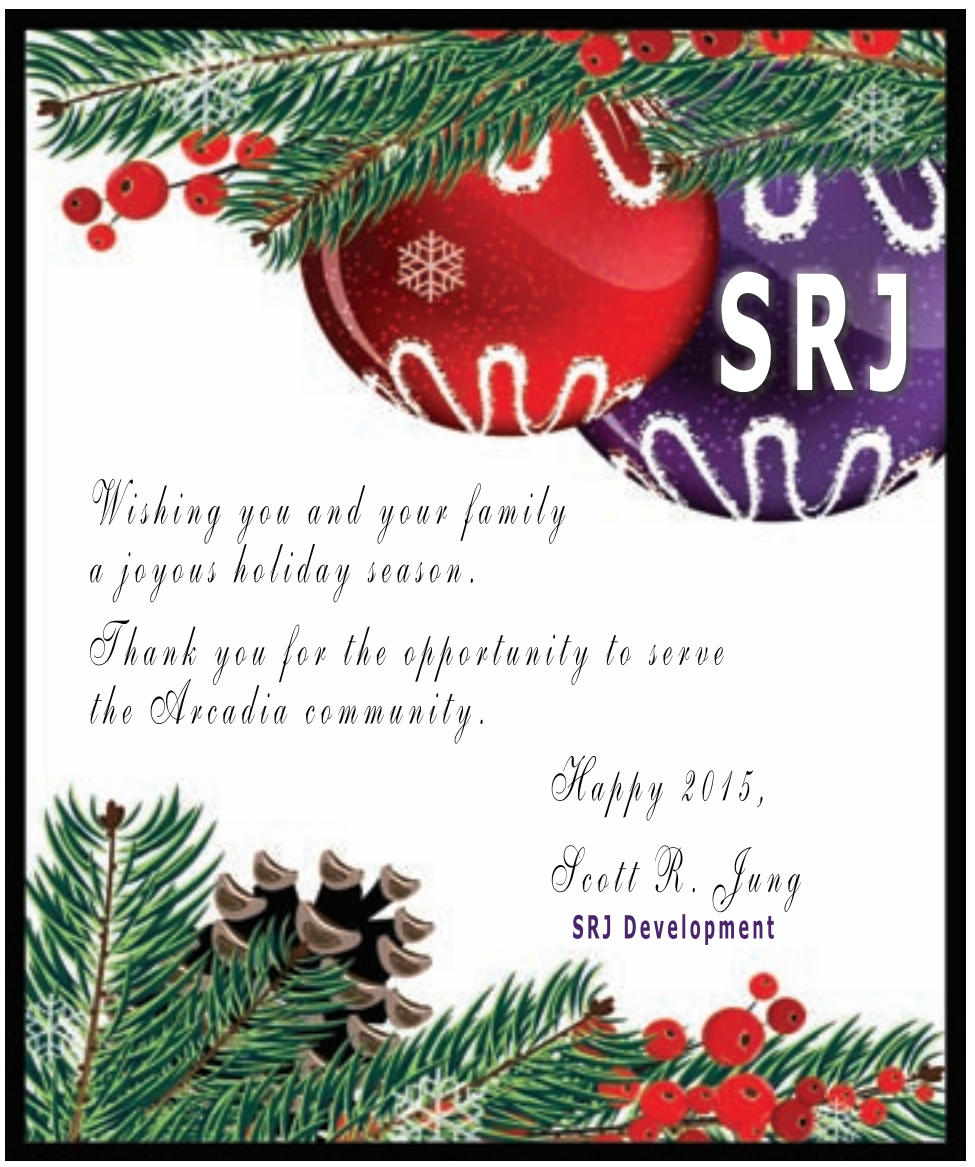
AM: Aside from Julia Child? I would love to see Nancy Mitford and Oscar Wilde wield a battle of wits with one another.

AN: Your three favorite things about France?

