Arcadia News

Vol. 23 No. 9 | AWARD WINNING NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS SINCE 1993 | December 2015

ARCADIANEWS.COM / ARCADIAHO.ME

Happy Holidays from all of us at *Arcadia News* (and Patrick and Zack Cheke).

PAGE 20

Camelback High students create a drive to replenish the food bank and curb local hunger.

PAGE 29

This Hanukkah prepare a three-course feast inspired by the Festival of Lights.

PAGE 55

Author, advocate and activist Linda Hirshman to attend Book Club on December 10.

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ARCADIA NEWS
AWARD WINNING NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS SINCE 1993

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Current monthly circulation: 20,000.
Primary distribution by U.S. Postal Service.

Verifiable proof provided upon request via USPS and printing receipts, along with checkable references.

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Completed in 1933, the Old Adobe Mission in Scottsdale was recently recognized by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

60 20 years at Arcadia High
Georgia French, the heart and soul of Arcadia's athletic department retires this month after two decades of service.

COVER IMAGE:
This photo from the Cheke's family Christmas card was submitted by Rose Cheke.

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My kids never fail to amaze me

EDITOR'S NOTES

By Amanda Goossen

It was time for bed for my almost 8-year-old boy. We were giddy about our bedtime story.

If you've read your child a book by David Meltzer, you understand.

In his historical figures series, each book presents a different historical figure, with adorable, comical illustrations that look like the person, yet as a child. The facts are told so a child can understand.

Sunday night had been all about Albert Einstein and now my son was eager to learn about Abraham Lincoln.

Reading hasn't come easy for my kiddo. For a perfectionist child, it's been a difficult, frustrating task. With a lot of fantastic help from our school and local tutors, we've come a long way.

Hearing my boy read this particular book out loud brought tears to my eyes.

"I am Abraham Lincoln," my boy read with pride. "I'm going to be on the penny."

We learned, we laughed (because Meltzer is a genius at writing with humor, with even the most difficult topics), and we asked and answered a lot of questions.

When we finished, I closed the book in a hurry, kissing him goodnight and trying to hurry on with the nighttime routine. It had been a long day.

But then something happened that took my breath away. Five words stopped me in my tracks.

"Mom, I love Abraham Lincoln."

"Why?" I asked my boy. The book was great, but his words seemed to hold a lot of emotion about the 16th president of the United States.

"Because he spoke up for what was right… and he wasn't afraid."

What do you even say to that?

Bedtime was delayed. We laid in his bright red car bed and spoke about what it meant to do what's right, even at the hardest moments. We discussed how America could be different without such a special person to lead us in a new direction.

I spent the next 30 minutes discussing social, political and religious topics with my boy. And it was one of the most eye-opening and truly beautiful moments I've ever experienced in my life.

It's not always easy to do what's right. It's not always easy to step out of social norms and make a difference, but today, it seems, we need it more than ever before. As you'll read in many of this month's stories, our little neighborhood seems to understand.

Happy holidays Arcadia! And thank you for reading the *Arcadia News*.

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With the market hitting new highs, now is a good time to have a financial professional evaluate your portfolio to help you avoid overpriced assets and minimize losses in down markets.

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Personal liability for nonprofit board members

LEGAL *EASE*

By Matthew H. Mason

If you serve on a school, church or other nonprofit board, a recent federal court case should grab your attention. The U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that officers and board members of a nonprofit were personally liable for $2,250,000 of a nonprofit's debt. The nonprofit featured in the case was a retirement home that served the community for over 100 years. Despite its long service, by 2003, the facility was cited for numerous deficiencies and its liabilities exceeded assets by $1.9 million. In 2004, two residents died under circumstances suggesting neglect. The administrator went on part-time status, but continued to receive full-time compensation. Board members quit attending meetings, and decided to stop accepting new residents. In January 2005, the board voted to close the facility and filed for bankruptcy.

Creditors sued the directors and officers for breach of fiduciary duty, breach of loyalty, breach of duty of care, and causing deepening insolvency. The Court of Appeals affirmed a $2,250,000 liability verdict against the officers and directors, and an additional $1,750,000 in punitive damages against the officers. The court's opinion suggests that the errors of the directors and officers were prolonged and egregious. The directors' personal liability and punitive damages against the officers were awarded because they breached important duties and caused deepening insolvency. What could the officers and directors have done to protect themselves?

Breach of fiduciary duty – The board members failed to put the interests of the nonprofit before all other interests. For example, board members and officers should not vote on their own compensation.

Breach of duty of loyalty – The board failed to conduct regular meetings, failed to appoint a treasurer and failed to supervise the nonprofit's finances. A board must conduct meetings and keep minutes documenting its decisions, or its members could become liable for acting outside of their corporate authority.

Breach of duty of care – Officers and directors should exercise the same standard of care as similarly situated business people in reliance upon experts and good business judgment. (They are not personally liable for a poor outcome or liability arising from decisions based on good business judgment.) Board members must evaluate critical staff as frequently as would a prudent business person in the same or similar circumstance.

Cause deepening insolvency – The tort of deepening insolvency is not common to every state. This claim allows a nonprofit's creditors to hold the board liable for insolvency. The board has an obligation to preserve a nonprofit's assets and maximize returns. If a board ignores its obligation and allows the assets to deteriorate, then the nonprofit's creditors may be successful in holding the board personally liable.

If you serve on a board, some questions to ask include: Does your board hold regular meetings and keep minutes? Does your board use professional advisors? Does your board regularly evaluate key personnel and staff? Does your board monitor operations and regularly review financial and operating reports?

If you answered yes to these questions, you are in good shape. Otherwise, you should consider seeking legal advice.

— Matthew H. Mason is an associate attorney with Gallagher & Kennedy.

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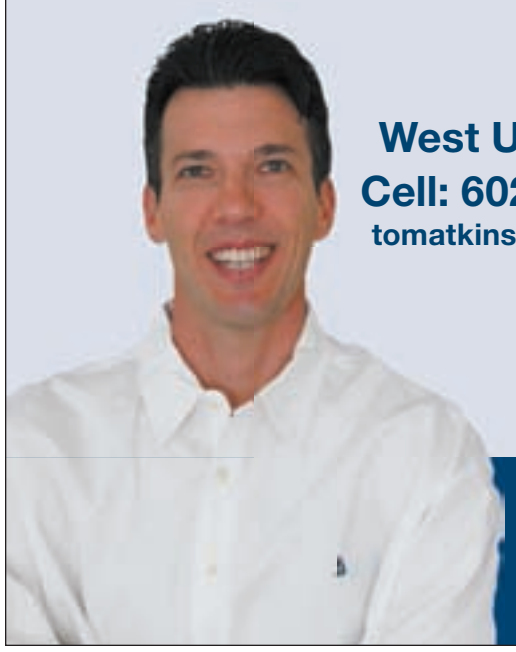

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Arcadia Real **Estate** Stats

2015 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS
(1/1/2015-10/31/2015)

Active Homes -	152 homes
Homes Sold -	258 homes
Average Sale Price -	$968,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$298
Average Days On Market -	107 days

There is currently 8 months of home inventory. (based on 2014 sales results)
2015 home sales have increased 27% this year. (based on 2014 sales results)
Home prices have increased 4% this year. (based on 2014 sales results)
$ Per Square Foot prices have increased 4% this year. (based on 2014 sales results)
Homes are taking equal time to sell this year. (based on 2014 sales results)

2014 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT YEAR END SALES RESULTS

Homes Sold -	225 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$1,006,381
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$286
Average Days On Market -	119 Days

2013 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT YEAR END SALES RESULTS

Homes Sold -	305 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$854,430
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

2015 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS
(1/1/2015-10/31/2015)

Active Homes -	77 Homes
Homes Sold -	182 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$479,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$225
Average Days On Market -	111 days

There is currently 5 months of home inventory. (based on 2014 sales results)
2015 home sales have increased 1% this year. (based on 2014 sales results)
Home prices have increased 6% this year. (based on 2014 sales results)
$ Per Square Foot prices have increased 8% this year. (based on 2014 sales results)
Homes are taking 30% more time to this year. (based on 2014 sales results)

2014 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT YEAR END SALES RESULTS

Homes Sold -	199 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$451,117
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$208
Average Days On Market -	78 Days

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

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(Preschool – Grade 8)
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SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS
· 2010 National Blue Ribbon School
· 100% acceptance rate to Catholic High School
· National Junior Honor Society
· ITBS Scores above national average
· Computer lab, ChromeBooks & Ipads
· Accelerated Reading Program
· Competitive sports 5th – 8th
· All school performances
· Physical ed, music, foreign language, library, art & computers
· Vibrant Christ-centered community
· Financial aid and scholarships available

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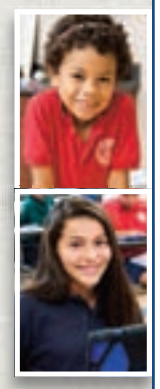
· Faith formation
· Language & literacy
· Mathematics & music
· Social studies & science
· Personal & social development
· Creative art experiences
· Physical education
· Visiting school library
· Full and part-time schedules
· Extended care before/after school



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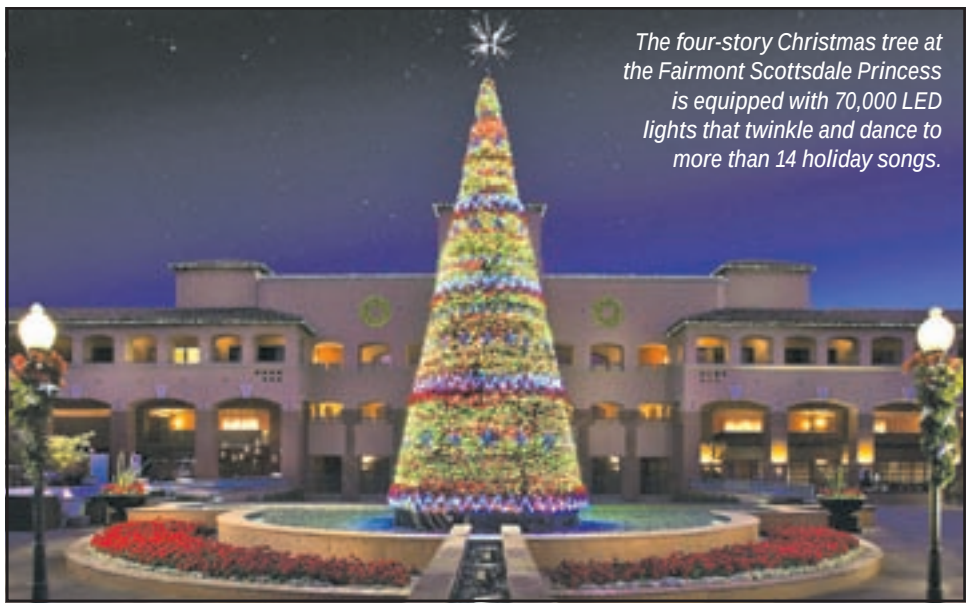


The four-story Christmas tree at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess is equipped with 70,000 LED lights that twinkle and dance to more than 14 holiday songs.

Christmas at the Princess

By Michelle Donati-Grayman

Experience rink-side snowfalls each night at the resort's 6,000-square-foot ice skating rink.

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

This month, holiday festivities abound across the Valley, but one celebration sparkles brighter than the rest.

The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess started its Christmas at the Princess festival in 2010. Over the years, the property has added features that transform the resort into an enchanting winter wonderland where families create holiday traditions and lasting memories.

Festivities began on November 19 with the property's annual tree-lighting ceremony. In addition to lighting the four-story Christmas tree, the ceremony also marks the opening of the resort's ice skating rink, where skaters experience magical rink-side snowfalls each night.

New to the AAA Five Diamond resort's festival this year are evening character appearances from North Pole visitors including Christmas Princess Noel, Peppermint the Penguin and Selfie Elfie. The property also has added a petting zoo, featuring sheep, goats, chickens, ducks and an alpaca. Near the petting zoo is S'mores Land, another new feature that includes a Christmas campfire area with seven fire pits and a Christmas carousel. The resort will also host a breakfast with Santa and friends on December 19 in the Princess Ballroom.

Guests can also enjoy features from years past, including:

Lagoon Lights

Enjoy viewing more than 2.8 million LED lights as you ride the Princess Express Train through the resort's lagoons. Displays include a candy cane forest, a fishing Santa, Nessie the Loch Ness Monster, a 3-D whale, and a 17-foot-long infinity tunnel.

Musical Tree and Menorah Lighting

During the day, the resort's stunning Christmas tree is decorated with glistening snowflakes and a five-foot snowflake tree topper. At night, the tree's 70,000 LED lights twinkle and dance to more than a dozen holiday songs. Nightly menorah lighting with latkes and applesauce takes place in the resort lobby through Hanukkah.

Nativity Garden Light Show

During the holidays, the resort's Fragrance Garden becomes the Nativity Garden, featuring a 10-minute program with a narrated light and music show.

Photos with Santa in Santa's Workshop

Visit Santa's Workshop to have photos taken with Kris Kringle himself at La Hacienda Plaza. Photos are $10 and are available for immediate pickup.

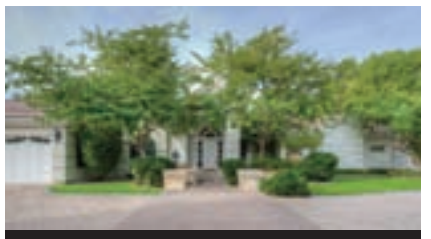
Rink Side Fire Pit Rentals

Desert Ice Skating Rink features luxury rink-side fire pit table rentals complete with s'mores, cocktails, hot cocoa and blankets.

The festival runs through January 3. Events and activities are open to the public. Light shows, the petting zoo, rides on the Princess Express Train and the Christmas Carousel are complimentary.

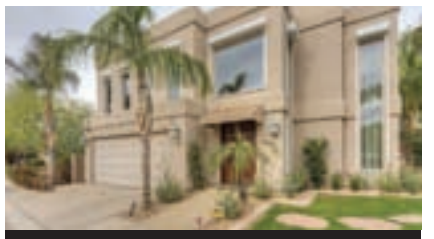
The entrance fee and parking for non-hotel guests is $30 for self-parking or $40 for valet after 4 p.m. Valet and admission are complimentary when dining at any of the resort restaurants with a $75 spend. Many nights throughout the festival are Value Nights with half off the self-parking and entrance fee. For a specific list of dates or more information on the festival, visit scottsdaleprincess.com.

Notable Sales of 2015



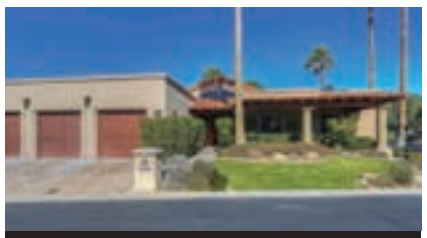
48 Biltmore Estates

$1,950,000



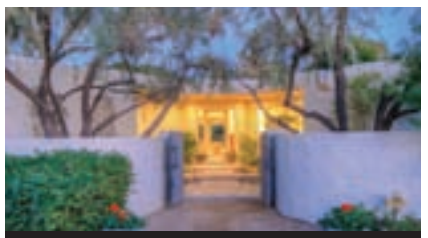
3058 E Claremont Ave

$1,350,000



2422 E Montebello Ave

$1,175,000

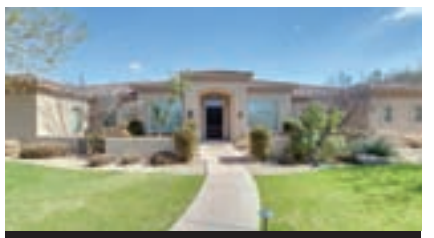


5531 N 25th Street

$1,050,000

2520 E San Miguel Ave

$1,050,000



6392 E Paradise Dr

$992,000

5748 E Orange Blossom

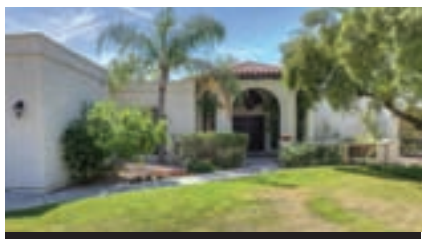
$975,000

3043 E Marshall Ave

$850,000

8 Biltmore Est #213

$830,000

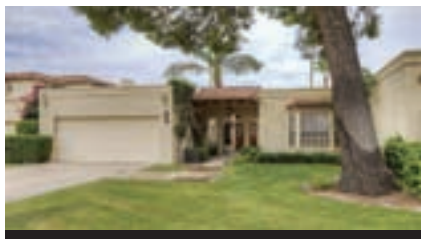


2409 E Solano Dr

$810,000

3326 E Medlock Dr

$770,000

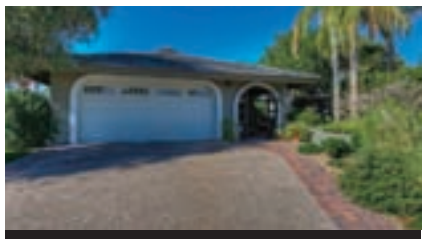


5234 N 31st Pl

$765,000

3064 E Stella Ln

$763,900



2402 E Montebello Ave

$742,000

4221 E Patricia Jane Dr

$721,000

2402 E San Miguel Ave

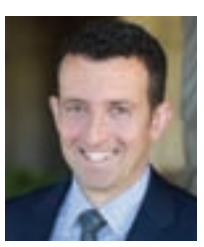
$670,000

4544 E Calle Tuberia

$650,000

3243 E Glenrosa Ave

$610,000



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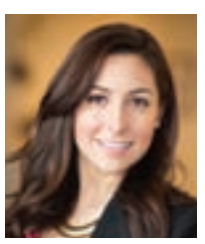

Mariana Martin-Muller

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WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

FRIDAY DECEMBER 4

Wonderland Market

10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Dec. 4-6, at Westworld Scottsdale, 16601 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale. One-stop holiday gift shopping is what this market is all about. Guests can find gifts for everyone on their list at the Wonderland Market. Vendors from all over the country will be there showcasing jewelry, clothing, art, toys and more. There will be festive live music, as well as a gift-wrapping station. One day tickets are $15 and parking is $5. For more information, call 480-237-9954 or visit www.wonderlandmarket.com.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5

Tavan Twinkles

4-8 p.m., at Tavan Elementary School, 4610 E. Osborn Road, Phoenix. This year the Tavan Elementary School's PTO will be hosting it's first annual Holiday Festival featuring performances by CMAS of Arcadia High, Bricks Dance Studio, Grid Iron Cheerleaders, Paula Carr Dance Studio & more. In addition to food trucks, train rides, snow, human hamster ball races, bounce houses, craft centers, pictures with Santa, a movie on the lawn & various vendors . For more information email president@tavanpto.com.

Holiday Pet Festival

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Westworld Scottsdale, 16601 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale. This festival is the pet lover's holiday dream. Westworld's sixth annual holiday pet festival includes shopping, interactive activities, demonstrations, contests and more. There will also be on-stage entertainment as well as hundreds of pets ready for adoption. Pets are welcome. This event is free. For more information, call 480-406-7301 or visit holidaypetfestival.com.

Holiday Pet Festival

Scottsdale Chocolate Tour

SUNDAY DECEMBER 6

A Very Electric Christmas

2 p.m., at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, 7380 E. Second St., Scottsdale. New Orleans' Lightwire Theater brings its art to the stages of Scottsdale for this amazing holiday performance. Using electroluminescent artistry, the performance centers on a bird named Max and his unforgettable trip back home. Tickets range from $25 to $50 and the show is for all ages. For more information, call 480-499-8587 or visit scottsdaleperformingarts.org.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 8

Winter Wonderland

6:30-8:30 p.m., at Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix. The Phoenix Boys Choir is back again to serenade its audience with everyone's holiday favorites. We Three Kings, Silent Night and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer are just a few examples of the songs the PBC will sing. The concert hall is open seating and this is an all-ages event. Tickets are $25 for adults and $12 for children. For more information, call 480-481-8188 or visit dbg.org.

FRIDAY DECEMBER 11

Scottsdale Chocolate Tour

3 p.m., starting at Gloria's Café, 7045 E. Third Ave., Scottsdale. Chocolate lovers unite for a chocolate tour that will begin at Gloria's Cafe and walk through downtown Scottsdale. Attendees will stop at eight different shops and sample a variety of chocolate treats. The walk is around 2 1/2 hours. Admission for this event is $45. For more information, visit chocolatetourofscottsdale.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

SATURDAY DECEMBER 12

12Ks of Christmas

7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Gilbert Freestone District Park, 1045 E. Juniper Road, Gilbert. Not only is this local event fun for the family, but also for four-legged friends! This all-ages event features a Christmas market, Christmas caroling and activities for the kids. It is also the biggest pet adoption event of the season. Twenty animal rescue groups will be on site. Attendees can also participate in the 12K, 6K or 1.2K, with contests for best-dressed and cutest pets. A portion of the proceeds supports Maricopa County Animal Care and Control. For more information, call 480-609-3978 or visit 12krun.com.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 13

World's Best Sand Sculpting Championship

12-8 p.m., at Salt River Fields, 7555 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale. Take a break from holiday shopping and watch as 10 sculpting artists gather to win the $19,000 prize. The artists will build their sculptures and guests will be able to vote for their favorite. Along with the competition, there will be sand castle building lessons, music and food vendors, and people can get their picture taken with Santa. Admission is $12. For more information, call 480-270-5000 or visit srfsandcastlefest.com.

