ARCADIA NEWS

VOL. 28 NO. 5 — ARCADIA • BILTMORE • CAMELBACK CORRIDOR — AUGUST 2020



BACK TO SCHOOL

It will be a different kind of year for students, teachers and parents. This issue has you covered.

LEMONS TO LEMONADE

Massey and Kate made a tidy profit with their roadside stand in Arcadia. It all went to a very special cause.

PAGE 3

PICKLEBALL, ANYONE?

The Arcadia Pickleball Association is looking for fresh faces to join them on the court.

PAGE 9



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



Editor: *Mallory Gleich*
mallory@arcadianews.com



Designer: *Gabe Turner*
gabe@arcadianews.com



Advertising: *Roni Mier*
roni@arcadianews.com

3850 East Indian School Road
(602) 840-6379 • arcadianews.com
arcadianewsonline.com (for archives)

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AUGUST

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Departments

4 Editor's Note

6 What's Happening?

12 Sam Lowe

20 In the Kitchen

22 Meet Mr.

25 Career Advice

28 Robin's Adventures

38 Ask the Appraisers

42 Did You Know?

Articles

11 **Arizona Run for COVID-19**

Xavier and Brophy students Jamie Stelnik, Jackson Moran and Charlie Fallon created a virtual 5K/fun run to raise money for St. Vincent de Paul's COVID-19 Relief Fund.

16 **The Verde is thirty**

The Verde Canyon Railroad, known as "Arizona's longest-running nature show," is celebrating 30 years of scenery, cool characters and riding the rails.

24 **Pete's Fish & Chips**

An Arcadia icon and Valley mainstay for over 70 years, Pete's formula of quality service and comfort food has stood the test of time.

30 **Schools get a facelift**

Echo Canyon and Ingleside Middle School are starting the year off with fresh renovations – and Kiva Elementary is looking forward to their complete makeover.

ON THE COVER:

Arcadia friends Massey (left) and Kate brought in $100 with their lemonade stand one hot weekend. The girls donated the proceeds to CURE, which helps fund research for rare pediatric cancers. Massey is a two-time cancer survivor of Acute Myeloid Leukemia, and she likes to run the occasional lemonade stand to support other children with cancer.

PHOTO BY GREG A. BRUNS





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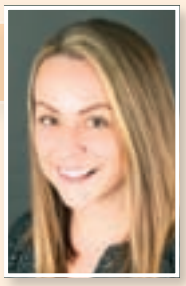
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EDITOR'S NOTE



We've all heard the saying – in fact, it's been driven into our minds as of late: "These are unprecedented times." But one thing that has held strong is the positivity of the Arcadia community, no matter how uncertain things may be.

This month we pay tribute to a long-time friend and advertiser of the *Arcadia News*. W.R. Williams Fine Jewelry has closed its doors after 27 years in the Arcadia Towne Center. Owner and long-time Arcadia resident Randy Williams has passed away, and we are honored to share his story (right).

Speaking of legacy, we're also featuring a piece of Arizona's history this month. The Verde Canyon Railroad have been around for a few decades and has become a place that tourists and residents know and love.

Some of our local students have been hard at work this summer coming up with ways to help donate to COVID-19 relief funds. Kidz 4 Causes and Xavier and Brophy students each set up a virtual run to raise funds for the Navajo Nation and St. Vincent de Paul.

The August edition has always had a 'back-to-school' theme. This year we will keep that tradition alive with several stories inside and sending our best wishes to our students – and parents – for a successful year.

These days, it feels like the world is a totally different place. But the one thing that stays true is Arcadia's community spirit, which shows no signs of fading, no matter what life throws at us.

Also – there's still time to send in your summer vacation photos – you could be on the cover of next month's edition! Email them to editor@arcadianews.com.

Be well,

Mallory Gleich

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KIMBERLY MARSHALL
PhD & Arcadia Resident





PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDY WILLIAMS

The late Randy Williams, Peggy Briggs and goldsmith Lauren Kormylo.