AM: Along with the connection between cuisine, place and culture that I mentioned above, I'd say, appreciation of beauty. And local pride. I was touched by the warm welcome I received in the provinces, not to mention the enthusiasm for introducing me to local history and products.

AN: The one food you cannot live without?

AM: Cheese.



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Arcadia's football team spends afternoon with SARRC

By Nicholas Smith
Photo by NTK Photography

On Saturday, October 25, the Arcadia High School football team missed tackles, got blocked to the ground, and had multiple touchdowns and field goals scored against them. That might not be the type of performance a football team usually hopes for, but for the Titans, it may have been the high point of the season.

That Saturday marked the school's very first Football Camp for Kids and Teens with Autism. Taking place from 10 a.m. to noon, the day was a chance for children with autism and their families to come live the life of a football star. The school partnered with the Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center (SARRC) for the event.

"It's such a success," said Jeri Kendle, former President of SARRC. "Seeing everyone cheering for our kids with autism has really been such a wonderful thing."

The event took place on the school practice fields and was hosted by head coach Lenny Abt, his coaching staff, and the entire football team. The players were placed at different stations, where kids were given the opportunity to learn and act out a certain skill. They kicked field goals, ran drills, blocked players, ran for touchdowns through a defense and got to play quarterback in the red zone.

"One of the things we do with our community works program is to create awareness in our community," said Kendle.

"We also want to give our kids with autism different opportunities to experience things that they may not have had an opportunity to experience in their home schools."

Parents and siblings cheered on the sideline as the kids starred on the field. Jesse Inzunza came with his 16-year-old son Ricardo, and knew exactly what event his son would love the most.

"He plays soccer, so he's going to like kicking the ball," he said. "He's very excited to come out, enjoy, play and just be together with the rest of the kids."

The players got in on the fun as well. They fell to the ground as the children rushed by them for touchdowns and cheered as passes were hurled into the end zone. At the field goal station, a group of players stood under the goal post. When a ball wasn't kicked high enough and rolled toward them, they would wait for it to bounce, knock it through the uprights with their hands, and then loudly cheer for the kicker. When one boy knocked a ball through the posts as if he was a real kicker on the team, the players ran toward him to high five and pat him on the back.

"For those high school students to be able to really see what autism is – and to dispel any of the myths of what autism is about – is such a great thing," said Kendle. "We want those kids to be able to take what they learn about autism and take it to school with them on Monday, and as they move on with their lives."

Both Coach Abt and Kendle said they hope the camp becomes an annual event.

Basketball coach at Arcadia becomes favorite among all

By Nicholas Smith

While running out to grab lunch, Stephen Danford laughed when he thought about the journey he took to get where he is today. He didn't exactly take the conventional route to becoming a high school basketball coach.

"I've always been involved in basketball in some way or another," said Danford. "But it wasn't exactly a normal path to get here."

Danford, 49, is entering his third year as the head coach for the Arcadia High School basketball team. He began playing the sport as a child because he loved the pace, and because it was the only sport with which he didn't seem to have a problem.

"Baseball was way too slow for me," he said. "And with football I just didn't want to be hit. So basketball ended up being a fit."

He attended college at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, Oregon. At the school he played under Rick Adelman, who would go on to be a head coach for two NBA finalists. After transferring to and graduating from Linfield College, Danford went pro – as a banker.

"I went into banking because I got offered a job by someone I knew," said Danford. "I was able to make pretty good money and provide for my family. But I always stayed involved in basketball."

Arcadia High School basketball team.

Danford went into coaching during his spare time, leading YMCA and recreational league teams, as well as becoming an assistant coach for Arcadia from 2007-2010. Basketball seemed to be an itch he couldn't scratch, and it may have been a genetic itch at that.

"I have uncles that have coached, [and] other family members," he said. "It really was a family thing. My parents used to tease me and ask when I was going to do what I was meant to do and start teaching and coaching full time?"