12Ks of Christmas

World's Best Sand Sculpting Championship

THURSDAY DECEMBER 17

Phoestivus Open Air Market

5-10 p.m., at Phoenix Public Market, 721 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. Phoenix Public Market hosts its sixth annual Phoestivus, a holiday market for the local gift lover. This downtown Phoenix market features locally grown goods and produce, unique gifts, a beer garden and food trucks to satisfy any attendee. This event is free to the public. For more information, call 602-265-6736 or visit phxpublicmarket.com.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 19

Zombie Paintball War

7-11 p.m., at Gila River Fire Station, 5002 S. Maricopa Road, Chandler. Forget all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and fight off the zombie apocalypse. The actual attraction takes place at Rawhide, where attendees will be placed on a zombie assault vehicle and armed with a paintball gun to fend off the zombies. This event is recommended for teens and adults. Tickets are around $30. For more information, call 480-502-5600 or visit zombiewarzaz.com.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 20

Gingerbread Cooking Class

12-2 p.m., at The Hermosa Inn, 5532 N. Palo Christi Road, Paradise Valley. Students join the chef from Lon's at Hermosa to build their own gingerbread house. An opportunity to be creative and start a tradition among family and friends, the class is sure to lift everyone's holiday spirit. Admission is $69 per house. Snacks and drinks will be provided. For more information, call 602-955-7878 or visit hermosainn.com.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 26

After Holidays Market

12-9 p.m., at Scottsdale Waterfront, 7134 E. Stetson Drive, Scottsdale. Time to take a breather after the holiday ruckus and enjoy the waterfront views of Old Town Scottsdale. This free event will feature live local music, activities for the kids and shopping for locally made gifts. Situated in the heart of Old Town, the Artisan Market is the perfect local getaway to start the new year off right. For more information, call 602-687-7495 or visit artisanmarketsaz.com.

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KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION MEETING – 7:00PM

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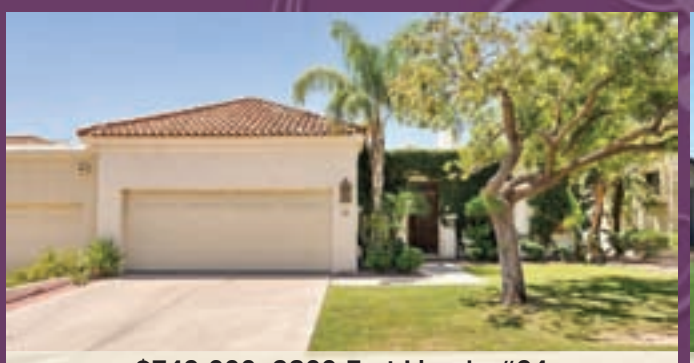
JUST SOLD

$699,000 4439 East Devonshire
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,934 square feet



$749,000 3800 East Lincoln #24
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 4,744 square feet

$390,000 4313 East Turney Avenue
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,479 square feet

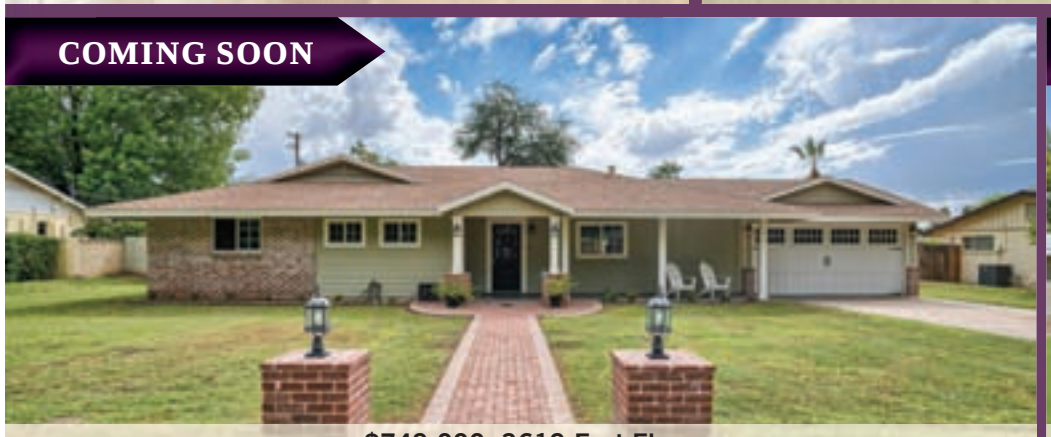
$875,000 3804 East Camelback
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 4,809 square feet

NEW LISTING

$850,000 4145 East Wilshire
5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,686 square feet

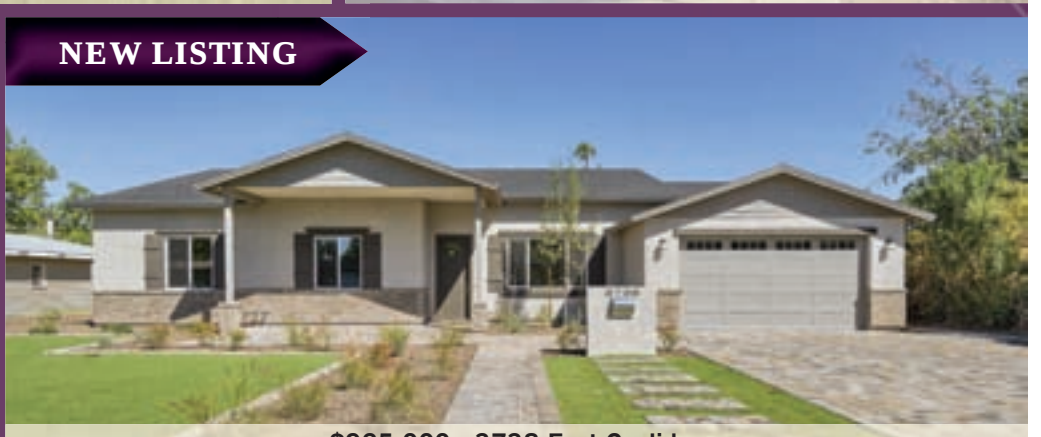
$395,000 8100 E Camelback #157
2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,833 square feet

COMING SOON

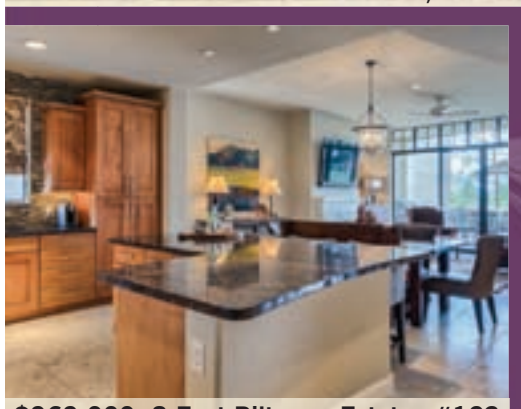


$749,000 3619 East Elm
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,100 square feet

NEW LISTING



$925,000 3738 East Coolidge
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2,998 square feet



$969,000 8 East Biltmore Estates #123
2 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,042 square feet

JUST SOLD

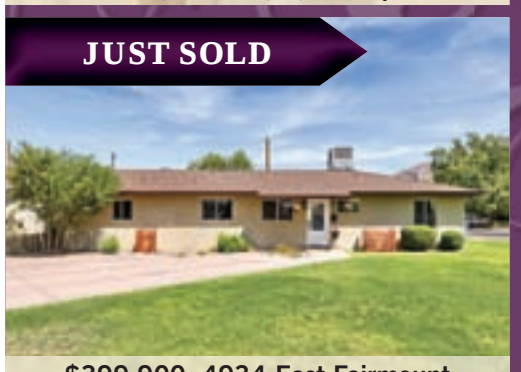
$714,900 3934 East Roma
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 2,846 square feet

$795,000 4449 North 53rd Street
6 bedrooms, 5 baths, 3,800 square feet

NEW LISTING

$539,000 3452 North 47th Street
4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,216 square feet

JUST SOLD



$399,900 4934 East Fairmount
4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,686 square feet

SALE PENDING

$449,000 5023 North 38th Place
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,043 square feet

SALE PENDING

$775,000 5301 North 46th Street
Camelback Canyon Lot

$549,900 4501 North 35th Street
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,957 square feet

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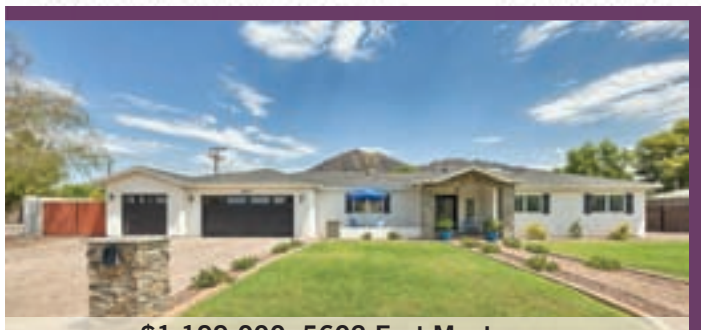
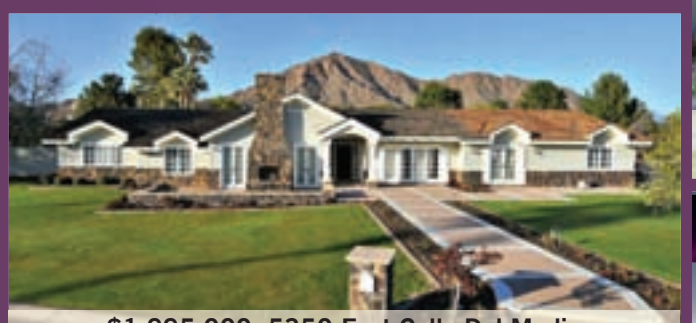
NEW LISTING

$1,795,000 5905 East Camelback
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,900 square feet

$1,795,000 4470 East Valley Vista
3 bedrooms, 5 baths, 5,987 square feet



$1,199,000 5602 East Monterosa
5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,400 square feet



$1,995,000 5350 East Calle Del Medio
7 bedrooms, 6 baths, 6,263 square feet

NEW LISTING

$1,595,000 6739 North Palm Canyon
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,812 square feet

$1,895,000 5124 East Calle Del Norte
5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 4,565 square feet

$1,695,000 4136 North 52nd Place
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,849 square feet

NEW LISTING

$1,395,000 3822 North 53rd Way
5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,403 square feet

SALE PENDING

$1,345,000 3702 East Orange Drive
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,840 square feet

$1,950,000 4316 North 40th Street
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 6,881 square feet

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Robert Joffe

NEW LISTING

$1,295,000 5310 East Calle Ventura
3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3,150 square feet

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$2,000,000 - $2,999,999

NEW LISTING

$2,795,000 6428 East Exeter
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 6,140 square feet

$2,095,000 7531 North Silvercrest
5 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,450 square feet

COMING SOON

$2,795,000 6524 East Gainsborough
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 6,000 square feet

NEW LISTING

$2,845,000 5219 North Casa Blanca Drive Lot 49
6 bedrooms, 6 baths, 6,381 square feet

$2,900,000 6739 North 36th Street
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 6,200 square feet

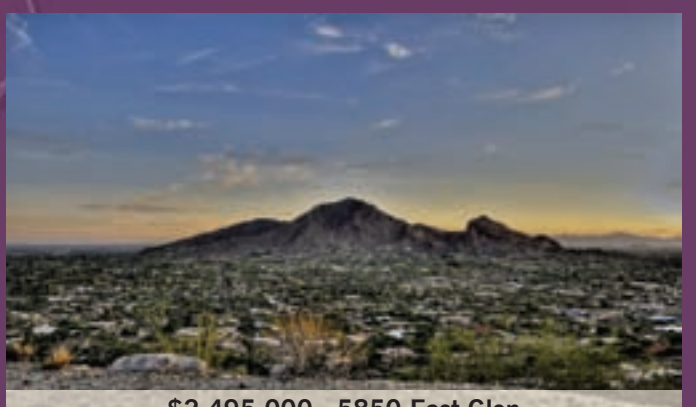
NEW LISTING

$2,395,000 6424 East Exeter
3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 4,872 square feet

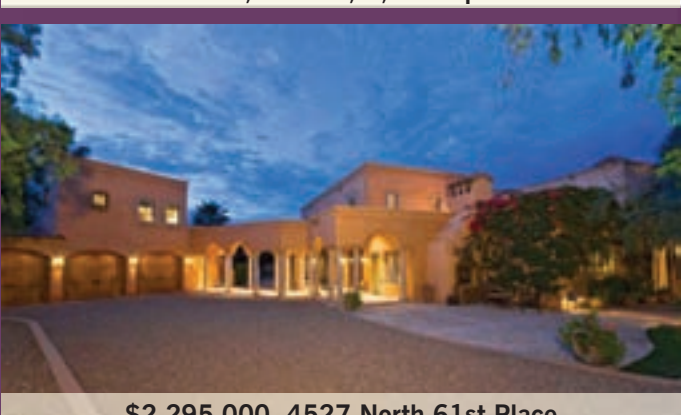
SALE PENDING

$2,200,000 6239 East Calle Del Media
5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 4,512 square feet

$2,199,000 8634 North 52nd Street
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 5,061 square feet



$2,495,000 5850 East Glen
CALL FOR INFORMATION



$2,295,000 4527 North 61st Place
6 bedrooms, 9 baths, 8,592 square feet

NEW LISTING

$2,795,000 4514 East Foothill
5 bedrooms, 7 baths, 7,332 square feet

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$3,000,000 and Above

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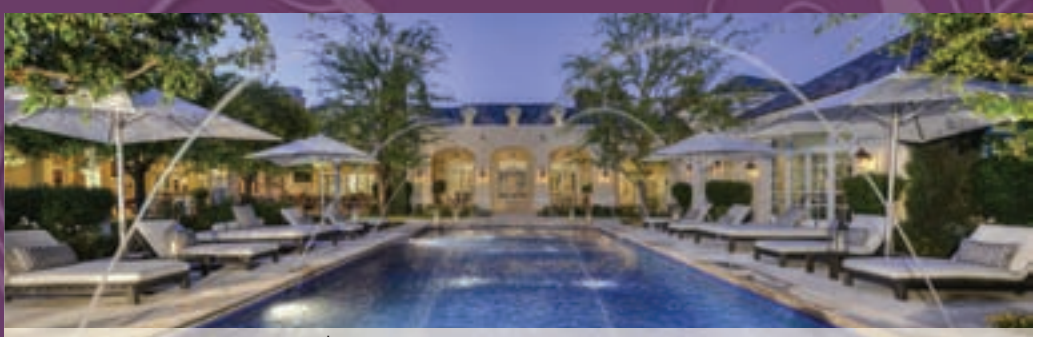
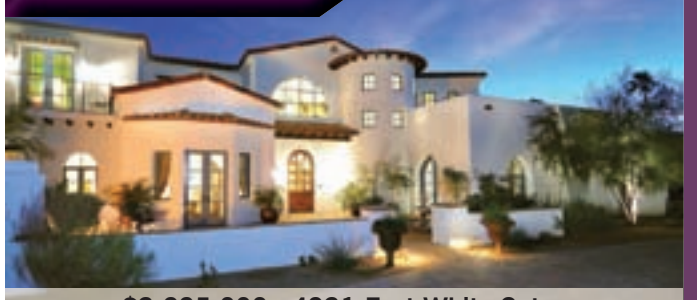
$25,000,000 8055 North Mummy Mountain
7 bedrooms, 12 bathrooms, 25,416 square feet



$14,500,000 5901 East Edward
7 bedrooms, 12 baths, 14,150 square feet

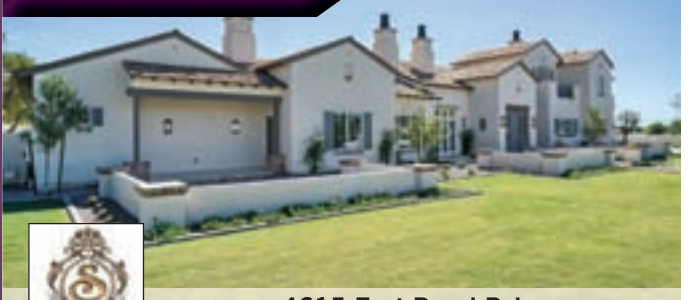
NEW LISTING



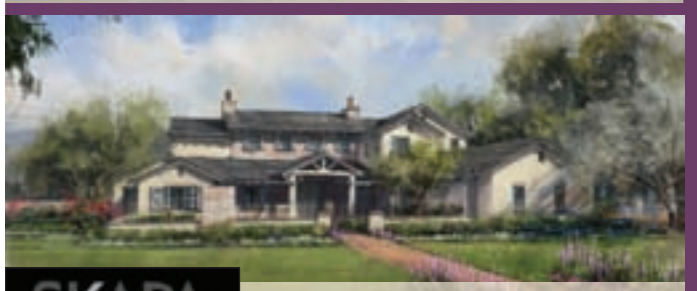
$3,295,000 4931 East White Gates
6 bedrooms, 8 baths, 8,166 square feet

$3,250,000 4401 North 61st Street
5 bedrooms, 8 baths, 7,587 square feet

NEW LISTING



4615 East Royal Palm
CALL FOR INFORMATION



SKAPA

5518 East Mariposa
CALL FOR INFORMATION

4514 East Royal Palm
www.royalpalmestate.com

$3,295,000 4415 North Arcadia Lane
6 bedrooms, 6 baths, 7,873 square feet

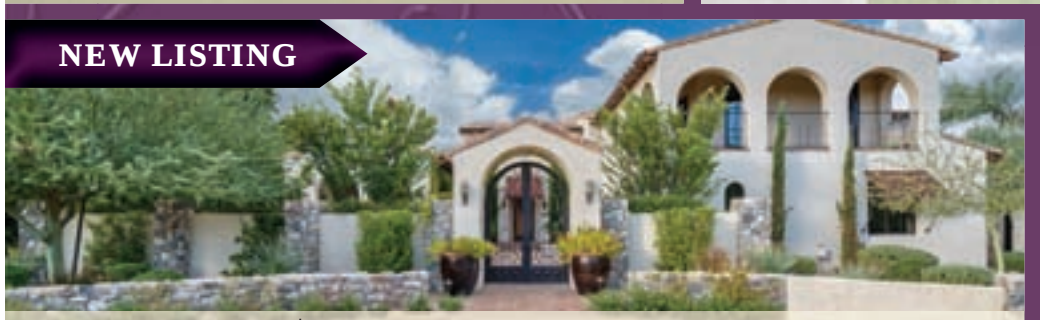
COMING SOON

$3,495,000 4426 North Los Vecinos
6 bedrooms, 4 baths, 8,495 square feet

$3,595,000 7834 North 65th Street
6 bedrooms, 7 baths, 8,749 square feet

4716 North Dromedary
CALL FOR INFORMATION

NEW LISTING



$3,195,000 8243 East Mockingbird
5 bedrooms, 7 baths, 7,376 square feet

$3,695,000 4715 North Launfal
6 bedrooms, 8 baths, 8,332 square feet

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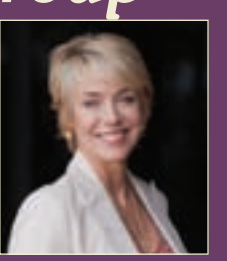

Jen Sheedy

The December 2015 Teacher of the Month, Emma LeBlanc and her first grade class.

Frank's favorite teacher

By Christina Surrano

TEACHERS *WE LOVE*

Teacher Emma LeBlanc seeks to inspire drive for self-improvement as well as self-acceptance in her first-grade students.

This is Miss LeBlanc's fifth year teaching at St. Thomas the Apostle, a school she was serendipitously introduced to while visiting from Michigan. She became familiar with the school's reputation when she attended church services there one Sunday, while visiting a former college roommate. She met with the school's principal and moved to Arizona that summer.

Ann Marie Sunderhaus, and her two sons, Frank and Kevin, nominated Miss LeBlanc for the *Arcadia News* Teachers We Love award. Frank is now in third grade, but remembers his first-grade teacher with affection.

"[Miss LeBlanc] has always been Frank's favorite [teacher] and it was so sweet to see how excited Frank was when Kevin [found out she'd be his teacher]," said Ann Marie. "They enjoy learning. They tell me about funny things that happen in class. They talk about friendships. I know that's all fostered by the presence of the teacher. I think it's her persona of being sweet, kind and accepting."

During life before teaching, LeBlanc benefitted from watching many children grow up. She is one of about 150 first cousins. Her father was one of 17 children.