W.R. Williams Fine Jewelry says farewell after 27 years

By Rachael Bouley

Randy Williams and his company cultivated a special relationship with the Arcadia neighborhood. Located at 48th St. and Indian School Road, W.R. Williams came to be known as a trusted name in jewelry. Countless marriage proposals had their sparkling beginnings forged at their glass countertops.

Owner Randy Williams poured his heart and soul into the small business with his family by his side. Deciding to close down shop was bittersweet after Randy passed away late last year, but his wife, Judy, knew it was the right time.

The couple was married for over 30 years and raised their family in Arcadia. Randy's passion for jewelry was born when he started working in the jewelry business as a 15-year-old in Ohio. He worked his way up, going on to manage several stores in Arizona before opening his own in 1993 when their first child was just a baby.

Randy's original store was located in a shopping center at the southeast corner of 16th Street and Camelback. When the center was slated for demolition, the wheels were put in motion to move to the Arcadia location. "He was so nervous. He had not been in business long, and moving a business is expensive," Judy said.

The new shop in Arcadia Towne Center turned out to be the perfect home for the Williams family and business. "It was the best thing that could have happened," Judy said. "The neighborhood has been so good to us. Randy always felt that the people who came into the store were his friends who happened to be customers."

The jewelry store quickly became known for its popular estate and bridal pieces, and Randy was invited to and attended many weddings throughout the years. For Randy, it was all about the community connection and helping customers find a meaningful piece of jewelry that they couldn't live without.

"Randy always said that this was a happy business. People were happy to be getting married or getting a birthday or anniversary gift," Judy said. "He loved that generations of families would come in to shop. He would sell a wedding set to a couple, then years later to their children, and then grandchildren would come in."

Randy took a lot of pride in his reputation as the trusted neighborhood jeweler. "The repair shop and custom jewelry design department were, we think, the finest in town," Judy said. "I would occasionally ask him if he would want to open another location. He never did. He was happy with the family he grew here in the neighborhood."

Closing the business was not something Judy took lightly.

"The decision to close was heartbreaking. It has been a huge part of our family for so long, and it's all my kids have known their dad to do," Judy said.

Saying goodbye to the store's employees was also difficult. "Chris had been with us for over 15 years, Peggy for 10 years, and Lauren, the jeweler, was with us for 22 years before she retired. All three of them, along with many others over the years, have been essential to the business's success."

These friendly and familiar faces were known across Arcadia as the helpful and knowledgeable jewelry team. Yet when one door closes, another one opens, and that's the main reason why Judy decided to move forward with this next chapter.

"When deciding what to do with the store, I wanted to honor the integrity and reputation that Randy had created," Judy said. A friend of Randy's who worked with him back in the 1980s – Bryan Freytag – agreed to move to Phoenix and open a jewelry store in the same location as W.R. Williams Fine Jewelry. Freytag has spent the last 23 year running a jewelry store in Farmington, N.M. "It is exactly what Randy would have wanted," said Judy.

While W.R. Williams Fine Jewelry is now closed, Judy says a remodel will take place before Freytag opens his doors. "The new store will open with the same level of trust Arcadia deserves," she said.

SUSD offers two back-to-school options

By Cody Kennedy

A question that has been on every parent, teacher and school administrators' mind lately: What's going to happen when it's time for school to start? The original date for when students would return to school campuses was set for August 10. Then, COVID-19 numbers soared, and the Scottsdale Unified School District determined that in-person schooling was not a viable option. Instead, students will start the school year online.