After going back to school and graduating from Grand Canyon University, he returned to Arcadia as a student teacher in the fall of 2011. One year later, he was named the head coach of the basketball team. Although he states that he wants to win a state championship, Danford has far loftier goals for his players.

"It's much more important to me that a kid graduates from high school than plays basketball at the next level," he said. "Getting good grades and being a contributor in the community has always been what I want the most from my players."

Danford holds his players to a higher GPA accountability than the district does and insists that his players meet for on-campus tutoring at least two to three times a week.

"Coach always stays on top of me because of my grades," said Patrick Stafford, senior point guard. "He's always in constant communication with our teachers and it helps. I'd like to play basketball in college now."

Patrick's mother, Heather, praised Danford as someone who fits into the community and makes it better. She also says he's the most approachable coach she has ever encountered as a parent.

"You can completely see that he cares about the players, whether they're a star or the man on the bench," she said. "He wants to have a relationship with his players' families too. Maybe him being a teacher himself is what makes him so good at what he does."

Danford is a special education teacher at Arcadia. His major in college dealt with therapeutic care for the mentally ill, and he says that he wouldn't want to be teaching in any other classroom.

"Seeing the light bulb turn on, a kid being able to do a math problem, live on his or her own, or even feed themselves," he said. "It's wonderful to be a part of that because they'll never forget you helping them to get there and you'll never forget it either. That sounds cliché, but it's the absolute truth."

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No fear under big pressure

By Nicholas Smith

Connor Earnest (left) and Matt Anderson

The night before the biggest moment of his swimming career, Connor Earnest is relaxed. One might expect a senior in high school to have some real nerves before the state meet, but Connor isn't scared. In fact, he's thrilled.

"I'm just really excited that I get to go," Earnest said. "I wanted to make it to state in the 50 freestyle. That was my goal all year. But I made it in the 50, and also in the 200 [freestyle] relay and the 400 [freestyle] relay. So this is beyond what I've ever hoped for."

Earnest had an interesting path to the state meet. He began competitive swimming at an early age, as many successful high school swimmers do. But instead of continuing to swim through high school, he quit before his freshman year.

"I was honestly burned out," he said. "You have swimming practice twice a day and I wanted to try some other sports like football and baseball."

After two years free of swimming, Earnest had some friends who were going to be on the swim team his junior year. He wasn't enjoying the other sports as much and knew that his years of swimming experience would make it easier for him to jump back in the pool.

"I love being on the team with my friends," he said. "What I love about swimming is that when you're in the pool, you're not really [in] competition with anyone else. You're competing against the clock."

Earnest notes how proud he is of how the team has performed this season. Arcadia is a Division I school and they will compete against some of the biggest and most talented schools in the state. But according to Earnest, they've held their own.

"We've done really well this season," he said. "The girls' team has done really well and I think the boys' relay in particular has been insanely good."

Arcadia's swimming team is a mix of lifelong swimmers and those who have picked up the sport recently. As someone who has been in the pool since an early age, Earnest takes time to help those on the team who are new to swimming.

"We've got a real mix of different personalities on our team," he said. "But everyone works together really well and we all help each other out."

Earnest is considering swimming in college as well. He plans to major in engineering and is hopeful he will find a school that can mesh his educational future with a swim team.

Tips for the perfect set up

By Tina Tombs

Golf *Tips*

Happy holidays!

This month's tip is guaranteed to make you better.

Today's tip is about set up. Your set up can often be either a huge confidence builder or a source of extreme frustration.

Let's focus on basic tips that will help you improve your set up on the golf course, as well as your performance on the tee box, so you can have a great round of golf.

Set up consists of posture, grip, stance, ball position, aim and alignment.

Good players never lose their golf swing! They lose their set up!

Lets start with posture.

Find your posture by placing your hands on top of your thighs. Bend forward from your hips and lower yourself, softly flexing the knees until your hands touch the tops of your knees. Once you have that, you have achieved perfect athletic posture.