Ann Marie shared some of the tempered and patient encouragement LeBlanc offers to the parents. "She always says, 'I understand that there's a lot going on at home. There is stuff outside of school, but just do your very best and help them do their very best, and make sure you guide them and work with them.'"

Miss LeBlanc's inspiration to teach began with stories from her mother who had taught first grade for seven years before having children of her own. LeBlanc shared, "She would tell me about her experiences with families and kids and how much she missed it. I really look up to her...and once I started some of my college classes, the school I went to kept putting us into different classrooms to work with kids and I loved it."

LeBlanc said she truly enjoys her students and added, "They make me laugh a lot and make every day not feel like work. It's like coming in and being with my little school family."

When asked about how she deals with the academic demands on her first-graders, she said, "They all come in reading at different levels and that's one of the things we talk about; that God made us a certain way and some of us just get it right away and for others, it takes a little bit, but we'll get there."

When asked how growing up in a large extended family has impacted her perspective and teaching, LeBlanc stated, "You see how different each [family member is] and how their gifts contribute to this big happy family. People have weaknesses and strengths in other areas. It's all for the greater good. It helps me to be more accepting of everybody's strengths and limitations. They're all necessary."

Teachers chosen for the Arcadia News *Teachers We Love Award receive an* Arcadia News *tote, a $125.00 gift certificate from Salon Sandoval, a $100.00 gift certificate for Postino Wine Cafe and an invitation to an end of the year luncheon for the year's winners.*

To nominate the teacher you love, go to arcadianews.com or page 25.

The Fiesta Bowl mascot, Spirit, visits schools and events as part of the ongoing fundraising efforts.

Fiesta Bowl's nonprofit goals

BEHIND *THE BUSINESS*

By Alexandra Whitten

Arcadian Jenn Jepson is striving to make Arizona a better place to live, work and play by assisting nonprofits through the 2016 Fiesta Bowl Committee.

Jepson attended elementary and middle school in the area, and graduated from Arcadia High School. After spending a year in Washington for college, she came back to Arizona and enrolled in the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Jenn Jepson

"I'm always drawn back," said Jepson. "I love the area. I never wanted to leave."

Jepson said her love for Arcadia stems from the small-town vibe and strong sense of community, which resides within a big city. Jepson gave examples of how area residents want to make their community look and be its best, such as the annual Fourth of July parade and the decorations along Arcadia streets during the holidays.

"People put a lot of effort and energy into making it a phenomenal place to live," said Jepson.

After spending eight years with Phoenix International Raceway and eventually becoming the senior communications manager, Jepson sought a new challenge.

That challenge became the Fiesta Bowl Committee, where she has been for just over a year. Jepson enjoys the ties the Fiesta Bowl has to the community. Not only does she get to work with the sports side of Phoenix, she's now also involved with the nonprofits that strive to make a difference within the state of Arizona.

Jepson plans to give just as much effort and energy back to the local community and Arizona through her work for the Fiesta Bowl She hopes the annual timeline she's put into place - which cycles through community service hours and donations - will have an impact on the community.

This season the committee will grant $1.5 million to Arizona nonprofits. This year alone they partnered with the Fighter Country Partnership, Be Kind People Project, and HopeKids in Arizona.

The Fiesta Bowl Committee contribution of service hours and community service comes from their staff and the Yellow Jackets Committee. The Yellow Jackets Committee has special requirements such as fundraising requirements and service hour requirements. In addition to their committee they have over three thousand volunteers.

"What I love about the power of the Fiesta Bowl is not only do we give back to Arizona nonprofits, but we give the Arizona community a reason to come together," Jepson said in regards to how the community creates experiences that cause families to come out and have a good time, bringing them closer together.

Jepson said that every time somebody purchases a ticket to the Fiesta Bowl, they're helping us fund a grant, put school supplies in the hands of children who can't afford it, or bring dinner to children and their families who didn't think it was possible to have a holiday dinner this year.

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REAL ESTATE CORNER

Tucker Blalock

YOUR ARCADIA AND BILTMORE REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST

This year has been great for me professionally as well as personally. I will be finishing 2015 north of $21,000,000 in sales volume which by ARMLS stats puts me in the #1 position for any real estate agent under 30 years old in Arizona. I'm continuously humbled by the support that I have received throughout the Arcadia community during the year, including my neighbor MaryAnn who told me that my biceps looked good in my last ad ;) This year also brought the first birthday for my son Cash along with many fun memories that my wife and I will not forget. Without their support of my incredibly lopsided work/life balance I would not be where I am today.

My team, The Suits, has grown to six members and we are looking to expand our reach. While we have been known as the #1 team in the Biltmore for the past two years, my goal is to earn more business from my neighbors here in Arcadia. Born and raised in the 'hood, I have a passion for Arcadia that runs deep. I encourage all of you to introduce yourself to me while out in the community. Whether it's at The Village, Safeway, or jogging down the canal, please say "Hey!"

I'm bullish on the housing market going into 2016 as mortgage rates remain around 4%. This is especially true in the Arcadia and Biltmore areas as residents of Scottsdale continue to return to "Central." The rush back to the Camelback Corridor has been a product of our incredible entertainment and restaurant choices. Thank Sam Fox (Fox Concepts), Bob Lynn (LGO Hospitality), and a slew of other small business owners for increasing your home values :)

While I see the market staying strong, I would encourage Arcadia Proper residents with a "tweener" to think about selling now before your home becomes a teardown. A tweener is a home that is a little too nice to teardown, but not up to today's standards for most buyers. Today's buyer in the Arcadia market is looking for a newer product with higher ceilings, open floor plan, and modern color schemes. They probably aren't looking for a home that needs $100-200k worth of remodel. The cute, older ranch homes with 8.5' ceilings just aren't as desired anymore. Selling to a developer for teardown value in the next couple of years will leave you with less money in your pocket. Unfortunately, that is what our market has come to as more homes are demolished to make room for newer products.

There is also a lot of opportunity for residents who are looking to downsize in the next year. I would encourage my clients to take advantage of Arcadia prices and move over to the Biltmore at a sizable discount. While most houses in Arcadia are trading at an average of around $350/sq.ft., you can buy a very nice lock n' leave in the Biltmore for $270/sq.ft.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 602-ARCADIA anytime to chat about the market or the neighborhood. I look forward to doing business in the near future and hope your family has a great holiday season!

Tucker Blalock
Biltmore Lifestyles Real Estate
602-ARCADIA

HOW WE STACK UP

In the last five years *Arcadia News* has won more than 75 national, international and local awards for our editorial content, graphic design and innovative concepts. Our peers in organizations like the International Free Paper Association and the Arizona Press Club judged these contests. In 2015, for the third year in a row, we took home an award for the best newspaper in our category.

Your award-winning neighborhood newspaper is owned and operated by Arcadians, for Arcadians, and has been since 1993. I'm proud of our staff and I want our readers and advertisers to know we will always be grateful for their support. From all of us at *Arcadia News*, we wish you and yours the best as we head into 2016.

Greg A Bruns
Publisher, *Arcadia News*

2015 AWARDS

IFPA - First Place - General Excellence
IFPA - First Place - Local Business Coverage
IFPA - First Place - Original Writing
IFPA - Third Place - Automotive Ad
IFPA - Third Place - Original Photography
AFCP - First Place - General Excellence
AFCP - First Place - Rate Card
AFCP - First Place Community Service, Graphics
AFCP - First Place - Feature Article Layout
AFCP - Second Place - Best Single Ad, Color
AFCP - Second Place - Best Single Ad, Ad Agency Design
AFCP - Second Place - Best Single Ad, Agency Design
AFCP - Second Place - Community Service, Editorial
AFCP - Third Place - Best Original Writing
AFCP - Third Place - Best Original Photography
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Top 10 CNN Heroes honors local nonprofit founder

By Katie Mayer

When Janet Smith was first diagnosed with breast cancer four years ago, she had no idea how badly the chemotherapy treatments would ravage her body.

The powerful drugs created a loss of feeling in her feet and hands, making simple tasks such as driving and walking a challenge. And as a single mother who was forced to quit working to battle her disease, caring for her then 10-year-old daughter became difficult both physically and financially.

"Any child at any age is traumatized by this," Smith said. "They have a lot to tackle just going through normal childhood things and then on top of that their parents have this disease."

She added, "There is so much I try to hide about my disease, but she knows when I'm suffering and how sick I am."

Today, Smith continues to fight. She is battling Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, but she also has a little help this time thanks to the support from Scottsdale nonprofit Singleton Moms.

Founded in 2006 by Arcadia native Jody Farley-Berens, Singleton Moms provides housecleaning, meals, financial aid and support to more than 300 single parents who are battling cancer in Arizona.

Recently, Farley-Berens was selected as one of the 2015 Top 10 CNN Heroes. She will receive $10,000 from *CNN Worldwide*, along with donations from viewers and the chance to be selected as Hero of the Year and earn an additional $100,000, according to a press release. Over the last eight years, CNN has received more than half a million nominations for CNN Heroes.

"Being part of CNN Heroes is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for a nonprofit organization and we realize now is the time to be serious," Farley-Berens said. "Our ultimate goal is to always serve more families and this will help us serve more locally."

Jody Farley-Berens, founder of Singleton Moms (left) with Janet Smith, a current client battling stage 4 metastatic breast cancer.

Farley-Berens also said the exposure will help the organization in its research to expand to another state.

Prior to CNN selecting Farley-Berens, she said she and her organization went through an extensive vetting process.

"People can feel confident knowing that anybody who gets to that level deserves it for the work they have done and is doing the right things with their funds," she said.

For Smith, the organization has provided everything from Christmas presents for her daughter to groceries and cleaning products, and even meals that are already assembled and ready to be prepared. In fact, the meals are simple enough that her 14-year-old daughter can use the ingredients and follow the instructions to cook for both of them.

"This is really the way a nonprofit should run," said Denise Miller, an accountant and current board president.

As a single mother herself, Miller said she became involved with Singleton Moms because of her empathy for the challenges single mothers face and the way in which a cancer diagnosis affects these families.

"It's difficult enough just being a career mom. I couldn't imagine doing this if I were ill," Miller said.

Farley-Berens said the organization was born after her childhood friend Michelle Singleton – a single mom to four children – was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 32. Farley-Berens and another friend Andy Royal McCandless sprang into action to help their friend by making meals, cleaning her house, paying a bill or two and anything else they could do.

The friends soon learned that practical resources for single parents with cancer were nonexistent. Singleton passed away less than a year after her diagnoses and the organization was born.

"There was a lot of skepticism about us at first and they'd say, 'Yeah right, you are going to do all that,'" Farley-Berens said. "We have done exactly what we said we are going to do and we've built the trust in the community."

On December 6, the CNN Hero of the Year will be announced during a celebrity tribute hosted by Anderson Cooper at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Farley-Berens will be in attendance at the event, which will air globally.

"It's really special to have made it this far," Farley-Berens said. "I think Michelle would be incredibly proud, but a little surreal that 'Wow,' all of this has come from her journey and what she went through."

Singleton Moms is always in need of volunteers, household necessities, toiletries and even men's items. They are also collecting toys and gifts suitable for ages ranging from toddlers to teens to distribute around the holidays to the children of parents with cancer. To learn more about Singleton Moms, including the organization's upcoming Masks of Hope Celebration fundraiser event in February 2016, visit singletonmoms.org.

Camelback High's food bank fullfills local need

By Rachael Bouley

Since 2009, the Camelback High School's food bank has served as an invaluable resource for the school community, especially during the holiday season. Together, the Distributive Education Clubs of America (the school's marketing and entrepreneurs club), the Interact Club, Mountain View Christian Church volunteers as well as the school staff make the bank successful and accessible for students and families in need.

Rosa Dominguez, community liaison for the school, said that the food bank was born out of DECA's Halloween Can Food Drive. The bank began in a storage room and had grown significantly.

For the past 23 years, Camelback High has organized a Halloween Can Food Drive. Through a four-week process, 150 students within the marketing and entrepreneurs clubs collect brown paper bags from supermarkets, design a grid of the surrounding neighborhood, drop the paper bags off on 4,300 doorsteps and return to pick them up on Halloween night.

"The neighborhood has become so used to it, that sometimes I get calls asking when we are coming," said Julia Bourdo, teacher and director of the entrepreneurs club. "The people of this community have been so incredibly generous to us. Without them, none of this could happen."

This year, on Halloween night, the students collected over $15,000 in canned food.

Over $15,000 in non-perishable food was collected by students on Halloween night.

For Bourdo, the final result is fantastic, but the entire process is a priceless learning tool.

"We teach them a process on how to get to an end result," said Bourdo. "They come back feeling so good because they know people need to eat. But they are also walking away, learning a process they can apply again and again in life."

At the beginning of this food collection program, DECA would donate food for the holidays to the Camelback campus while donating the rest to St. Mary's Food Bank, explained Dominguez.

Over the years as the need for food grew on campus, DECA expanded its efforts, with the help of former Camelback High School principal Dr. Chad Gestson.

"Dr. Gestson connected with his venture partners to provide shelving and tables needed to store the food that would be donated," Dominguez said. "The food bank began handing out food as needed and then a scheduled day of the week was chosen so that parents or the community could pick up food once a week."

Now, every Thursday afternoon from 3-5, the food bank is open for families and community members to stop by and pick up a food bag for the week. Normally, the bags are filled with dry goods and cans, and if they are available, fruit and bread as well.

Camelback's food bank does not require income verification or identification to receive food.

"We only ask that they sign in at the door and leave a number, family size and the date," Dominguez said.

Because each situation is unique and oftentimes families live with other families or have complicated income situations, it can be hard for them to obtain aid from food banks like St. Mary's, where identification is necessary and an address is valid for only one family per address. Camelback's more informal approach makes it easier for students and their families to get the extra help they need.

"We have a list of families that have been referred by Camelback faculty and staff or by students that are in need of food," Dominguez said.

Dry goods and items that are left over from campus events or classroom drives organized by students are also donated to the bank.

"Community members can drop off food at Camelback High School during the day," she said. Two community churches, Mountain View Christian Church and Camelback Bible Church, provide donations to the food bank as well.

The help and support from the local community has allowed the food bank to become a resource for students and families, with many of the students who help in the collection process actually taking bags of food home for their family.

"Students and various clubs can come and volunteer their time to ensure that we are updating and sorting expired food, making phone calls, and preparing bags to be delivered or distributed," Dominguez said. "There is a rise of donations during the holidays from our staff because they know many of our students have their only meals on campus."

If you'd like to make a donation or volunteer with the Camelback High School food bank contact Rosa Dominguez, rdominguez22@phoenixunion.org. Peanut butter, jelly and cereal are always in high demand.

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Passionate student rallies for legislative change

By Josh Cutlip

As he observes the room of students, he dons a shirt that reads, "I heart ASU." But after talking with Arwood, the shirt may as well read, "I heart higher education," or "Arizona", or "humanity."

James Arwood Jr. has lived in the Arcadia neighborhood for the 20 years he has been alive; he played in the Arcadia Little League, went to Valley Lutheran High School, and now he finds himself on the downtown Phoenix campus at Arizona State University studying public policy and sustainability. Apart from his constant smile, intramural sports involvement and attendance at school events, Arwood has one objective: win back money for higher education in Arizona.

After marching to the state capital to try and stop last year's budget cuts of approximately $99 million from higher education, Arwood has since put in countless hours of research and hard work to form a team called Students for Affordable Tuition, a grassroots movement to fight against student debt.

"The one thing that I want to give to the next generation, is the ability for everyone to achieve their potential," said Arwood. "I don't want anyone to feel capped, just because they don't have enough money."

Arwood recently took his team to action, leading a phone bank where in- and out-of-state students involved with SFAT could call Arizona legislators with a "legislative opinion."

"We had a lot of students making calls to their personal legislators and trying to sway them," Arwood said. "We want to show legislators that we're students and that we're going to be watching this next year, and we really, desperately need them to invest in higher education."

The budget cuts against higher education last year affected more than just in-state students; most people entering ASU as freshmen this fall noticed it. Out-of-state freshman Corey Hawk said that the increase in tuition and fees made him question his decision to go to ASU.

"I was actually very angry, I mean to the point where I already paid my deposit and considered withdrawing," said Hawk.

With an increasing number of students in a similar situation as Hawk – where money is a deciding factor – Arwood gains motivation to step in and voice his opinion.

Arwood said he wants local students to know that local society needs and wants them and that the opportunities at Arizona colleges are accessible.

The first big step of his long-term goal was the phone bank, where he constructed scripts that provided legislators with a greeting, and then five quick facts and information about what SFAT is fighting for.

One fact reads, "Overall tuition in Arizona has risen 84 percent since 2008, and it is jeopardizing students' futures."

Arwood assisted those making the calls

Arwood encourages volunteers at his phone bank.

by providing the names and phone numbers of state legislators, and if they were in-state students, he gave them the names of the legislators who represented their home districts.

So what is the purpose of all of this? What is the end goal for Arwood and his group of motivated students?

"We have supported the Arizona Board of Regents' request to invest about 60 million dollars back into higher education, but that's just the beginning, because we were cut $99 million, and we ended up having a near $270 million surplus," said Arwood. "We have the money to invest, so we're slowly trying to put a little bit more money back into higher education."

Arwood has spent a significant amount of time making sure his argument is sound, in hopes that it will lead to a successful outcome where students enrolling in Arizona's colleges over the next few years will not have to pay higher fees to receive an education. Hawk, who made about 20 calls to legislators himself, said the increases in costs are unreasonable and "scary."

"It's a lot of money, and for people who have never been financially independent, it's hard to fathom the actual amount of debt you're getting into," he said. "Hopefully it is something we can fix, and if not, at least we can fix it for the people after us."

Arwood's plan goes through next year and he hopes to gain back as much money as possible. He encourages everyone to voice their opinion, and call their legislators if there is an issue they care about.

"Anybody can make a phone call to their legislator at any moment in time. I really encourage people that if they feel strongly about this issue, and even if they feel strongly against us, to make sure that their voice is heard."

Arwood hopes to get the support of all three legislators from District 28 which surrounds Arcadia, and he encourages everyone to be involved within their districts if they believe in making an impact on their community.

"It is so important to make sure that you are standing up for what you believe in, Arwood said. "That's why we're [at the phone bank]. That's why we have put in countless hours when nobody sees us, and that's why we are going to continue to fight for cheaper higher education."

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St. Vincent de Paul partners with mobile food community

By Jessica Morrison

On September 16, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul expanded their mission of feed, clothe, house and heal by allowing food trucks to rent planting boxes to grow some of their food in an urban farm, and distribute it to the community.

"We started with a core group of food trucks, as an experiment," Jayson Khademi, owner of Saffron Jack food truck.

Currently, the participating food trucks include Saffron Jack, Emerson Frybread, Luncha Libre, Frite Street, Rockabelly, and Rocket, which includes Adam Allison, a free-roaming food truck "super chef" of Super Farm, Super Truck, Khademi said.

"We wanted to get to the next level where we know exactly where our produce is coming from. We try to be local in sourcing our meats and vegetables, but there is only so much we can do, locally sourced or organic. Otherwise, we would have to charge you $20 for a pizza, or $18 for a hot dog," Khademi said.

"We're not doing it just because we love it, we also want to make a living as well," he added.

The planting box project is "helping us to get in touch with our food. St. Vincent de Paul was great in allowing us to try this out here," Khademi said.

"Jayson is one of the main guys who started this partnership with us," said Esther Martinez, public relations manager for St. Vincent de Paul.

Planting boxes are part of the St. Vincent de Paul urban farming program that help feed the hungry.

"That's what St. Vincent de Paul is all about: It's connecting with the community and feeding the homeless," Khademi said. "What better way [is there] than to have five or six food trucks rolling around, telling people that our food is sourced from St. Vincent de Paul's urban gardens?"

"Beyond that, there is a philanthropic part to the food truck garden. Part of their rent is to provide meals to the homeless community each month," said Tony Kasowski, garden manager at the 420 W. Watkins St. location.

Because the food trucks are mobile, like much of the homeless population, St. Vincent de Paul staff can access more locations – such as a riverbed or a bridge – and in turn, discover more locations where homeless people are staying, Kasowski said.

Emerson Loren, of Emerson Frybread food truck, attended grade school at St. Vincent de Paul's school as a child.

Now, with his business and partnership with the urban farm, "everything came full circle," he said.

"I've been in the business for six years. I know that everything happens for a reason. It's one hand washing the other. You always have to give back, feed yourself better and have a better feeling inside," Loren added.

"We all believe in dedication to the customer, and that's why we are learning to do this – to grow our own stuff – to have a better product for our customer."

Community members, both involved in food and farming, see the benefit of St. Vincent de Paul's latest mission.

"This project is a great partnership where we involve the private sector, that has the means. They're [transporting] the mobile food and contributing to the St. Vincent de Paul mission, by virtue of taking healthy, quality, farm-to-table food out to scattered-site homes," said David Smith, director of the three urban farms in Phoenix.

Scattered-site homes are areas of the community where the homeless are not living in a shelter, but rather, under bridges, in riverbeds, as well as under trees and bushes, Smith said.