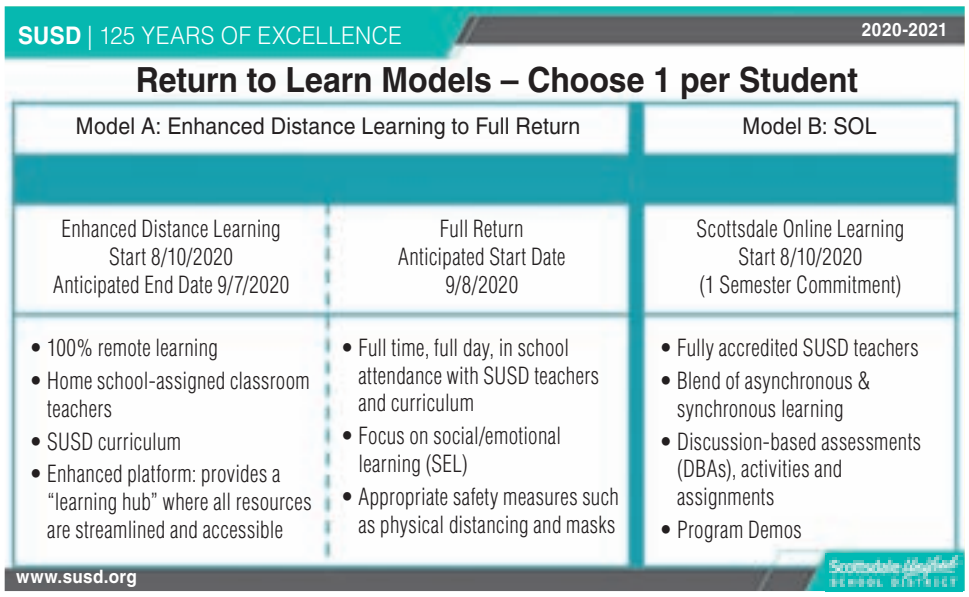
SUSD Superintendent Dr. Scott Menzel and the Board decided to delay students' return to campus until at least September 8, the day after Labor Day, if allowed to return in-person at that time.

At recent governing board meetings, SUSD voted to provide families with two choices for student learning when its 28 schools reopen.

- Full-time on campus: (after initial online distanced learning program – see Model A above) On an SUSD campus five days a week, with enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols. Following the June 19 Maricopa County regulation, face masks will be required of all students and staff while on campus. Face masks will also be required on all SUSD school buses.
- Full-time online: (referenced in chart) Online five days a week through SUSD's fully accredited, age-appropriate, distance-learning program called Scottsdale Online Learning. SUSD's state-certified teachers will lead classes. Parents can also choose the online platform Enhanced Distance Learning, which is taught by teachers from each school.

Community feedback at the meetings included concerns about in-person versus online school, including grading policies and transportation and safety concerns.

Arcadia High's new principal Dr. Cain Jagodzinski held multiple Zoom meetings in late July to address parents' concerns and help clarify return-to-school options. Some policies are still being discussed.



"One of our goals is to find a medium between screen time so that kids aren't staring at a screen for seven hours," Dr. Jagodzinski said. "We want to make sure that kids have a routine. We want everyone to have more accountability and for teachers to have more opportunities to interact with the kids. Our goal is to make it as good as we can for the kids and have them ready to go when it's time to get back on campus."

Parents suggested a "back to school" video for parents and students so that they can become familiar with the two online learning platforms.

Parents, students and teachers will also have access to an online educational platform called Buzz. Dr. Jagodzinski explained that Buzz is like a blank canvas that teachers can continually update with homework, assignments and grades and can be used as a way to communicate with students.

As for safety concerns, Dr. Jagodzinski explained that he and the board are hoping to get more guidance soon, as this is the most asked question when it comes to returning to school. He did mention that kids will be required to wear masks, and they are working on spacing desks between students, as well as putting up signage to remind students of these new protocols.

Lunchtime is also a concern. "We are still deciding what to do during lunch," Dr. Jagodzinski said. They will need to decide whether the cafeteria will offer a grab-and-go option and if there will be air-conditioned places for kids to eat, he said. "It's hard to get kids to stay apart; we have to re-learn these things and will do our best to educate ourselves and students on safety measures. Safety is our number one concern."