Posture guarantees balance throughout the golf swing and the plane on which the golf club will swing.

While standing with your established posture, let's find your grip.

How your left arm hangs is how you'll place your left hand on the club. The right hand covers the left thumb and then wraps around the grip so that they marry each other.

Now we'll find your stance. The stance width is a position that you would have in a standing vertical jump. If the stance is too wide you will negate your power source. You want to have a stance somewhere between hip width and shoulder width. In this position, you will jump straight up and where you land will give you your most athletic stance width.

Ball position will affect aim and alignment. Aim is the clubface and its relationship to the target. Alignment is your upper body to the target line. We want our ball position in line with the left side of our face. If the ball position is correct, when we set the club down and raise it to waist high, it points straight ahead. If you raise the club to waist high and it points to the left, ball position is too far forward. With the ball position forward, my shoulders tend to open, causing an out-to-in swing. Check if the ball is too far back in your stance by raising the club to waist high. Ball position is too far back if the club points to the right. This tends to cause my shoulders to close and create an in-to-out swing.

When the ball position is correct it will take care of your aim and alignment.

Now that you have successfully completed your set up, you should expect to hit a better golf shot and improve your round of golf!

Tina was just selected as The LPGA 2014 Central Section Teacher of the Year and LPGA 2014 National Teacher of the Year. You can contact her at tina@tinatombsgolf.com.

Alana, age 6

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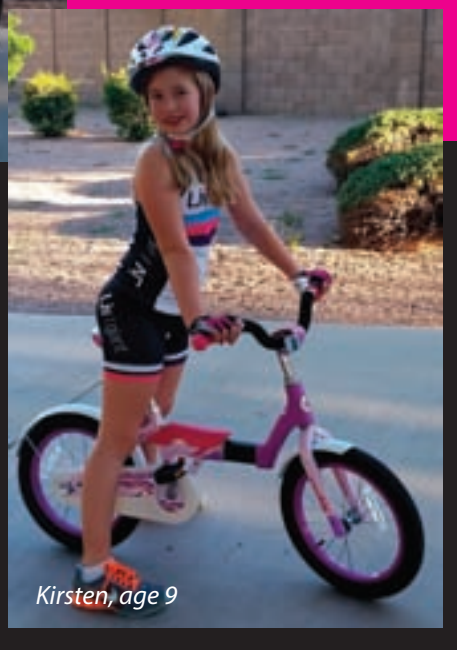
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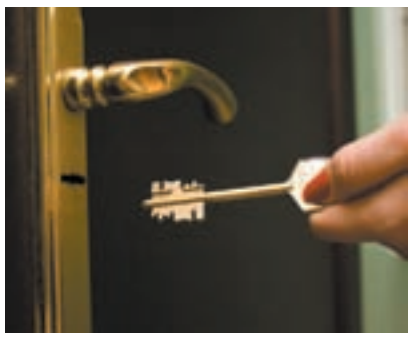

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See you in 2015!

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but this change is great!