"It's a growing phenomenon, which we are seeing when we send the water trucks out. These folks need other services, like toiletries, as well as food. We're trying to step up and cover that mission," he said.

St. Vincent de Paul is always looking for volunteers, cash donations, and material donations, such as wheelbarrows and hoses, as well as irrigation companies to donate services.

To volunteer or donate, contact St. Vincent de Paul at 602-254-3338, or go to stvincentdepaul.net.

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Mom-centric holiday party ideas: Because you deserve it!

By Lisa Weisenburger

Moms! KIDS CORNER

We all know the holidays are magical and wondrous through the eyes of our children. This column would normally focus on a unique treat, craft or destination for kids with the holiday season in mind. However, this month we are taking a little turn and twisting toward the ones in charge of holiday magic and wonder: you!

Here are two party ideas that are quick and fun to pull together. They are flexible and can be tweaked and adjusted to reflect your style, and hopefully they will bring some extra joy and magic to your holiday season.

TIRED ELF PARTY

This party was created for all the tired elves out there who want to hang out with their friends but still have *so much to do.*

Friends are invited to please wear pajamas. No dressing up in holiday finery. No running to the drycleaners at the last minute. No ugly sweater contest. Come comfy and cozy. You will not be judged if you show up in yoga pants and your Uggs.

Guests are also invited to bring along a holiday chore they still have to finish. This is the one party that you can bring your Christmas cards to and we'll all help each other stamp them; or bring your Santa presents and we'll help each other wrap them; or bring your homemade jellies and we'll twine and tag them. You get it. Doing elf stuff with other elves makes the workshop so much happier and let's face it: We're all a little tired.

Easy food and drinks also make this party perfect for tired elves. It's totally acceptable to ask your guests to potluck it to this party. But it would also be nice to treat your tired elf friends to a few appetizers and a tiny dessert spread. The trick here is to keep it simple. While variety is the spice of life, limited choices makes decision making easier. Give a bruschetta bar with three or four toppings a try. How about presenting a meat and cheese board with fig jam and olives? A selection of different-flavored hummus with roasted vegetables and pita chips would be lovely, too. These options require a quick trip to the store and as much time to put together as chopping for a veggie tray but they seem more indulgent and will make your guests feel like they are worth the trouble…because they are!

Keep the drink choices simple as well. *This* is the party for the candy cane martini. Recipes are widely available, but flavored vodka, crushed candy cane rims and tiny candy canes for garnish are the simple secrets to a fantastic cocktail!

For dessert, visit a local bakery and pick up an assortment of mini confections or a larger cake or pie to share.

FAVORITE THINGS PARTY

I am not an authority on favorite things parties, but I've been to one – which has been hosted by the same incredible woman for the last four years – and I *love* this party. I hosted a spin off last year and it was a great time.

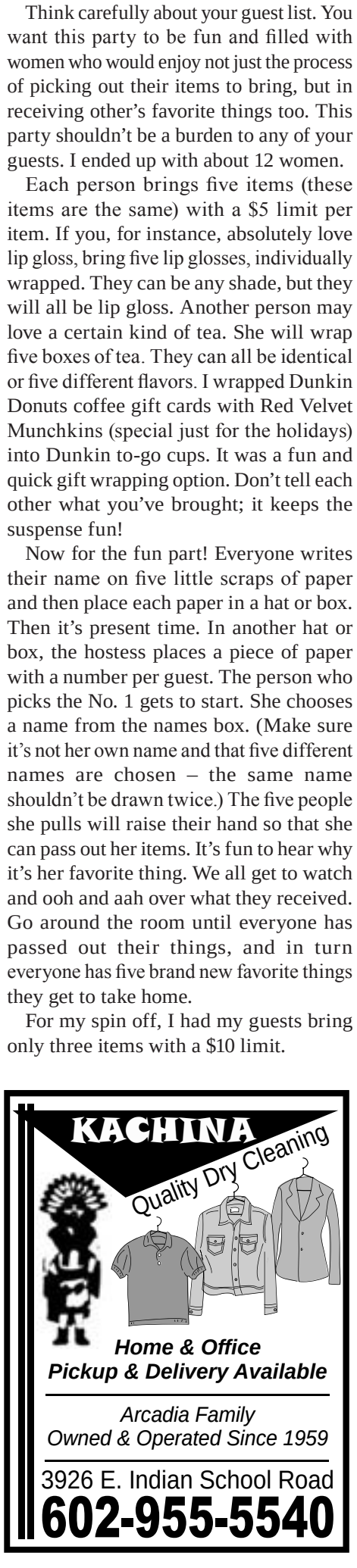
At a favorite things party, you get together with friends and gift each other your favorite things.

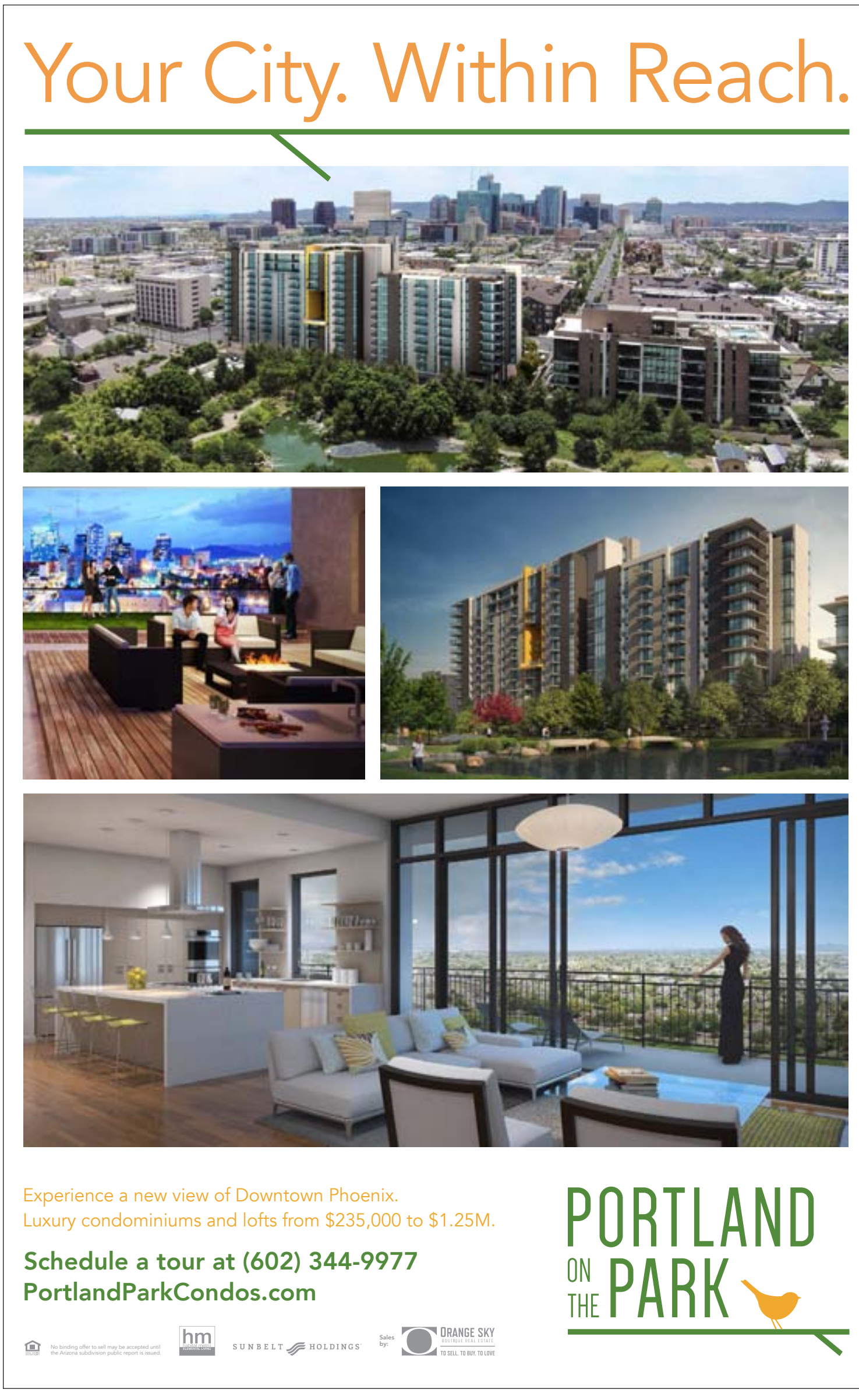
Think carefully about your guest list. You want this party to be fun and filled with women who would enjoy not just the process of picking out their items to bring, but in receiving other's favorite things too. This party shouldn't be a burden to any of your guests. I ended up with about 12 women.

Each person brings five items (these items are the same) with a $5 limit per item. If you, for instance, absolutely love lip gloss, bring five lip glosses, individually wrapped. They can be any shade, but they will all be lip gloss. Another person may love a certain kind of tea. She will wrap five boxes of tea. They can all be identical or five different flavors. I wrapped Dunkin Donuts coffee gift cards with Red Velvet Munchkins (special just for the holidays) into Dunkin to-go cups. It was a fun and quick gift wrapping option. Don't tell each other what you've brought; it keeps the suspense fun!

Now for the fun part! Everyone writes their name on five little scraps of paper and then place each paper in a hat or box. Then it's present time. In another hat or box, the hostess places a piece of paper with a number per guest. The person who picks the No. 1 gets to start. She chooses a name from the names box. (Make sure it's not her own name and that five different names are chosen – the same name shouldn't be drawn twice.) The five people she pulls will raise their hand so that she can pass out her items. It's fun to hear why it's her favorite thing. We all get to watch and ooh and aah over what they received. Go around the room until everyone has passed out their things, and in turn everyone has five brand new favorite things they get to take home.

For my spin off, I had my guests bring only three items with a $10 limit.





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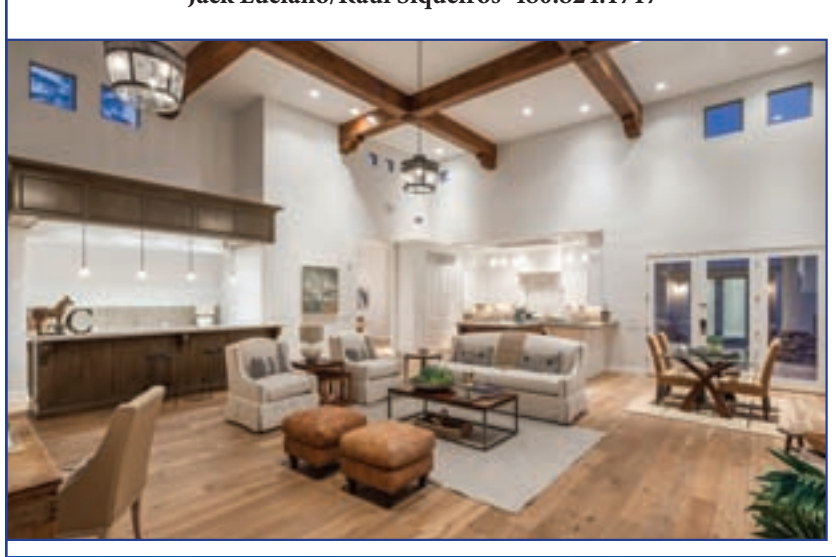

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Create a holiday menu inspired by the Festival of Lights

Sugar & Spice Doughnuts

Start to finish: 40 minutes
Servings: About 12 doughnuts and 12 doughnut holes

- 3 1/3 cups all-purpose flour, plus extra for rolling
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon fine salt
- 1 1/2 cups sugar, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon plus 1 tablespoon apple pie spice or ground cinnamon
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- 3 tablespoons vegetable shortening or unsalted butter, melted and cooled slightly
- 1/2 teaspoon finely grated lemon zest
- 1/2 cup plus 1 to 2 tablespoons seltzer water
- vegetable oil, for frying

In a medium bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, salt, 1 cup of the sugar, and 1/2 teaspoon of the apple pie spice until well mixed. Using shallow dish, stir the remaining 1/2 cup sugar and 1 tablespoon apple pie spice together. Set aside.

Using a large bowl, whisk the eggs, melted shortening, lemon zest and 1/2 cup seltzer water together until smooth. Stir in the flour mixture. Add the remaining seltzer water, a teaspoon at a time, just until the dough comes together in a soft and shaggy ball.

On a generously floured cutting board, turn the dough out. (It will be a bit sticky.) Sprinkle the top of the dough with flour and pat out until it is about 3/8-inch thick. Using a 3-inch round cookie or biscuit cutter cut out as many circles as possible, then with a 1-inch round cutter cut out doughnut holes from the center of each larger circle. Reserve the doughnuts and holes. Gather the scraps together and pat them out again to 3/8-inch thickness. Continue to cut doughnuts and doughnut holes, reworking the scraps, until all the dough is used.

Fill a heavy bottomed pot or Dutch oven with 2 inches of vegetable oil. Heat pot over medium-high heat until a deep frying thermometer inserted in the oil reaches 375 F. Working in batches, fry the doughnuts and holes until golden brown, about 2 to 3 minutes, turning occasionally. Transfer to a paper towel-lined baking sheet to drain and cool slightly. Using the shallow dish with the spiced sugar, roll the doughnuts and holes while still warm, until well coated.

(Recipe from *Food Network Kitchens*)

Killer Potato Latkes

- 1 pound Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and cut into 2-inch chunks
- sea salt
- 2 pounds baking potatoes
- 1 large onion, finely diced
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 cup matzo meal
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground white pepper
- 2 teaspoons salt, plus more for sprinkling
- vegetable oil, for frying
- applesauce, crème fraîche, smoked salmon, salmon roe and dill sprigs, for serving

In a medium saucepan, cover the Yukon Gold potatoes with cool water, season generously with salt and bring to a boil. Cook the potatoes until tender, about 15 minutes. Drain well and immediately pass the potatoes through a ricer into a large bowl.

Working quickly, peel and grate the baking potatoes on the large holes of a box grater into a medium bowl. Press with a clean kitchen towel to remove excess moisture. Add half of the grated potatoes to the riced potatoes.

Transfer the remaining grated potatoes to the bowl of a food processor. Add the onion and pulse until the potatoes and onions are very finely chopped. Transfer to a fine-mesh sieve and press with the back of a spoon to extract as much liquid as possible. Add the potato-onion mixture to the large bowl containing the first potato mixture. Stir in the eggs, matzo meal, white pepper and 2 teaspoons of salt.

In a large, heavy skillet, heat 1/4 inch of oil until shimmering. Working in three batches, spoon 1/4 cup of the potato mixture into the oil for each latke; press slightly to flatten. Fry over moderate heat, turning once, until the latkes are golden and crisp on both sides, about 7 minutes. Drain the latkes on a paper towel-lined baking sheet and sprinkle lightly with salt. Serve with applesauce, crème fraîche, smoked salmon, salmon roe and dill.

Make Ahead
The fried latkes can be kept at room temperature for up to 4 hours. Reheat them on a baking sheet in a 375 F oven for about 5 minutes, or until warmed through and crisp.

(Contributed by Andrew Zimmern to *Food and Wine Magazine*)

Horseradish-Crusted Brisket With Carrots

Start to finish: 5 hours 15 minutes
Servings: 6-8

For the brisket:

- 5 to 6 pounds point-cut beef brisket
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 3 to 4 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 5 large Spanish onions, cut into thin wedges
- 8 cloves garlic, smashed
- 3/4 cup tomato paste
- 3 cups (1 bottle) full-bodied red wine
- 1 cup water
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 4 leafy inner stalks celery
- two 6-to-8-inch sprigs fresh rosemary
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 pound carrots, halved crosswise
- For the crust:
- 1 clove garlic, smashed
- Kosher salt
- one 6-ounce piece fresh horseradish, peeled
- 1/2 cup fresh parsley, roughly chopped
- 2 to 3 tablespoons Dijon mustard

Heat oven to 350 F. Generously season the brisket with salt and pepper, then in a large bowl, coat with the flour. In a large Dutch oven, heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Brown the brisket on all sides, about 10 minutes.

Add the onions and 2 teaspoons salt to the pot and cook, stirring, until soft, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, until the onions are caramelized, about 10 more minutes. Add the tomato paste and cook about 5 more minutes. Add the wine and 1 cup water, scraping up the browned bits from the bottom of the pot. Stir in the sugar. Reduce the heat to maintain a low simmer.

Tie the celery, rosemary and bay leaves together with kitchen twine and add to the pot along with the brisket and carrots. Cut a round of parchment paper to fit inside the pot; place directly on top of the liquid, then cover with the lid. Transfer to the oven and cook for 3 hours and 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, make the crust. Mince and mash the garlic with 1 teaspoon salt. Coarsely grate the horseradish. Chop the parsley with the horseradish and garlic paste until the mixture is moist.

Remove the pot from the oven, discard the parchment and transfer the meat to a rimmed baking sheet. Increase the oven temperature to 375 F. Brush the top of the brisket with the mustard, then pat with the horseradish mixture. Return the meat to the pot and bake, uncovered, until the crust is golden, 30 to 35 minutes.

Transfer the brisket to a cutting board. Discard the celery-herb bundle and skim the fat from the braising liquid; thin the remaining liquid with water, if desired. Slice the meat against the grain. Serve with the carrots, onions and braising liquid.

(Recipe from *Food Network Magazine*)

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Local restauratuers expand concepts across the Valley

By Amanda Goossen

It's hard to ignore the growth of the Phoenix culinary scene as new signs go up and buildings transform throughout the city. Spaces that once held banks or even the local post office are now bustling with eager foodies, anxious to sip a craft cocktail and try the evening's special.

For those who live in the Arcadia neighborhood, heading out to dinner means a rich variety of choices in cuisine and concept.

As stated in a January 2015 article for *USA Today Travel*, writer Patricia Escarcega explained, "the historic Arcadia neighborhood has become center stage for the city's burgeoning culinary scene."

A large piece of the city's growth comes from well-received restaurants expanding, whether on their original idea or with something entirely different. Here is a small taste of those newly expanded spots throughout the Valley.

SUSHIHOLIC

3957 E. Camelback Road
sushiholicaz.com

In August, the family-run sushi restaurant opened their third Sushiholic location in the Valley. With 14 years of sushi experience, the chef and owner offers a menu of fresh fish and carefully crafted specialty rolls just off Camelback and 40th. Stop in for sushi, teriyaki or even a little ramen.

BUCK AND RIDER

4225 E. Camelback Road
buckandrider.com

The newest restaurant concept by LGO, Buck and Rider has a definite Chelsea's Kitchen look and feel, with a menu all its own. The seafood-centric menu and locally grown produce are the stars of the show with fresh fish, hand-rolled sushi and Raw Bar rounding out the selection. Grass-fed beef is also available, as well as house-made desserts, curated cocktails and green-chili cornbread that has diners asking for the recipe.

OKRA

5813 N. Seventh Street
okraaz.com

From the folks who brought us Crudo, comes an entirely new concept, which

PLACES *WE LOVE*

showcases yet more talent from the kitchen and the bar. This time owners Chef Cullen Campbell, General Manager Maureen Campbell and Mixologist Micah Olson bring southern charm to Central Phoenix, combining their well-honed skills with an entirely new genre.

FLOWER CHILD

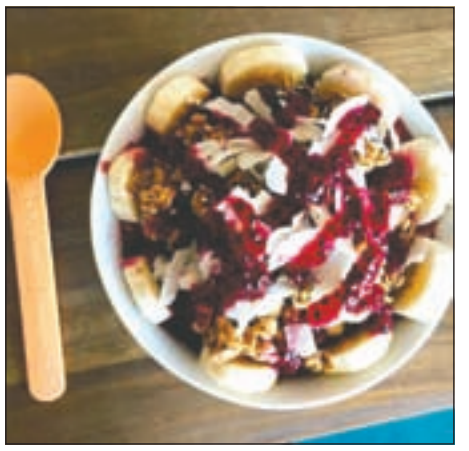
100 E. Camelback Road
iamaflowerchild.com

Sam Fox and Fox Restaurant Concepts does not slow down. Opening their third area Flower Child restaurant in the newly remodeled Uptown Plaza on Camelback and Central, the local restaurant group proves they can continually expand, without losing their commitment to what they do best. Fox builds vibrant restaurants where the cool kids want to hang out and everyone wants to eat. For the newest restaurant in the lineup, opening in a vintage shopping center alongside Shake Shack, Lou Malnati's and Muse Apparel just continues their *it* factor.

KALEIDOSCOPE JUICE

3802 E. Indian School Road
kaleidoscopejuice.com

Kaleidoscope Juice opened its doors in Scottsdale with the founders hoping to spread their message: "The quality of our



lives is based on the quality of the energy that we hold through our thoughts and the amazing foods we eat." Since then, they have opened a total of four storefronts throughout the Valley that sell their green juices and healthy breakfast items and bulletproof coffee. Their fifth store, which opened in early October, is a partnership with Madison Improvement Club on Indian School Road, which combines the Kaleidoscope menu with the Madison's original menu.

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Sip Coffee opens near Arcadia

SIP COFFEE & BEER GARAGE
3620 E. Indian School Road
sipcoffeeandbeerhouse.com.

By Kelly Potts

The new Sip Coffee & Beer Garage is taking over a former Avis Lubrication shop in the Arcadia area. The location will feature a drive-thru for coffee and a limited menu. There also will be 24 beers on tap, wine by the bottle and glass and a bigger cocktail selection than the original location. Unlike the Scottsdale location, this Sip contains a full-size kitchen that has the ability to produce a bigger menu.

A spinoff of Sip Coffee & Beer House in downtown Scottsdale, it's all about bringing people together to hang out with good friends, or to meet new people all while sipping great coffee and craft brews.

"Our goal was to bring the small-town feel to downtown Scottsdale," said Alex Cardineau, managing partner of Sip. "I definitely feel that is the vibe we brought, so when we were looking to expand, Arcadia was our obvious next choice. Plus, there's a great market and the neighborhood is very up-and-coming. It's great to be a part of that."

Owners Tida and Travis Radevski and Cardineau shared the inspiration to open a coffee and bar space long before they knew each other. Once Cardineau and Radevski met, they realized they had similar visions for a concept.

"We both grew up with these community spaces where you could grab a coffee in the morning and come back later and grab a beer," Cardineau said. "To us, this is a concept that works for everyone and something that was severely under tapped in the Valley."

When looking for a space to expand to, they wanted to find a location that had similar character to the Old Town location.

"Our realtor called and said she found a great spot, and she was right," Cardineau said.

Sip's new location opened in late November.

Taking advantage of the roots of the building, Sip installed garage-style glass doors that face Indian School Road to give it the same open feel as the Scottsdale location. The design inside the space will include some modern elements, but it will still boast the same eclectic attitude that's partially responsible for the Scottsdale location's appeal.

As of now, there are no talks of expanding Sip further, according to Cardineau.

"We always talk about going into Gilbert or Tempe," he said. "But right now, we want to focus on making these two locations the best they can be, and then we will see where we go."

Like the Scottsdale location, Sip Coffee & Beer Garage will offer live music several nights a week, Sunday morning yoga, and other events.

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Chef utilizes home kitchen to share culinary techniques

By Lisa Weisenburger

"I just love hearing the knives and forks touch the plates; and the impending silence after taking a delicious bite of something you've made and others savor," said Maggie Norris, while standing in her Arcadia kitchen.

Decades ago, Norris started cooking alongside her mother while helping with the family catering business. It wasn't until graduating from college many years later, that Norris received a gift of cooking classes and her passion for cooking was reignited. She enrolled at Scottsdale Culinary Institute, now Le Cordon Bleu.

After graduating, Norris enjoyed a varied career in the culinary industry and appliance sales, which included a move to New York in November 2001 to work with Food Network and celebrity chefs Mario Batali, Emeril, Sara Moulton and Kat Cora.

PHOTOS BY NTK PHOTOGRAPHY

Local chef Maggie Norris has a vast knowledge of Italian cuisine.

ARCADIA *COOKBOOK*

Norris returned to Phoenix in February 2002, and eventually made her home in the Arcadia area. Today, she practices her passion daily by teaching cooking classes with her business Whisked Away. Her main lesson to her students: Cooking should be fun and easy.

"While following a recipe may seem easy, I like to share tips and tricks that make people *want* to cook at home," Norris said.

Norris admits to a deep love of Italian cuisine. In fact, she frequently travels to Italy to live and learn the Italian approach to food.

When *Arcadia News* visited Norris' home kitchen she shared one of her original recipes: Mushroom Burrata Lasagna.

This Arcadia chef and mother to a 6-year-old daughter admits this recipe is one she created when she was craving comfort food, which to her is almost always Italian.

"This is not a recipe I make for my family because my husband and daughter don't really like mushrooms. This is comfort food for *me*!"

Burrata cheese is a unique addition to the recipe, as well as the use of béchamel sauce instead of ricotta cheese.

One of Norris' tips for this recipe is to gather a variety of mushrooms. Rehydrating dried specialty mushrooms works well if choices are limited in the produce aisle, giving this recipe a depth of rich mushroom flavor that will be difficult to achieve otherwise.

When asked about her nontraditional lasagna baking dish, Norris' reply was, "I love using this deep round orange baker for lasagna. It gives it a little whimsy and it's fun when I walk it over to my neighbors to share."

Mushroom and Burrata Lasagna

Servings: 8-10 servings

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided
- 4 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 3 pounds mixed mushrooms, cut into 1/2-inch dice
- 3 large shallots, finely chopped (or 1/4 large onion, finely chopped)
- 2/3 cup dry white wine
- Kosher salt, freshly ground pepper
- 6 cups béchamel sauce (see recipe below)
- 1 pound no-boil lasagna noodles
- 2 pounds burrata, torn into large pieces
- 6 ounces Parmesan, finely grated
- 1/4 cup basil leaves, chopped plus more for garnish

Preheat oven to 375 F. Spray a 9-by-13-by-2-inch glass baking pan with cooking spray.

Prepare the béchamel sauce (recipe below).

In a large saute pan, heat butter and 2 tablespoons oil. Add half of the mushrooms and shallots or onions. Saute until softened. Transfer to a small bowl. Repeat with remaining mushrooms and shallots. Add the first half of the mushrooms and shallots back to the pan. Add white wine and cook until the pan is completely dry. Season with salt and pepper.

In the baking dish, spread a thin layer of béchamel sauce and cover with a layer of pasta. Spread a layer of sauce over the pasta and evenly spread mushrooms and a few pieces of burrata. Top evenly with some Parmesan and 2 tablespoons basil leaves. Top with another layer of pasta and repeat the layering process. Top final layer of pasta with the rest of the béchamel sauce and Parmesan.

Loosely cover lasagna with foil and bake for about 50-60 minutes, or until the noodles are tender. Remove foil and continue baking until golden brown, about 15 minutes. Let stand at least 10 minutes to set up.

Garnish with basil and serve.

Tip: When using no-boil lasagna noodles, make sure the noodles are *completely* covered with sauce and/or cheese. Otherwise, you will have dry, hard noodles!

(Recipe from Maggie Norris)

Béchamel Sauce

Yields: 6 cups

- 12 tablespoons butter (1 1/2 sticks)
- 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 6 cups milk
- salt and white pepper to taste
- grated or ground nutmeg

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, melt butter. Whisk in flour until well blended and smooth, about 1 1/2 minutes.

Remove the pan from the heat and slowly whisk in milk. Return the pan to the heat and bring to a simmer, whisking constantly to prevent lumps. Continue to cook, whisking, until the sauce is smooth and hot and has thickened.

Season to taste with salt, pepper and nutmeg.

(Recipe from *The Joy of Cooking*)

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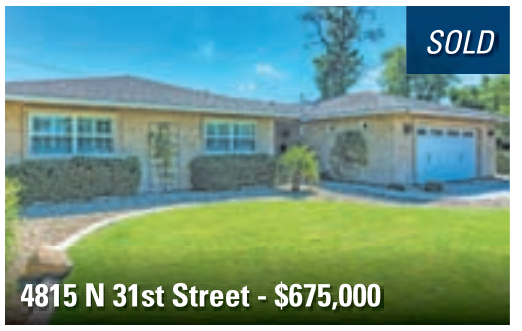

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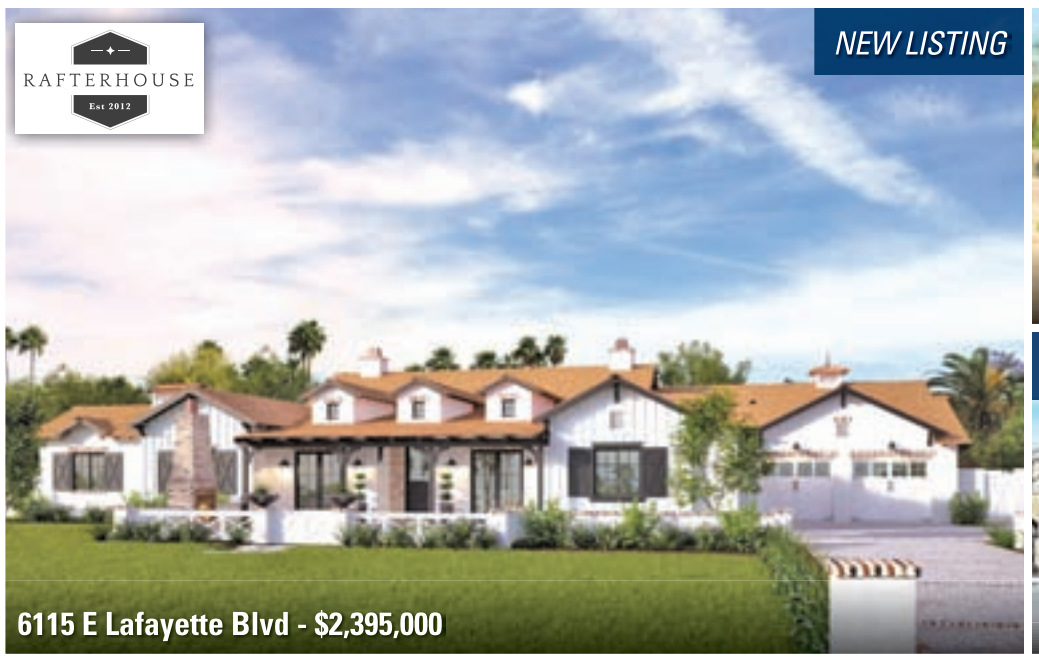

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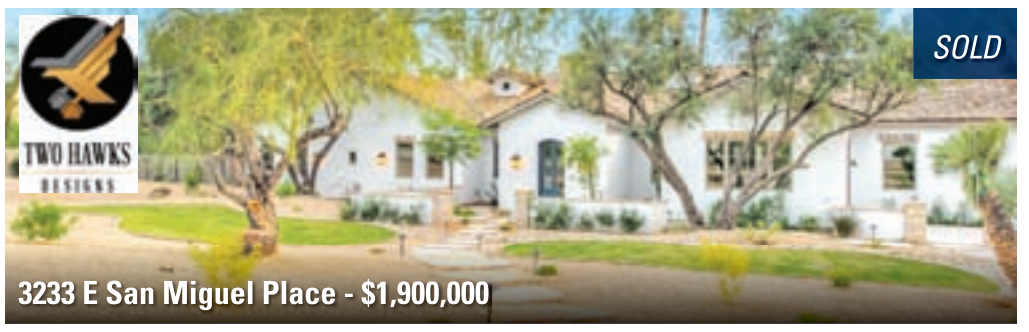

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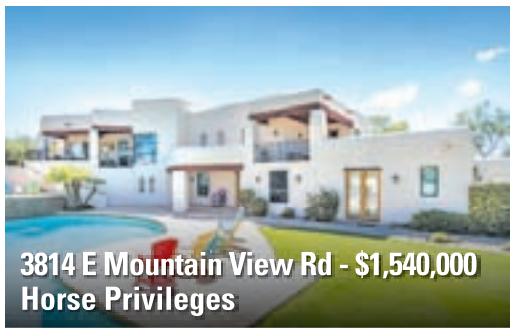
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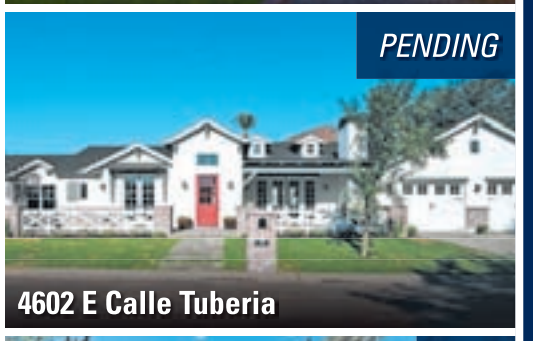

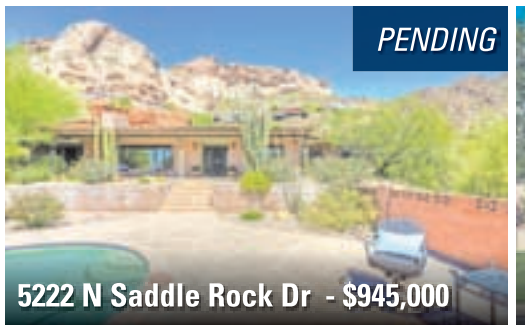

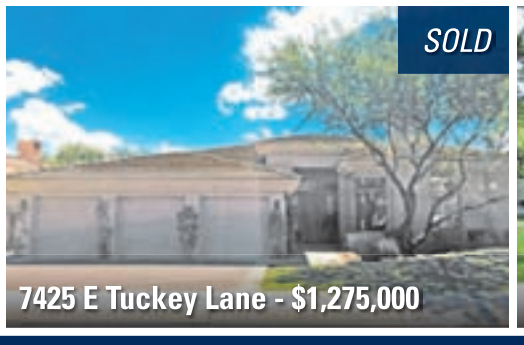

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Tips to stay thin over holidays

By Andrea Barkley

FOOD *WISE*

The holidays are in full swing, which means there's a never-ending temptation of sweets lingering around the office, celebratory lunches, cocktail parties, and – of course – the big family gatherings loaded with wonderful aromas and comfort food.

There's plenty of evidence that the winter holidays are peak season for weight gain.

Stress, loneliness and the sheer abundance of food can easily send us into a tailspin of poor food choices, tummy aches and weight gain.

Here are six ways to avoid the trap:

1. Get rid of all tempting treats in the house – You'll be around plenty of sugary and processed treats this season. Why bring the temptation into your home? Keep your fridge stocked with satisfying savory foods like proteins, olives and nuts and naturally sweet foods like fruit, sweet potatoes and ingredients for mouth-watering protein shakes.

2. Meal plan – When you have a plan for the week, you're destined to succeed!

I recommend eating roughly the same thing all week and then create an entirely new menu the following week. For example, breakfast might be unsweetened Greek yogurt with fruit and stevia, lunch a salad with protein and sprouted rice, and for dinner roasted spaghetti squash in a red sauce with grass-fed beef and wilted spinach.

The trick is to choose foods you love and are excited to eat.

Also pick which occasions you'll be eating out and indulging and adjust accordingly.

3. Tackle event days – On event days, workout a little harder, eat a little less during the day, and allow yourself to indulge. Sometimes, indulging is exciting and worth it. Keep your meals during the day a little lighter to compensate for the extra calories and make your workouts a little more taxing to offset an upcoming big calorie deposit.

4. Get your sleep – Sleep has been linked to higher levels of cortisol, the stress hormone, which causes an increase in belly fat and can trigger cravings. Get to bed a little earlier and avoid foods that might disrupt your sleep too close to bedtime, like dessert, soda, caffeine and alcohol.

5. Beat the blues by supplementing – If you eat more when you're feeling down, try leaning on a couple of supplements that can help your mood feel a little brighter.

Saint John's wort is an herb that comes from a flowering plant and is known as nature's antidepressant. It's been scientifically proven to help treat mild to moderate depression. Make sure to check for drug interactions when taking Saint John's wort, as it can decrease the effectiveness of some medications like birth control pills and anticoagulants.

Another wonderful supplement is a quality probiotic. A probiotic populates the gut with healthy bacteria that can be eroded by stress and inflammatory foods.

Believe it or not, the gut is known as the second brain and is where the greatest concentration of serotonin – your feel good hormone – resides.

6. Give yourself permission to enjoy – Knowing we can have whatever we want takes away the urge to overdo it. If dessert or chips and dip are taboo, chances are high you'll obsess about them.

The truth is, it's just dessert. It's just chips and dip. Is it really that good? Maybe.

Have some, enjoy and then move on with your life.

Happy holidays!

— Andrea Barkley is a local personal trainer, cook and author.

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Gimme 5: Creating Christmas traditions in the Valley

By Josh Cutlip

Now that Thanksgiving is over, you're finishing your turkey leftovers, saying goodbye to your out-of-state relatives, and finally getting a chance to relax. But wait! The holidays are only a few short weeks away, and you have nothing planned? Don't worry; I have your back. Here are my top five activities for the holiday season.

5. Movie marathon

This is great to do while you're finishing the leftover pie from Thanksgiving, and it's one of my favorite activities of the holiday season. I cannot go through December without watching *Home Alone* or *The Polar Express* while drinking a mug of hot chocolate; it's a great way to relax with family after a long day at work or after some of those hard semester finals.

If you're not into holiday movies, consider reminiscing with family members over old home videos, or get some friends together and have a laugh at some classic comedies. Make it your own! As long as you have some holiday treats and hot chocolate, you can't go wrong.

4. CitySkate

This outdoor ice rink in the middle of CityScape in downtown Phoenix is a fun way to enjoy Arizona's winter weather while shredding some ice all at the same time. From November 28 until January 11 of 2016 this pop-up ice rink will be filled with everyone, from ASU students to local families, skating around the giant tree in the middle of the rink.

Restaurants surround CitySkate, like the Corner, Pizza Studio, and Squid Ink Sushi, making it easy to stay for the whole night. The frozen attraction will be open from 5-11 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 3-11p.m. on the weekends.

Pro Tip: Try to go on a weekday if you can, because the Friday-Sunday crowd is plentiful, especially closer to Christmas and New Years!

3. Circle K New Year's Eve Block Party

I have been to this giant block party on Mill Avenue the past two years and it has everything you can think of. There is a dance floor, caramel apple stand, food trucks, a kids zone, live music and even an enormous Christmas tree. Most of the bars and surrounding restaurants and shops are also open, making for an all-inclusive night, ending with a countdown to ring in the New Year!

Tickets are $25; however, keep an eye out for early bird specials and other promotional deals online. The event starts around 6 p.m. and goes past midnight. I highly suggest parking by a nearby light rail stop and riding up to the Mill Avenue and Third Street stop to prevent paying too much for parking, or even struggling to find a spot. This event is fun for anyone, and if the kids tag along, make sure you bring a little extra cash for some fun games and delicious Fry Bread.

2. ZooLights

It's that time of year again where the animals take the backseat to the thousands of lights that flood the Phoenix Zoo. This is one of my favorite childhood memories, and its still fun to go all these years later. It takes 14 weeks for the crew to hang all of the lights in the zoo, and they have many different displays as you work your way around the exhibits. There are lights in the trees, lights on the water, and my favorite are the lights that dance with the holiday music playing throughout the park. Whether you're bringing the family or a date, ZooLights will not disappoint.

ZooLights hours are from 5:30-10:30 p.m. and tickets range from $10 to $18, however you can save $2 if you buy tickets online at phoenixzoo.org. The event lasts until January 10 and it is perfect for all ages; it should be a part of everyone's holiday schedule. Make sure you bring a thick jacket, and a few bucks for some hot chocolate, and who knows, you might see me hanging out by the dancing lights!

1. Holiday snacks

Eating is one of my favorite things to do and the holidays bring a special cuisine. I loved how the oven warmed the kitchen, and made it smell like baked goods. Food has a way of bringing people together in the kitchen and the finished product brings people around the table. Baking, frosting, cooking and eating may be my favorite activities during December and whether you're baking bread, making latkes, frosting cookies or crafting tamales, a day in the kitchen is great fun for the family, and it tastes great too!

Remember to enjoy your treats, the time spent with family or friends, and have a fun and safe holiday break!

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North Pole Experience leaves lasting impression

By Kindra Hall

Recently I had one of those nights where the number of tabs open on my Internet browser would overwhelm even the most skilled of multitaskers. This can only mean one thing: The holidays are here.

One tab was my annual winter clothes order for the kids. Having grown up in Minnesota, I feel a hint of foolishness when I complain that it's freezing as soon as the temp drops below 85. But still, kids need winter fleece, right? One tab was my Veritas school application. (I hesitate writing that because I don't want you to enroll your kid and lessen my chances of winning the lottery.) One tab was a list of Disneyland resorts – even I am struggling to justify $750 a night when a 4-year-old and a 3-year-old will be sleeping in the same room as me, and I can justify almost anything. One tab was Gmail. One tab was Facebook. There was an educational toys Christmas gift website, too. And finally, the tab that was taking up the most mental space: The North Pole Experience.

Should we do the North Pole thing again? It's a question I've asked myself since we drove home from the North Pole last year.

If you haven't been to The North Pole Experience, let me give you a rundown. (Warning: This is likely not North Pole approved.) Upon arriving at a nondescript Northern Arizona hotel, you take a special trolley to an unnamed location in the woods. The trolley is cool actually – a souped-up tour bus. An elf talks and eventually you arrive at the North Pole. You are escorted through a variety of rooms where more elves talk (a lot).

There's a toyshop and Elf University where elves talk (a lot). You make your wish list to Santa (a perfect activity for a 2-year-old), eat a mass-produced chocolate chip cookie (if you're still awake) and then stand in line for an hour to have your photo taken with Santa (who doesn't talk at all, or smile).

Visually, it's incredible. But overall, not awesome. "But it's the North Pole," my inner-guilty parent whines. "Once you go, it's kind of a mandatory trip, isn't it?"

I sat staring at the tab on my screen – "Oh fine," I sighed to myself. "Let's just go." I selected an evening and as I started the process of selling my soul to Santa – frustrated I'd waited so long and now all the reasonable timeslots were taken – a memory came back to me. A memory of the North Pole, circa 2014.