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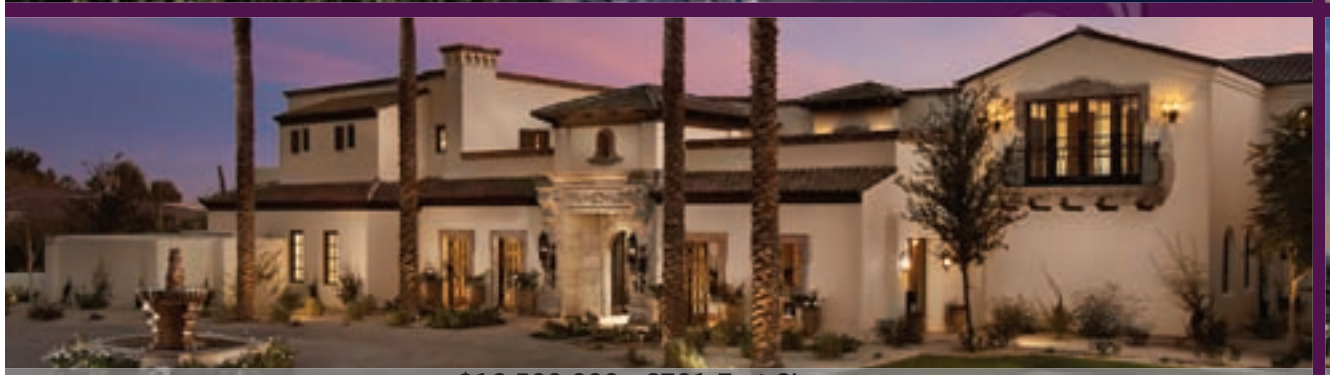
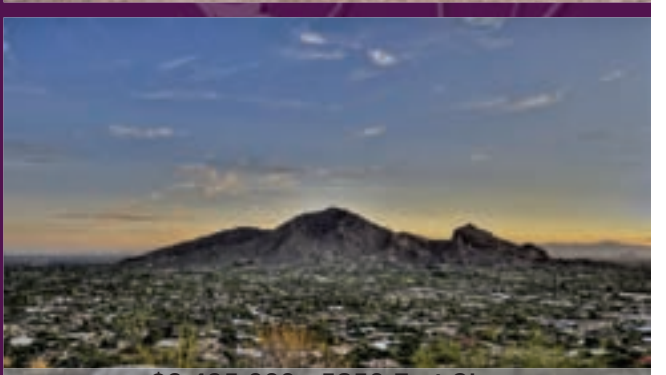
Arcadia's Premier Real Estate Source

$25,000,000 8055 North Mummy Mountain
7 bedrooms, 12 bathrooms, 25,416 square feet

CALL FOR PRICING • 4426 North Los Vecinos
6 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms, 8,093 square feet



$16,500,000 6721 East Cheney
11 bedrooms, 13 bathrooms, 22,215 square feet



$2,495,000 5850 East Glen
Spectacular View Lot

$2,449,000 4609 North Borgatello Lane
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 6,599 square feet

THE JOFFE GROUP
602.989.8300
robert@thejoffegroup.com
TheJoffeGroup.com

Robert Joffe

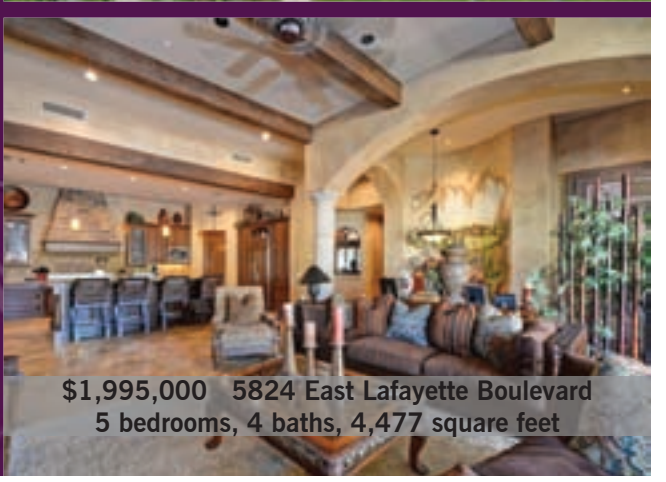
CALL FOR PRICING • 6004 North 51st Place
6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 6,792 square feet

$1,250,000 4431 North Arcadia Drive
5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 5,176 square feet

$3,595,000 8403 North 75th Street
5 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms, 8,524 square feet

CALL FOR PRICING • 4601 North Royal Palm
5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, 6,448 square feet

$2,750,000 6449 East Gainsborough Road
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 6,115 square feet



$1,995,000 5824 East Lafayette Boulevard
5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 4,477 square feet