I booked our tickets for The North Pole Experience in early October 2014. I was positively giddy. Excited to start forming holiday traditions for my family, I was certain this was going to be a winner. I imaged my little blond-haired, hazel-eyed babies sitting on Santa's lap, whispering their deepest Christmas wishes into his ear as he chuckled and ho-ho-ho'd. I must admit I patted myself on the back a few times. I mean, October?!

GIRL *NEXT DOOR*

And I was already planning for Christmas?! #Momwin.

Unfortunately, I failed to plan for how long it takes to get to the North Pole (aka, Flagstaff). An hour? Two hours? When your whole world exists between 48th and 36th Streets, you never consider travel time. As it turns out, the North Pole is a little bit further north than I originally anticipated. Which meant, though the tickets were purchased months early...we were going to be late for our 5:30 p.m. trolley departure. As we raced up the mountain at speeds I won't mention, I carefully read the prepurchased tickets that clearly stated: If you miss your scheduled trolley, you're out $250 and totally screwed. From the back seat I could hear my son (3 years old) explain to his younger sister (2 years old) that we were going to the North Pole to Santa's Workshop...There was no turning back. We were going to the North Pole whether we caught our trolley or not.

I started to make Plan B.

We would pull into Flagstaff. "Look! We're at the North Pole!" We would buy four Santa hats and any other holiday paraphernalia at the local gas station, get all dressed up, and head to Home Depot where we'd hang out in the Christmas decor section for a while. "See! The whole gang is here! Frosty. Rudolph. Santa and…all of his twin brothers…" Then we'd meander through the shelves of two-by-fours and hammers and nails. "See! This is the workshop!" Perhaps we would talk an orange-aproned elf into letting us nail two boards together and make a Christmas "X." After the Home Depot adventure, we'd drive around town until we found a well-decorated, festive looking block. We'd go door-to-door singing Jingle Bells and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star (courtesy of the 2-year-old) and spread Christmas cheer to the people of the North Pole. Next, we'd find a Starbucks, grab hot chocolates and cookies to go, and find a park (bonus if there's snow) to have a North Pole picnic. By then, it would be dark and time to head home. We'd open the sunroof shade and count the stars in the wintery sky from the coziness of the car as we drove back down the mountain (at a more reasonable pace).

I was prepared. But didn't need to be. We made it just in time to catch our trolley.

And although the "real" North Pole Experience was nice...as we drove back home I couldn't help but wonder if we would have enjoyed our own version better.

Just then, my 2015 computer screen started flashing at me, "Someone else is going to buy your seats on the North Pole trolley if you don't hurry up!" I decided to close the tab. Maybe we will go to the North Pole this year. But it won't be by trolley. And it won't require tickets. Instead, I'll pack some blankets and rehearse some carols, and give the Home Depot in Flagstaff a call. You better watch out, the Halls are coming to town.

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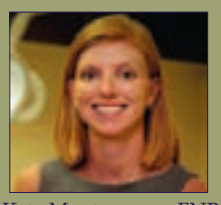
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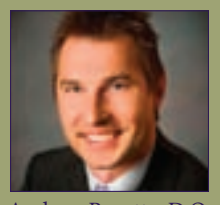
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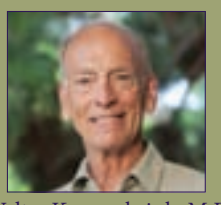
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Area churches and community centers are good places for seniors to find new friends.

Expanding your inner circle

RETIREMENT *NOW WHAT?*

By Jean Hodgson

Are you looking for new friends in your age group? Maybe you'd also like to connect with a group that shares your interest in community service, learning from interesting speakers, or taking short trips together. One way to form new relationships is through church groups that have ministries specifically focused on senior adults.

Many churches in our Arcadia neighborhood provide this opportunity in addition to their regular worship services and classes. They also invite and encourage visitors to participate. As I inquired about options for seniors in various churches, I was reassured that membership was not required and that all are welcome.

The fellowship group at Paradise Valley United Methodist Church, 4455 E. Lincoln Drive, is called Saguaros. They meet the third Thursday of the month for a potluck lunch and entertainment program. The December 17 speaker is Mike Chamberlain and the January 21 entertainment is Lynn Roberts, a celebrity impersonator. The church also sponsors a free monthly community concert series.

Saints Alive! at Camelback Bible Church, 3900 E. Stanford Drive, provides one activity a month that has a social aspect, but "ensures that we are more focused outward than inward." Their January 9 program is entitled *World War II, the Holocaust and one Jewish survivor's long journey to forgiveness.*

A specialized service at The Episcopal Parish of Christ Church of the Ascension is Duet: Partners in Health and Aging. Coordinated by their parish nurse, this service will connect volunteers with those in need and coordinate the efforts of many area congregations. The nurse also acts as a referral agent and counselor on health issues. Christ Church is located at 4015 E. Lincoln Drive.

Arcadia Gospel Fellowship is located at 4233 North 40th Street. You may know them as Mountain View Baptist Church, but in November they observed their 60th anniversary with a celebration called *A New Beginning!* and a name change, although their affiliation with the Baptist church remains. Their ministry for senior adults is called Young At Heart Luncheon and occurs on the second Tuesday of the month.

Valley Presbyterian Church at 6947 E. McDonald Drive sponsors community groups for different age groups. The monthly programming for each level is described in detail on their website. Their specialty for lifelong learners 50 and Better is Encore University, and the winter term for their classes and lecture series begins mid-January.

Active Adult Ministry is the group for senior adults at Christ Church Lutheran, 3901 E. Indian School Road. They meet for Bible study on Wednesday mornings, but their luncheon meeting with a program is the first Wednesday of the month. Topics include travel, hobbies and informative speakers from the community. A magician will provide the entertainment for January's program. They also connect with the fifth-graders at Christ Lutheran School for some of their activities.

The Franciscan Renewal Center is at 5802 E. Lincoln Drive and it provided meeting and event space to 474 groups last year. Many of their speakers and workshops are open to local participants, and the Casa also provides retreat opportunities and ongoing counseling and support groups. Interested adults are invited to Discover the Vision events, held twice a month, to learn more about their programs.

This is just a sampling of fellowship opportunities in Arcadia. Church websites provide the up-to-date details, and the church offices welcome visitors to drop in, ask questions and meet staff members.

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'Tis the season for fire safety and prevention

More cooking fires occur over the holidays than any other time of year, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

By Michelle Donati-Grayman

Food is a big part of holiday fun, but festivities can take your attention away from the dish you have cooking in the kitchen, and potentially lead to fires.

Thanksgiving ranks the No. 1 day of the year for cooking fires, but Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are not far behind, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

"Holiday decorations and candles can also be fire hazards, but cooking is still the leading cause of home fires," said Brad Oltmans, vice president of insurance services for AAA Arizona. "Home fires also tend to increase during the winter months because people are using their fireplaces and other heating equipment more often."

> ***"Holiday decorations and candles can also be fire hazards, but cooking is still the leading cause of home fires."***

Before you bake, broil, grill, sear or fry, AAA Insurance offers these eight tips for fireproof feasts:

Avoid an overcooked meal or worse by having someone on cooking duty at all times. If you have to leave, turn off all cooking equipment.

Plan family time, walks, television, chores and other activities outside of meal preparation time to limit distractions.

Everyone loves hanging out in the kitchen – which can lead to bumps, spills and other injuries, especially when kids are involved. To minimize accidents and divert traffic, put snacks, games and toys in another room.

Grills and other gasoline- or charcoal-burning devices should only be used outdoors.

If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, step away from cooking and designate another chef to take the lead.

Keep towels, paper products and other flammable materials away from heat.

Smother grease fires with a metal lid or baking soda. Never use water and make sure to turn off the heat. If a fire starts in the oven, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Have a functional fire extinguisher handy for emergencies. If needed, call 911 for help.

"Don't let your kitchen become a danger zone this holiday season," Oltmans said.

— Michelle Donati-Grayman is an Arcadia resident who works for AAA Arizona, a full-service insurance agency.

FIRE SAFETY: BEYOND COOKING

- Be careful not to overload electrical outlets with heaters. Stick to one heater per plug.
- Unplug holiday lights and decorations before leaving the house or going to bed.
- Make sure to use lights and extension cords in their proper location. Indoor and outdoor lights can be very different.
- Examine holiday light strands for wear and tear. Test strands for burned-out bulbs and replace them before using.
- Don't connect more than three strands of lights.
- Keep flammable objects at least three feet away from heaters and fireplaces.
- Always keep burning candles in sight and away from children, pets and holiday decorations, including trees and flowers. Consider switching to flameless candles.
- Test your smoke alarms and replace dead batteries.

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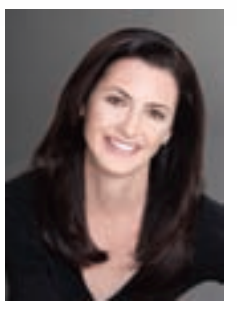

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Local church opens new café

By Jenet Simmons

Among many recent renovations to the Scottsdale Bible Church was the addition of a coffee shop. The Café at Scottsdale Bible Church offers choices in delectable food items and pastries, as well as coffee. The Café embodies a calm ambiance amidst shelves lined with inspirational books and home décor empowering positive messages.

Functioning as the brains behind the scenes is Chef Tanner Raban. Growing up in Cottonwood, Arizona as one of five children in a single-parent home, Chef Tanner began working at the age of 14 in a local restaurant out of necessity.

"I felt bad asking my mom for money, so I got a job knowing that we didn't have a lot," Raban said.

Acquiring his first job at a young age allowed Chef Tanner to work his way through the many avenues of kitchen work.

Raban said, "I purposely worked in most every department I could imagine would help my knowledge in this field – from dishwasher to kitchen pantry, cruise line cook to sous chef and finally, executive chef."

Raban acquired the title of sous chef in his early 20s and continued to climb the culinary career ladder until reaching executive chef status in 2009. Today, Chef Tanner holds the title of kitchen ministry chef at The Café at Scottsdale Bible Church.

Chef Tanner's career journey in the restaurant field blossomed as a result of those who knew him and his talents. Fortunate enough to have been sought out in the past, the acquisition of his new career wasn't any different. In 2015, good friend and fellow local chef recommended Raban be the consultant to Scottsdale Bible Church in the early stages of developing The Café.

Noting the plethora of experience and credibility behind Raban's career, Executive Pastor Jamie Rasmussen said, "We're thrilled to have Tanner leading the team at The Café. He is tremendously gifted and we are so fortunate to be able to share his talents with the community. It isn't by accident, though, that he is here. We made a commitment for The Café to be a place of excellence that the community will want to frequent. Tanner is a vital component to that, and we couldn't be happier with the results."

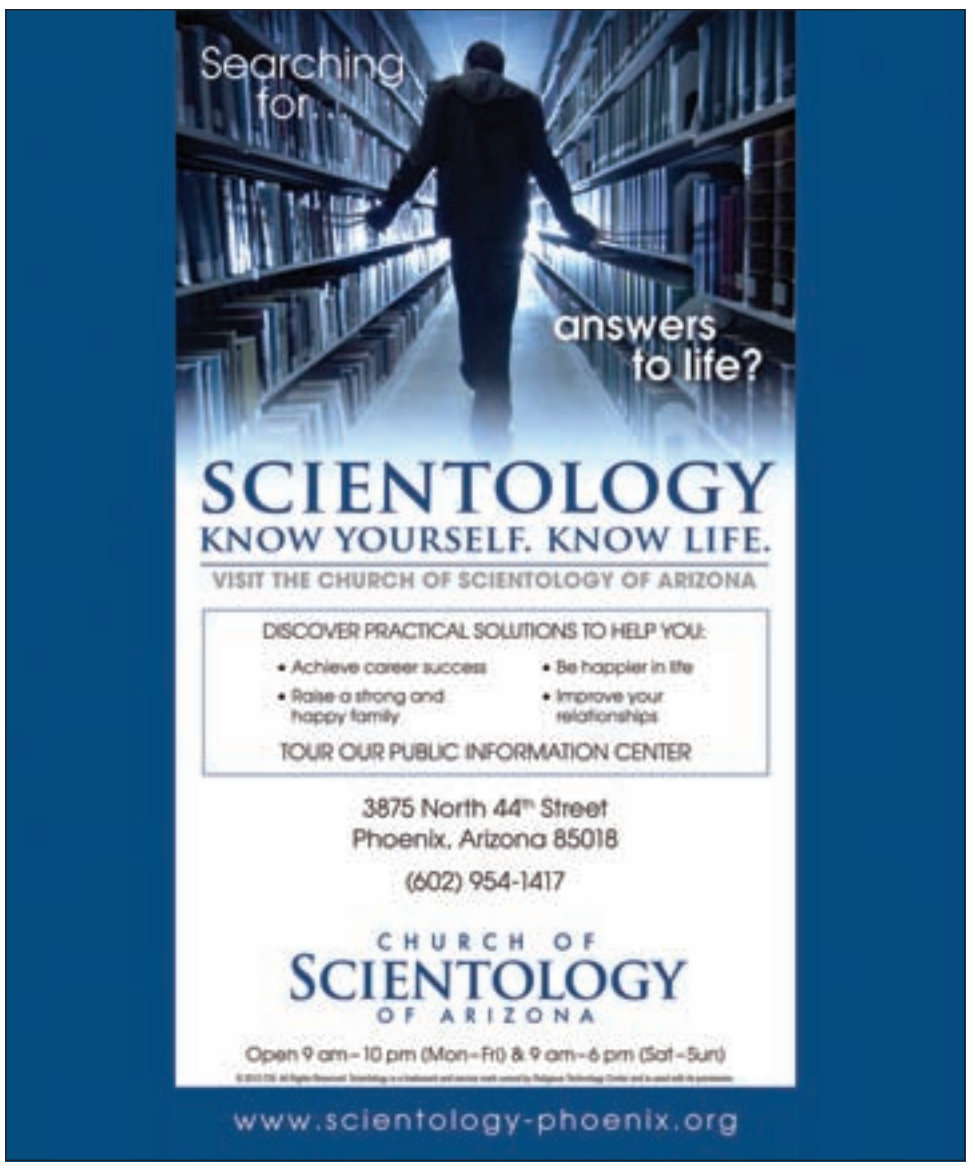
Chef Tanner standing outside The Cafe's front doors.

Raban said, "I am challenging myself to hire the right people who are culinary trained, writing appropriate protocols and recipes, and finding the vendors that will be the right fit for us."

Tanner is planning to run The Café as a forward moving business.

"Outside of the home and the workplace, we want The Café to be a place where community is fostered and friendships are developed," said Pastor Rasmussen.

For more information on The Café, including hours of operation, go to scottsdalebible.com.



Turning tragedy into triumph

By Jacob Janower

No matter what you do in life, it is important to find balance. Arcadia resident Jennifer Martin has achieved balance in her life, despite a personal setback.

Martin was diagnosed 12 years ago with multiple sclerosis, a disease in which the immune system eats away at the protective covering of the nerve. Her diagnosis led to her study of mindfulness, which she now teaches at A Mindfulness Life Center in Scottsdale.

Vision loss, fatigue, pain and varied coordination are some symptoms of MS. It can't be cured and can last throughout a lifetime, according to WebMD.

"My diagnosis affected my life in regards to the challenges of being home with two young kids," Martin said. "During my first episode I lost vision in one eye. I became more tired and had less energy. I knew I had to have more balance in my life."

Mindfulness is a form of stress reduction and involves being aware of everything that is happening moment-to-moment. You observe thoughts and feelings from a distance, without judging them as good or bad.

Martin often found that she was stressed, but knew that she had to stay well. She decided to take up mindfulness and as a result, a yoga instructor who was teaching the course changed Martin's life.

"The diagnosis has led me to the work I am doing right now," she said. "It forced me to pursue the life I have always wanted for myself, rather than the life I am supposed to have. I was able to learn mindfulness and share it with others. The diagnosis has really been a gift for me."

She was always interested in the power of positive thinking, but didn't known much about mindfulness until she took a course by well-known stress reduction expert Jon Kabat-Zinn, which sparked her interest in the topic.

Martin described her mission as trying to empower clients to make changes in their lives so that they can experience more peace and calm.

Jennifer Martin

Someone who has seen Martin's work first hand is Anita Welsch, director of A Mindfulness Life Center.

"Jennifer has a natural gift with relating to people and helping them on their journey through life," she said. "Through her meditation classes and also her Mindfulness series she has given people the knowledge and tools to use mindfulness in their daily lives."

Welsch lauded Martin for the way she approached her diagnosis and the way she has lived since then.

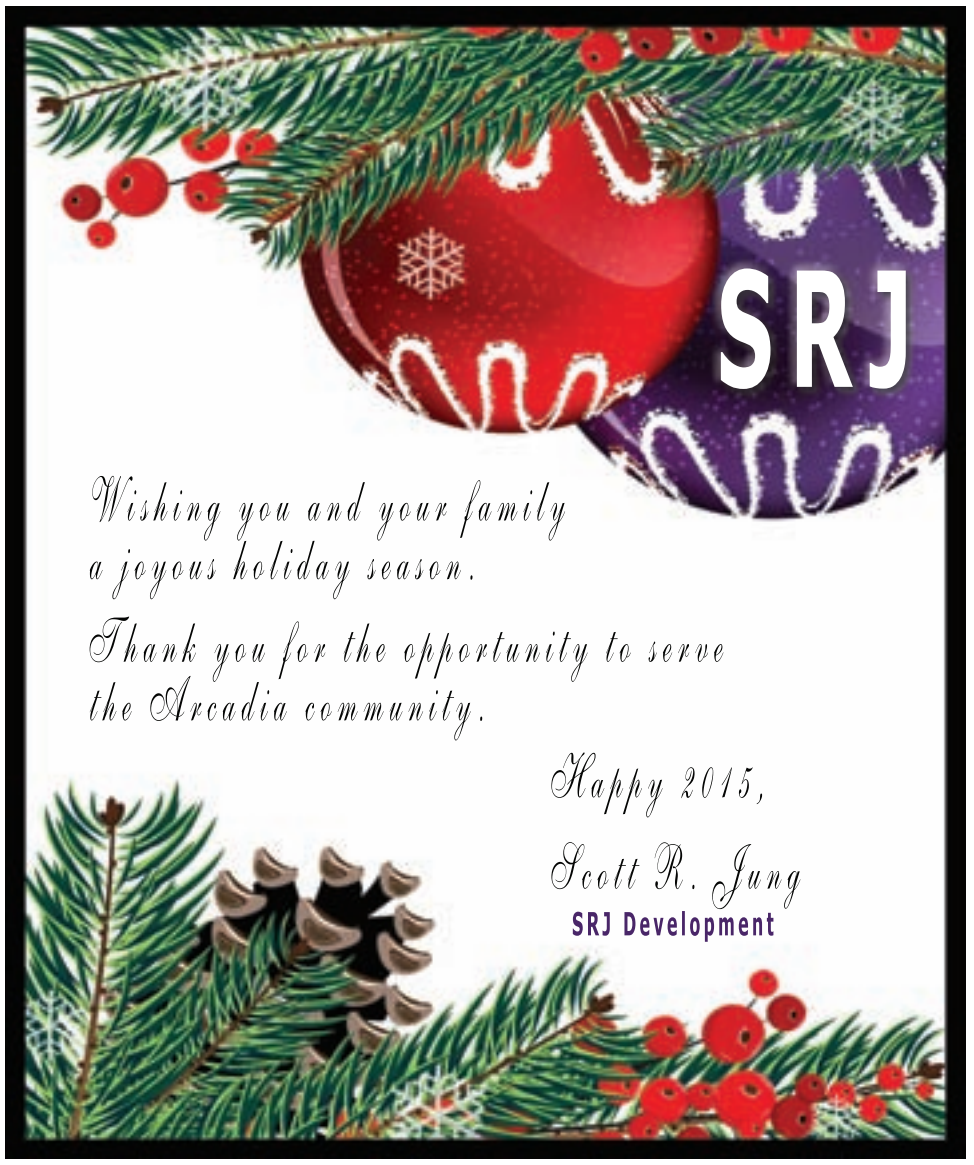
"When Jennifer took her own personal journey of mindfulness, she saw the positive effects of it. I believe that this is the reason she is so passionate about teaching others. She is encouraging to her students, which helps keep them on track with their own journey."

Penny McLain, one of Martin's students, benefitted from Martin's teachings by learning how to live more peacefully.

"As a mindfulness coach, Jennifer taught me a new way to live," she said. "She started by showing me how to slow down. Through her sessions and learning what meditation was and how to do it, I became more peaceful. She taught me how to be kind to myself and how to not obsess over things that had already happened and how to not overthink or try to control the future."

Martin's goals for reducing stress, balancing her life, and creating more peace around her are reflected through her work, both in how she's strengthened her own mindfulness, and that of others.

"She is an inspiring role model for anyone who may doubt that mindfulness can improve one's physical and mental health," McLain said. "Jennifer went from not having her eyesight and not having feeling on one side of her body to running a marathon the next year."



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Madison Highland Prep students produce online historic archive

By Garrison Murphy

Madison Highland Prep sophomore, McKenzie Fee, carefully places a faded photograph of the 1997 Madison No. 1 seventh-grade class into a scanner. Mia Thompson, an MHP freshman, finds the photo on a server and uploads it.

This process goes on every weekday in Joe Kavesdy's class at MHP. Students upload old Elementary School District files to an online archive for anyone to see – some date back 125 years.

"It's interesting to see the changes and how things are different from the '90s to now," Fee said. "It's really cool being able to see all the old photos and upload them online."

Students have uploaded over 1,000 photos, documents and interviews to the Tumblr hosted archive, and Kavesdy said there are still thousands of documents that need to be uploaded.

Kavesdy and Dr. Kerry Clark, principal of MHP who played an integral role in creating the archives, said the project is an attempt by school administrators to engage students in learning about their past and increase their digital literacy.

Digital literacy is the ability to create, evaluate, synthesize, analyze and present information in different formats on the computer.

"Several people said it was tough to access, organize and categorize the materials when they are in photo albums," Clark said. "What a great experience for our students to use their 21st century digital literacy to access this array of history. It's kind of a new way of doing history."

Madison Highland Prep freshmen scan and upload a photo into the online archive.

Clark said he was inspired during the summer of 2014 by a similar online archive hosted by Northern Arizona University called Colorado Plateau Archives project.

"I thought, 'What if we could turn it into an archive where people could look things up and post things and really create a rich array of memories?'" Clark said. "We like the project because as a new member of the Madison School District, our students are weaving the new high school into the fabric of the district's history."

By the fall of 2014, MHP's first year of operation, students and faculty worked to create an online archive of their own for the Elementary School District.

Some elementary school alumni said they find the online database useful in digging for old school photos.

Madison Simis Elementary alum, Mr. Rishi Popat, shared his thoughts about the online database in a school press release, "It brought back nostalgic memories of my peers, teachers and school."

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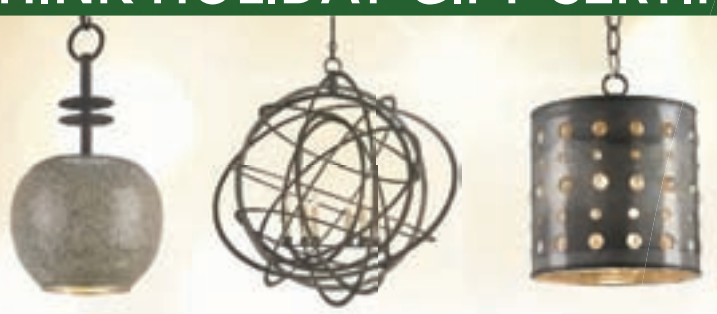

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Courtesy to the Trade

ANLC integrates art throughout its curriculum

By Ava Lasiewski

Arcadia Neighborhood Learning Center, a public K-8 school, became an art-integrated school this year, allowing students to express their creativity in basic courses such as writing, language arts, social studies and mathematics.

Benjamin Roat, Ed.D., principal at ANLC, said, "This school started as a demonstration school 25 years ago…as a multi-age school."

ANLC is a choice school within Scottsdale Unified School District, which means students go through a process of choosing to attend this school. ANLC is an art-integration, hands-on learning school, where the focus is on child-centered education.

In each class, students do projects that incorporate art with hopes that it will help them better understand the topics they discuss.

A science class, for example, had a project on the human body. One student did their project on the skeletal system, and drew all of the bones with caulking materials, Roat added.

ANLC also offers after school activities that include sports, art and music-based activities."Another objective for us is we want our students to have social awareness," Roat said.

The ANLC looks forward to seeing students help each other. Each classroom consists of two different grade levels; these are referred to as Gleams, which stands for Grade Level Teams. GLeam 1 is first and second grade, GLeam 2 is third and fourth grade, and so on. This creates an environment where a child in the older grade helps a younger student get used to how the class works. An advanced learner can also help a fellow student further understand the concepts being taught.

"You help other people…you're not working for yourself," Roat said regarding their philosophy of demonstrating your own understanding by teaching another person.

ANLC wants students to discover different paths to finding answers. A major objective of the school is to teach students core concepts, so that they understand the material instead of simply preparing to take the state assessments.

"We want kids to learn. We can't get caught up in the pressure to teach [students] 100 things," Roat said, referring to schools that teach students to just pass a test.

If the school finds that students have a specific curiosity, like the weather, they will create a writing activity that has to do with weather because it sparks the students' attention.

"We want it to be based on something that is impactful for them," Roat added.

The school's learning environment and mission is exactly why Roat applied for his new position as principal in the first place. Roat was previously an elementary teacher in Maryvale, before returning to school to earn his doctorate from Arizona State University.

Teaching about social issues and instilling a love for reading are two things that drive Roat's passion toward education.

"If you don't like reading, you're reading the wrong books," said Roat.

Rebecca Henrie has three children that attend ANLC. Her kids are in eighth grade, fifth grade and third grade. ANLC has specifically impacted her oldest son. She said the " [ANLC] fosters alternatives."

Henrie's son is not a traditional learner, and had trouble concentrating at traditional public school. He could not sit still at his desk. Once he started to attend ANLC, a teacher immediately suggested he sit on the floor, and that's all he needed.

"It's a different philosophy," assistant principal, Nan Wilkinson said. They like to give students "the gift of time," she said.

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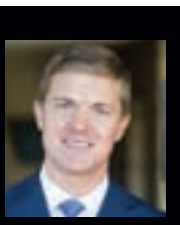
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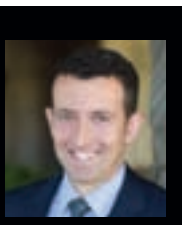
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Lemonade stand stirs up awareness for childhood cancer

By Ava Lasiewski

Third- and fourth-grade students at Christ Church School in Paradise Valley recently created a way to raise funds for childhood cancer treatment research.

"In support of Childhood Cancer Awareness month, these students hosted a lemonade stand during the school's ice cream social and open house. The students made posters, ran a publicity campaign, stirred up several batches of delicious lemonade, and passed out stickers to donors," said Jody Cash, director of marketing and communications at CCS.

Emma Porter, a CCS teacher, thought that this experience raised awareness in the students as well. "[Students] learned that cancer affects everyone, even children. We were able to have many discussions about donations and funding. Running the lemonade stand was a lesson in cooperation and the importance of working as a team, and also helped develop their management skills," Porter added.

CCS student, Abigail Rowley, said, "I think it went pretty well. The money we raised will help find a cure so no more children get sick or die from cancer."

Classmate Grant Nasser added that CCS exceeded their goal of $100 by three times that amount, raising $400. The money will be donated to the Ronan Thompson Foundation and go towards research to finding a cure for childhood cancer.

To make a donation or to learn more about the foundation and childhood cancer, visit theronanthompsonfoundation.com.

Christ Church students designed a complete advertising campaign to support their efforts.

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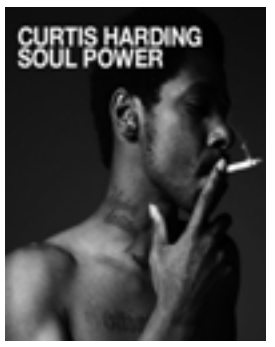
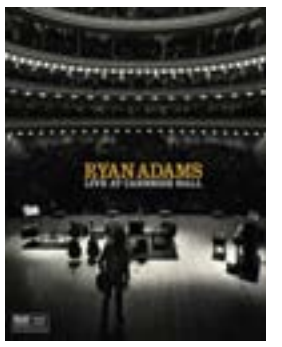
Music columnist shares his favorite albums of the year

By Craig Goossen





The holiday season is a terrible time to think of ourselves. We should be making lists of important people in our lives so that we may begin the process of thinking what they would enjoy or appreciate as a thoughtful present. The gift of giving is one of the most fulfilling things you can do in this life and I urge you to keep focused in that regard; however, it's very healthy for us to take a minute for ourselves.

Every year there's a wealth of music releases that dominate my ears and 2015 is no different. I could write a list of my favorite 50 releases of 2015, but for the sake of space, I've identified a small group of releases that wound up getting the better of me throughout the year and I imagine will continue to grow on me for years to come. I modestly suggest you take the time to give these releases a listen and see if they attract your musical senses. You may discover something that speaks to you and enhances your mood through the holidays. The discovery of new music may motivate you to imagine the perfect gift for someone you love or simply keep you sane as you fight for a parking space at the mall during the holidays. So before you go shopping for others, do treat your deserving selves to some new music.

MUSIC *NOTES*

BUTCH WALKER: AFRAID OF GHOSTS

Afraid of Ghosts is an intimate, beautifully haunting recording from a top-level songwriter searching his soul. Produced by Ryan Adams in his vibrant Hollywood studio, Walker, a noted producer himself, succumbs to Adams and out pours an instant classic.

CALEXICO: EDGE OF THE SUN

Calexico, a band from Tucson and a terrific musical voice of the Southwest, just keeps pumping out perfect records for our listening pleasure and *Edge of the Sun* is a great addition to their growing catalogue.

CURTIS HARDING: SOUL POWER

If any portion of your soul has space for clean, funky, deep jams, than Curtis Harding might be a good thing to get into your ears immediately. *Soul Power* may have been the album I listened to more than anything else this year. It's the goods and I can't wait to listen to it again and again.

FATHER JOHN MISTY: I LOVE YOU, HONEYBEAR

Josh Tillman has something serious going on within his tongue in cheek Father John Misty moniker. This lush sophomore effort is as good as the debut and possibly even better.

KURT VILE: B'LIEVE I'M GOIN DOWN

Kurt Vile's astonishing, yet delicate guitar work and breezy drawl of a voice are on full display on his sixth release. The album, upon first listen is just what you hope from a Vile release: cool vibe and groovy mellow tunes. But as always, there's an underlying depth that takes you higher and higher after repeated listens.

RYAN ADAMS: LIVE AT CARNEGIE HALL

Adams is a special talent and he's been building a catalogue that will adequately fulfill music lovers for the remainder of his years and way beyond. Adams is the real deal in every way and this chill, two night performance recorded live at Carnegie Hall in its entirety is a great gift for the fan or even a person virgin to his perfect songs.

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Author, advocate and activist to attend Book Club this month

By Amanda Goossen

I had a conversation with my daughter last week. It occurred after our second or third disagreement of the day. It was only 7:30 in the morning.

"When I was a girl, I just did everything my parents said," I lectured my daughter. "Never, ever did I even consider a debate."

My 10-year-old girl looked at me through the rearview mirror as we drove to school. Her expression was more of pity than remorse.

"I even wore clothes that my mom picked out for me…until the seventh grade," I told my girl, hoping to prove that doing what you're told is simply a fact of life.

As we sat there in the car, however, waiting for the light to turn green, my headstrong child looked me dead in the eye.

"When did you realize you could think for yourself?" she asked me, with such conviction, it took my breath away.

In all reality, I was 18 before I realized I could speak up for myself. Fifteen years later, I now proudly offer up my opinion and put my foot down for what I believe.

The thing I respect most in this world today is people who fight, who stand up, who give of their time and of themselves to change the world. To me, there is nothing more important.

On December 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Saguaro Library in Phoenix, the *Arcadia News* Book Club will host lawyer, cultural historian and author, Linda Hirshman, to discuss her most recent work, *Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World*.

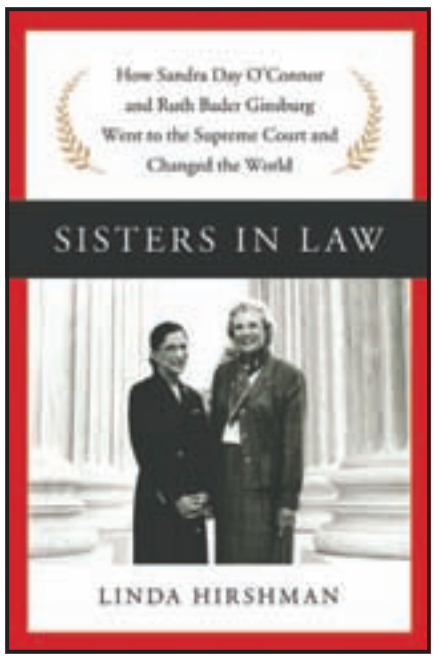
BOOK OF THE MONTH

Sisters in Law

BY LINDA HIRSHMAN

Saguaro Library
December 10, 6:30 p.m.

BOOK *CLUB*



Hirshman has taught philosophy and women's studies at Brandeis University. Her writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Slate*, *Newsweek*, *The Daily Beast*, and *POLITICO*.

Sisters in Law celebrates the two women who, although very different, share one incredible thing: their roles as the only two women on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Well-written and researched, Hirshman gives readers an insight into two of the most monumental women of the 21st century.

Arcadia News recently had the honor of interviewing Linda Hirshman. For a more in-depth discussion, join us on December 10. To request a seat at our event, email Amanda@arcadianews.com.

AN: When you were a young girl what did the term feminist mean to you?

LH: I was too young to know there was a problem in the 1950s.

AN: How has that changed as you've grown into a hard-working, successful woman?

LH: I learned the society had to change to enable me to realize my personal ambitions.

AN: What led to you writing a book about Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg?

LH: They changed the world. It seemed so weird that their story had never been written. There are many books about Steinem and Thurgood Marshall.

AN: What two things have these women taught you about perseverance and strength?

LH: Never get mad unless it is to your benefit. Notice, pick fights carefully, and wait for the right moment.

AN: When you were a girl, what did you want to be when you grew up?

LH: A U.S. senator

AN: What do you think an adolescent Linda would say to you about what you've accomplished?

LH: GOOD JOB!!

AN: Many young girls today will never know what it was like to grow up before 1970 America. What should girls today know about what still needs to be done?

LH: The two worst remaining problems are reproductive freedom and The Second Shift.

AN: Your greatest accomplishment?

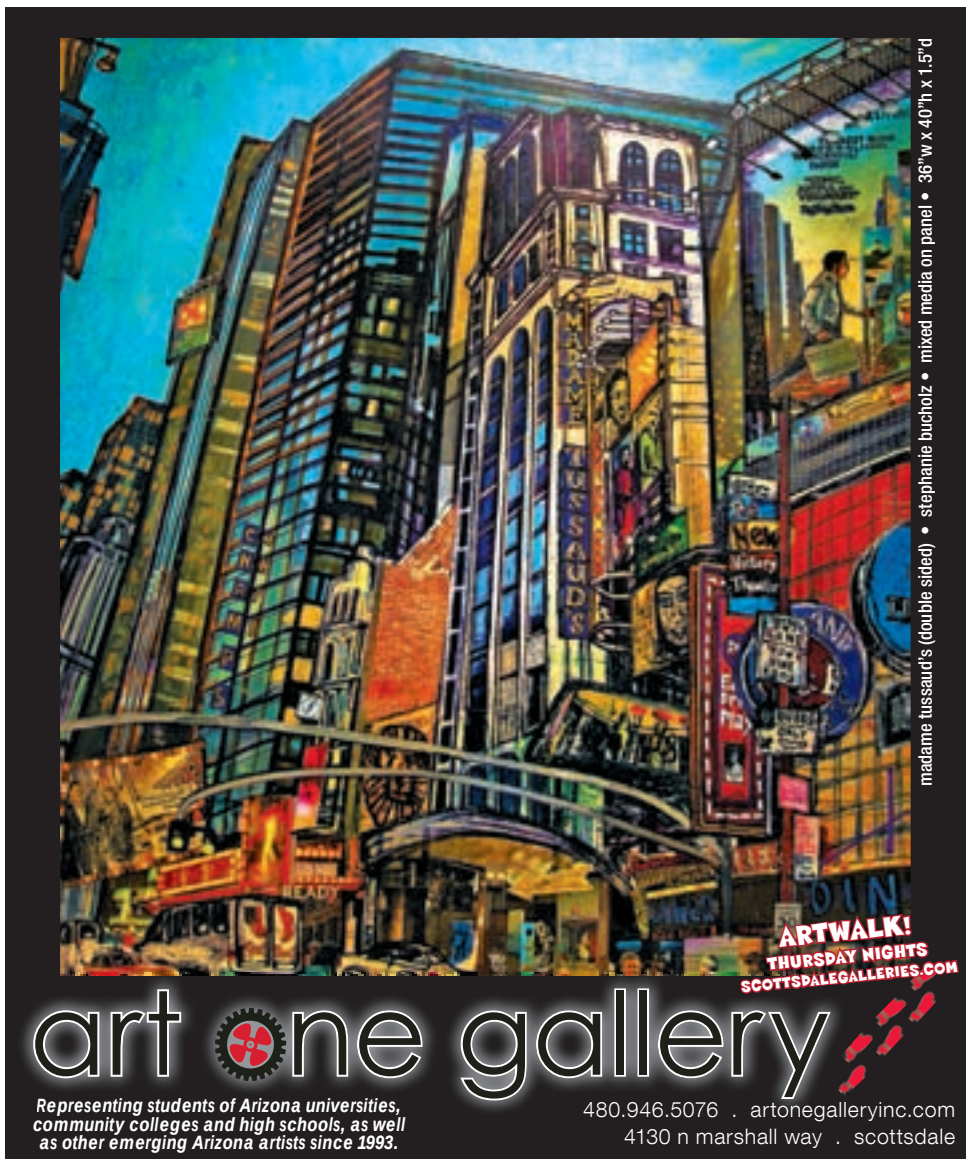
LH: Two books back to back on The *New York Times* Book Review cover.

AN: Your greatest regret?

LH: That I did not start writing sooner.

AN: If you could eat dinner with three writers, living or dead, who would they be?

LH: Suzanne Collins, Margaret Atwood and Stacey Schiff.



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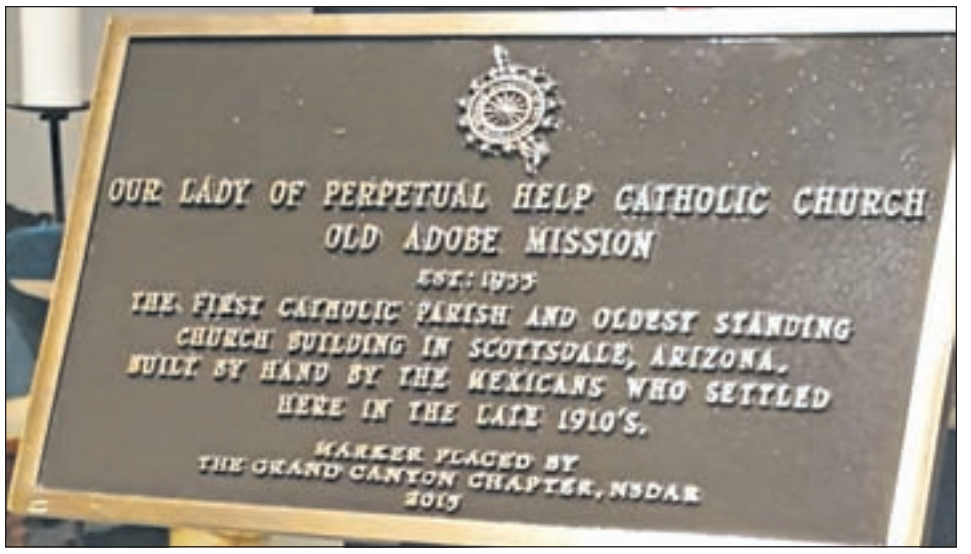

The historic marker was dedicated on October 18 by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Old Adobe Mission granted historic dedication

By Mallory Gleich

The atmosphere around the tiny church was abuzz with excitement as guests filled the pews. Sunday, October 18 was a special day for these guests, for the Daughters of the American Revolution were dedicating their church.

The Old Adobe Mission, also known as Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, was completed in 1933. It was built by the Mexicans who came to Scottsdale to escape the harsh work of the mining industry in their homeland.

With little to no personal items, these Mexican families came to Scottsdale to work in the cotton fields. As devout Catholics, they had no place to worship unless they made their way to St. Mary's Mission in Tempe to celebrate Mass.

It wasn't until 1932, when the Catholic Society collected $250 from supporting families, that the community was able to start building their church.

The walls, constructed from 14,000 handmade adobe bricks, are still part of the structure that stands at North Brown Avenue in Old Town Scottsdale today.

It was the rich history that prompted the Daughters of the American Revolution's Grand Canyon Chapter to dedicate to the church its very own historical marker.

"We knew the Mission was being restored and that it is one of Scottsdale's older buildings, with original adobe. We worked through the guidelines to be able to place a marker to help preserve this historic Scottsdale building," said Carmen Wendt, recording secretary of the DAR.

To begin the celebration, the president of Old Adobe, Rad Masinelli, and the DAR Regent Kathy Shields opened with a warm welcome to the guests.

Deacon Gary Griffin provided the invocation, and then Boy Scout Troop 446 posted the colors in front of the covered marker.

The Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem were recited. As the clouds rolled in and rain started to drum on the roof, the excitement inside the church grew.

The Old Adobe Mission also know as Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church.

Karen Spahn gave the audience a few laughs as she spoke about the history and preservation of the Mission.

Then, the moment everyone had been waiting for.

Members of the DAR stood in front of a white silk sheet, ready to unveil the marker. As the sheet was lifted, Kathy Shields and Gillian Morse dedicated the marker to the Old Adobe Mission. The applause was plentiful.

"I was so thrilled that the DAR chose the Old Adobe Mission as the site for their historical recognition. For me, it meant that everyone – visitors and local residents – will now understand and experience the Mission's significance in the history of Scottsdale," said Gloria Argueso, who is the secretary of the executive board for the Mission.

Rad Masinelli completed the dedication with closing remarks. Zealous handshakes were exchanged and everyone retired to the patio to celebrate the joyous occasion. The marker now stands at the front of the Old Adobe Mission for all to see.

HGTV spotlights two Arcadia families in a pilot show

By Lindsey Greenwood

The two Arcadia couples and their seven young children took center stage in the HGTV pilot show titled after their company Rafterhouse. The families talked about the process of making the show and how they balanced family life during filming.

Austin King, his wife Suzanne, and his business partner Chris Liles and his wife Fallon, starred in *Rafterhouse*, which aired October 10 on HGTV.

The Arcadia-based company aims to enhance postwar era ranch homes in the Arcadia area while maintaining the original charm and historic roots of the home.

"The filming of the show was a three month process starting in January of [2015]. They followed us from the beginning to the end of remodeling an entire house," said Fallon.

The entrepreneurial couples were pleased with the way the pilot episode portrayed their business and lifestyle.

"I think that the show told our story really well. It was abbreviated. It was a half-hour show, but the whole process took 12 weeks," said Chris. "It captured who we are and what we are about."

The two couples landed on HGTV's radar when Chris and Fallon's Arcadia home was featured in *HGTV magazine*. This resulted in the two families contacting HGTV executives.

"We were going to pitch the idea for the show to the production company online, but the fine print on the website said not to call and solicit," said Austin. "So we went through Instagram and sent photos to an HGTV executive with our website and information."

Business partners and friends Austin and Suzanne King (left) with Fallon and Chris Liles.

HGTV liked what they saw and asked the couples for a five-minute video about themselves and their company, and eventually put them in contact with the production company, said Austin.

"That is when it all came full circle. They told us to talk to the production people and then we got started. And the rest is history," said Austin.

Fallon Liles and Suzanne King are both from the Arcadia area and have been best friends since middle school – long before the creation of the company. Through their friendship, their husbands connected and got the idea to work together on home projects.

"We would hang out and they would talk about real estate. At the time, Chris was doing remodeling and contracting, while Austin was doing real estate. They talked about working together and finally they decided to try it out," said Suzanne.

Their company, Rafterhouse, was officially started in 2012; however, Chris and Austin worked together unofficially for two years prior to the start of their business.

Both Suzanne and Fallon are stay-at-home moms and help their husbands when it comes time to stage the homes.

"Austin is busy hunting for homes. I am busy working on the home. Our wives are busy staging the homes. We are all busy at different times of the process," Chris said.

On top of their business responsibilities, the couples managed to balance family life while shooting the pilot.

"It was hard balancing [work and life]. The filming threw another commitment into the workweek. All four of us were trying to juggle life and the kids' schedules," said Austin.

The production company was fairly flexible with family commitments and the children's routines, said Fallon.

"We would tell them when we were available and then they would schedule us for all of that time. So even though it was flexible at times, they gave us very short notice," said Fallon.

Austin said he and Chris have not heard if the show will turn into a series.

Both families didn't see the show until it aired on October 10 and are unsure when HGTV will tell them if there will be more filming in their future.

"This whole process has been unknown. There has been no set of rules or timelines," Suzanne said.

While the process of making the show was chaotic, both families agree they would do the filming over again if they could, said Austin.

"It was a blast. We would really be blessed to have the opportunity to make the show a series," Austin said.

The couples are staying optimistic and are thankful for the exposure that the show has given their business, said Chris. "If the show doesn't go anywhere, it was still a neat chance to document this period of our life. It was a win-win."

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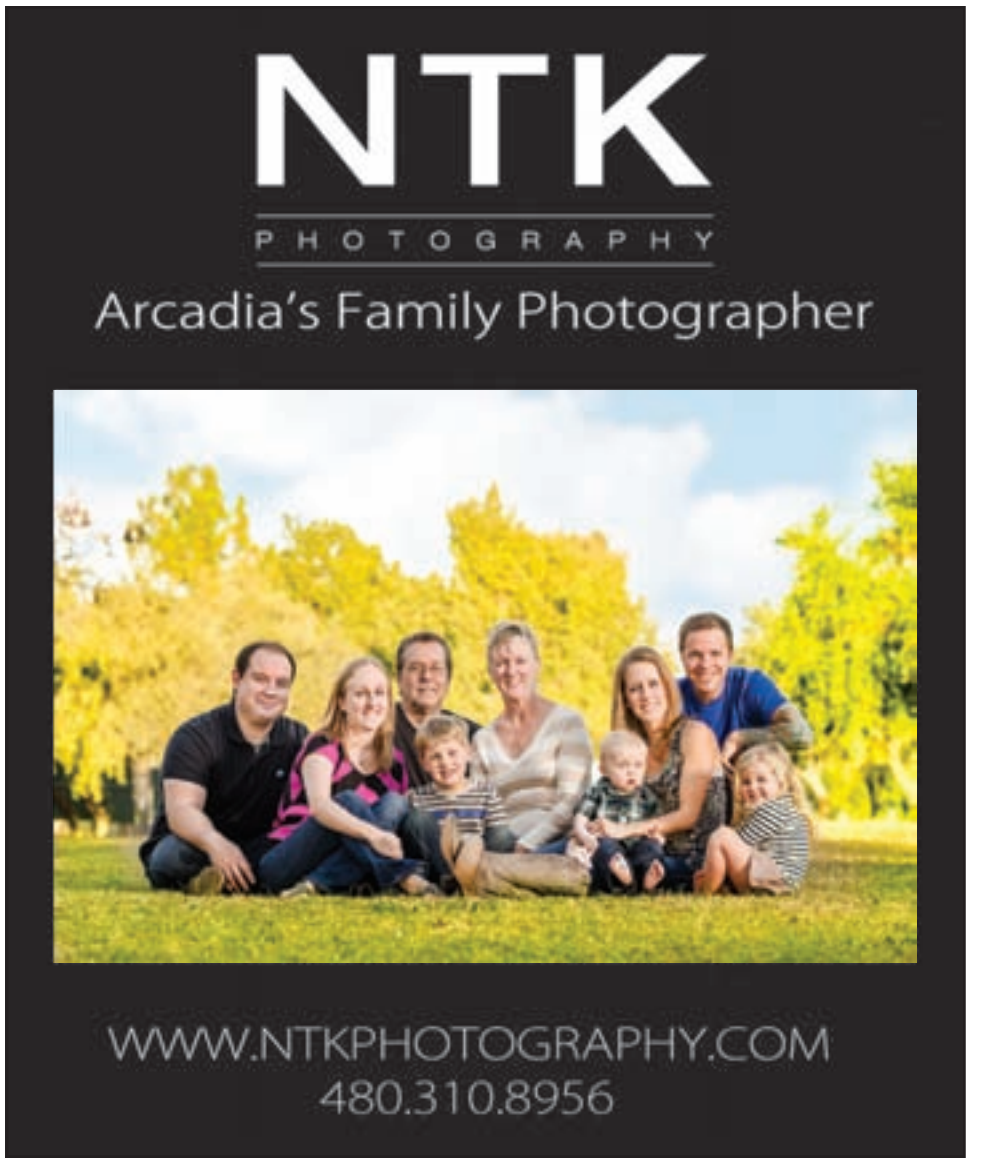

Youth Ambassador Exchange Program is accepting applications

By Lindsey Greenwood

The Youth Ambassador Exchange Program, sponsored by Phoenix Sister Cities, is accepting applications for the summer 2016 exchange program.

The program is a reciprocal six-week summer exchange program for high school sophomores and juniors residing in a Phoenix council district. Selected students will travel to one of Phoenix's 10 sister cities as youth ambassadors, said Bethany Bennick, the youth and education program manager with the Phoenix Sister Cities.

"This program teaches students about cultural awareness. The students develop friendships and become more globally minded youth through participating in this program," said Bennick.

Phoenix Sister Cities selects which countries students will live in. Students live with a host family for three weeks and then host their international counterpart when they visit Phoenix in July, said Bennick.

Possible cities that students are sent to include: Calgary, Canada; Catania, Italy; Chengdu, China; Ennis, Ireland; Grenoble, France; Hermosillo, Mexico; Himeji, Japan; Prague, Czech Republic; Ramat-Gan, Israel; and Taipei, Taiwan.

"This program allows students to experience a culture deeply. There is a huge difference between being a tourist and being a resident," said Camryn Lizik, who was sent to Prague as a youth ambassador in the summer of 2015.

Lizik was attracted to the program because she wanted to learn about a different culture.

"Not only do you learn about a culture through this program but you get to observe how individuals live in their own culture," said Lizik.

This program is privately funded through fundraisers and family contributions. All students can also apply for scholarships to pay for the trip, said Bennick.

"Traveling is a great thing to do when you are young," said Mark Morrissby, who

traveled to Catania, Italy as a youth ambassador in 2015. "This trip allows you to become more confident and open minded."

Before departure, students attend five academy session trainings to prepare them for their visit, said Bennick.

"Not only are you an ambassador of Phoenix during this trip, but you also represent the United States," said Morrissby.

Applications are available at phoenixsistercities.org and are due by December 18 at 5 p.m. For more information, call 602-534-3751 or email Bethany Bennick at bethany.bennick@phoenix.gov.

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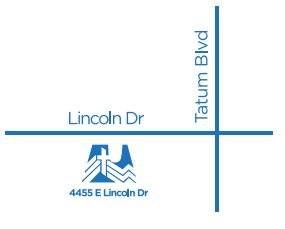

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Georgia French retires after 20 years at Arcadia High

By Rachael Bouley

Her position as administrative assistant doesn't fully capture how much Georgia French does and means to Arcadia High School. For 20 years she has been the heart and soul of Arcadia's athletic department, and students and staff are going to miss her immensely when she retires this month.

For Georgia, Arcadia has been a wonderful, rewarding experience and she can't imagine working anywhere else. "I love the kids. It sounds so cliché, but they make you young. They just want to be accepted and know that everything is going to be okay. If you smile at them, they will smile back. I can't think of any place else I would want to work."

Georgia said that she's expecting the transition to retirement to be difficult because she loves the school so much, but she's looking forward to spending time with her family, especially her six grandchildren. She's excited for her next adventure.

"I've done this for 20 years, and I could do it forever, but I want to see what's on the horizon," she said.

Georgia considers her most important accomplishment to be helping kids through their high school years, which can often be difficult. "My philosophy is that if you do one kind act per day, it changes your life forever." She said she wants people to remember her as being kind.

She considers the Arcadia High community her family. "I'm so appreciative that the students and the faculty are in my life, and I love the fact that they share their lives with me. It's such a big family."

Her co-workers and friends had nothing but wonderful things to say about Georgia.

Kevin Mooney, assistant principal of student services and athletics, uses Oscar Wilde's quote "Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go," to describe Georgia. "Mrs. French is on the very front of the line of those in the first group. She uses the power of her office to improve the school experience of all Arcadia students. She does so by helping coaches more effectively communicate with students and athletes, by counseling every student with whom she interacts with like a caring relative, by making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches every day for students who are hungry, and much, much more."

She has been an invaluable supporter of the athletic department, helping with everything from scheduling buses, to looking up student grades, to helping students and coaches communicate more effectively. She's also a great friend.

"She always listens whenever I have a problem or just want to talk. I have never seen her mad or upset," said Rob Reniewicki, head coach of the track and field and cross-country teams. "Georgia has always been a part of the success of every Arcadia athletic team."

"She completes the football program," added Lenny Abt, the head football coach. "She will be greatly missed."

Josh Olshan, the varsity girls volleyball and tennis coach, said Georgia does so many things for the school, it's impossible to list. "I could not have survived as a coach if not for having the help of Mrs. French."

Most importantly, even after she retires, Georgia will be remembered for her bright smile and positive impact on the lives of those around her.

"I have never seen Georgia without a smile on her face," said Ronnie Jenson, who has known Georgia for more than 24 years. "No matter how busy she is, she stops what she is doing and helps any person that asks. I do not know of any student who does not adore her."

AHS football club focuses on the value of teamwork

By Graysen Choy

Arcadia High School's football booster club is raising money to help fund its football program with the help of parents, student-athletes and staff.

Tim Turelli, the president of the football booster club, said the boosters promote the value of teamwork through its involvement with the student-athletes, parents, family, friends and the community.

The sole purpose of the football booster club is to support the football program financially. The club utilizes several fundraising techniques to raise money for the program with the help of volunteers mostly consisting of the parents of the student-athletes.

During the start of the season, the team sells discount cards and during the spring they sell cookie dough. Throughout the year, spirit wear for the team is also sold.

"Players learn how to be responsible by helping the program," Turelli said.

The money goes towards the program that helps pay for new uniforms, locker room upgrades and team classroom chairs. Major renovations to the field house and new turf for the football field were also purchased.

Kevin Mooney, the athletic director, and Principal Nathan Slater are involved with the football booster club as well.

"The football boosters are a significant, positive impact to our program," Slater said. "They help in leadership to renovate our facilities as well as fundraise to provide our athletes with athletic gear and nourishment."

According to Mooney, the booster club also provides more than just financial support.

Along with fundraising activities, parents of the booster club also volunteer to work at the snack shack during games as well as provide game-day meals to the student-athletes on the team.

Arcadia High School believes that it is important for student-athletes to take academics seriously and involve it with their athletics. Therefore, the booster club provides tutoring for players to help improve their grades.

The booster club is also in charge of email updates during the season.

According to Arcadiatitansfootball.com, the main mission of the booster club is the "commitment to the principal, athletic director and coaching staff for the care, well-being, and love shared, for the success of the student-athletes participating in the program."

"We are so lucky to have such a strong influence on the program and appreciate [the booster club] a great deal," Slater said.

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Basketball team hungry for another successful season

By Josh Cutlip

Three years ago, Stephen Danford entered his first year as coach for the boys varsity basketball team at Arcadia High School. Now, after two playoff runs – including one state finals appearance – Coach Danford is entering his fourth season at Arcadia, with playoffs on the mind.

The expectation is to make the playoffs every year," he said. "Once you get into the playoffs, anything can happen."

After losing some key seniors from last year, Danford is looking at a young team, but it's not necessarily a bad thing; last year, the freshmen team went undefeated and many of those players are still in the program.

"We have many sophomores that can really play, so we're going to be really young, but I think we'll be ok," said Danford.

The young talent surrounds Elijah Sikora and Bailey Lozevsky, the only two seniors on the team. Danford isn't worried about the lack of age; however, because he is confident in his team's collective experience. Danford says the seasoned juniors, Matt Burton and Max Moses, will also have to help pick up the leadership duties.

"We sat down and talked this summer about the transition they're going to have to make in the game from a role player to one of our guys."

Moses and Burton have played at the varsity level since they were freshmen, and have since learned about the expectations Coach Danford has for the team.

The Titans start off their season with the Paradise Valley Tournament the week of Thanksgiving, and Danford isn't too worried about wins, but rather the experience. He said the tournament would help them get "battle tested" for the long season they have ahead.

> ***"It'll be a really tough section, and it'll be a test for us. We have to prepare as hard as we can in practice."***

"We'll be a different team in the beginning of the year than the end of the year," said Danford, referring to the experience he believes his team will gain.

Arcadia will also face the gauntlet in the last part of the season, squaring up against the rest of their section, and schools like Shadow Mountain, who Danford said is the team to beat.

"It'll be a really tough section, and it'll be a test for us. We have to prepare as hard as we can in practice."

Physical preparation is important for the longevity of the basketball season, but Danford likes to focus on getting his players prepared mentally as well.

"As the season goes on, us as coaches, we shorten practices. You have to see the big picture because you can't go 2 1/2 hours every day from November until March," he said. "Every day it's a grind."

Danford also promotes team bonding, something he has preached since day one.

"[Team bonding is] huge because at the end of the year, it's almost like they can read each other's mind in a way. They know where they're going to be, they know what they're going to do, they know how they're going to react under pressure, and that's vital."

Even with a tough season approaching, Danford is confident in his squad's experience from the past few seasons, and they are gunning for that title.

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Hopi dads give students a new way to learn

By Ava Lasiewski

The Hopi Dad's Club has funded a program for the students of Hopi Elementary that allows them to learn foreign languages through Rosetta Stone.

This program will be offered to students in second through fifth grade.

According to the program's flyer, this program was started because the dads "… hope to implement incentives to encourage students to continually advance throughout the year."

According to the school's website, "Students will be using Chrome Books (donated by the Hopi Dad's Club) during the Specials Time to complete various units and levels. As students complete levels in each unit, they will be given rewards for their progress."

The school recommends that the students use Rosetta Stone at home as well, since it can be accessed through any computer, tablet or mobile phone, the website said.

The students at Hopi Elementary will not be graded on their work, but the program's leader, Blake Rhodes, will check on their progress weekly.

The languages students can learn include Spanish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, Portuguese, Latin and Hebrew.

Rhodes said, "I am extremely excited to be running the Rosetta Stone program this year and look forward to all the success that it is going to bring to our students here at Hopi."

2015 FALL SEASON RECAP

By Josh Cutlip

Fall sports have come to an end at Arcadia High School; here are some highlights you may have missed.

SWIM TEAM

The girls team placed fifth at the state meet, and the boys team placed seventh. It was, as Coach Erica McClurg put it, "Pretty darn good, considering we only had four girls and four boys scoring points." The girls broke two school records in two different relays, and the boys broke one relay record for the school. Savanna Carlson was state champion in the 200 individual medley and third in the 100 butterfly. Matti Harrison placed second in the 100-yard backstroke and third in the 200-yard freestyle. Clay Stoddard placed fourth and 10th in his events for the boys, and Antonio Ramirez placed second in both of his two events. Jack Ehmann was top 16 in his events, Sydney Carlson was top eight in both of her events, and Sam Milewski was ninth and 10th in her events.

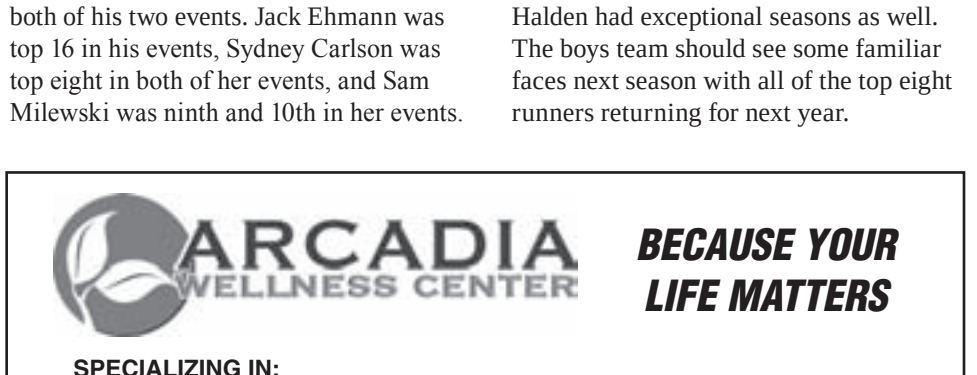
VOLLEYBALL

The girls volleyball team ended the season with a record of 20-14 overall, and 9-8 in power ranking matches. Head Coach Josh Olshan said some key injuries towards the end of the season contributed to their missing the state playoffs.

"We were competitive in every match and showed a lot of heart all season," said Olshan. "I was very proud of our girls."

CROSS COUNTRY

Megan Reniewicki led the charge to state, ending the season ranked number one in Arizona and 86th nationally with a 5K time of 17:55. Reniewicki took first place in the district and section, and placed fifth in the state meet. She was also named to the All State First Team for Cross Country. Senior Avery Daniels and sophomore Lena Halden had exceptional seasons as well. The boys team should see some familiar faces next season with all of the top eight runners returning for next year.



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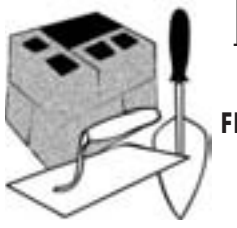

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Greg & Barbara Ellena
Beth Ramirez

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Michael Callahan
LouAnn Abraham-Gross
Teresa Floyd
Sue Carroll
Toni Artino
John & Meghan Hamilton
Heather Christensen
Thomas Synder
David & Mary Heiser
Frabrizia Meoli
Walt Danley
Tom Synder
Ron Mehir
Marcia Canady
William Yule
Wade & Heather Taylor
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Ranjit & Jagdeesh Bisla
Robert Shepard
Richard Francis
Michael & Kathy Holmgren
Justin & Tina Shafer
William Dickey
Gillian Oppedahl
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Warmest thoughts and Best Wishes for a wonderful Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!

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