The board also decided that there should be a principal for the online learning models and chose Ingleside Middle School Principal Dr. Christopher Thuman as the district's online learning programs' interim principal.

Another concern among parents and students is high school sports. The most recent Arizona Interscholastic Association Executive Board meeting detailed that sports will start and finish at their usual times with full safety modifications.

According to the AIA, there will be an 8-10 game schedule for 2A-6A football. Games will start the week of September 7. The current playoff structure may have to be adjusted after input from schools. 1A football is currently looking at modifications, if necessary.

The remainder of fall sports will be adjusted slightly to ensure complete regular seasons.

"As of today, falls sports are still on," Arcadia High School Athletic Director Rudy Alvarado said. "There will be a few changes but we are confident that we can pull it off. We want to give our kids a chance to compete if they can."

Estimated starting dates for competition:

- Golf – August 24
- Badminton – August 31
- All other fall sports – week of September 7

"We are in summer mode, which means our rules move to local school districts. Some are still practicing; some haven't been – it's a little all over the place," AIA Executive Director David Hines said. "From what I understand, coaches [within SUSD] are still working with kids in some form or another."

"At this point, we are dependent on when a school can go back to being in-person," Hines said. "But the intent is that we have some fall sports."

Hines explained that as the months progress, the reality is that high school sports will have a reduced schedule. "Even though we're starting later, we could still have a nine or ten game football season," he said.

For more: susd.org or aiaonline.org

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Arcadia Real Estate Stats

2020 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS
(1/01/2020-6/30/2020)

Active Homes -	141 homes
Homes Sold -	145 homes
Average Sale Price -	$1,555,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$405
Average Days On Market -	120 days

There is currently 5 months of home inventory. (based on 2019 sales results)
2020 home sales have decreased 8% this year. (based on 2019 sales results)
2020 home prices have increased 12%. (based on 2019 sales results)
2020 $ Per Square Foot prices have increased 8%. (based on 2019 sales results)
2020 homes are taking 3% more time to sell. (based on 2019 sales results)

2019 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

Homes Sold -	312 homes
Average Sale Price -	$1,362,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$371
Average Days On Market -	117 days

2020 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS
(1/01/2020-6/30/2020)

Active Homes -	70 Homes
Homes Sold -	92 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$723,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$304
Average Days On Market -	65 days

There is currently 4 months of home inventory. (based on 2019 sales results)
2020 home sales have decreased 17% this year. (based on 2019 sales results)
2020 home prices have increased 10%. (based on 2019 sales results)
2020 $ Per Square Foot prices have increased 9%. (based on 2019 sales results)
2020 Homes are taking 29% less time to sell. (based on 2019 sales results)

2019 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

Homes Sold -	221 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$651,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$276
Average Days On Market -	91 days

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WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*



New non-medical fabric masks are in stock at **Art One Gallery** in Old Town Scottsdale. Created by local Arizona artist Deborah McMillion-Nering, the masks are 5x4 inches and are $20 each. For more: artonegalleryinc.com.

Shemer Art Center's Legacy and Expansion Campaign is ongoing. The house next door to the center has sold to an owner who has confirmed that he wants to work with the center. With that comes the opportunity to continue the campaign to acquire the property. The center is working with the neighborhood associations to keep the community informed. For more: shemerartcenter.org.

In-person and virtual classes are now available at the **Shemer Art Center**. Examples of available classes are Drawing Basics with Elliott Everson, Intermediate and Advanced Pottery with Alan Jones and Mosaic Letters with Dave Hanson. For more: shemerartcenter.org.



Los Cerritos, located on the southeast corner of 40th St. and Indian School Road has officially closed. The building was gutted in late June to make way for a new eatery – but no word yet on what will take its place. **RKDA** restaurant, on the northwest corner, has also closed its doors.



Executive Chef Brian Archibald will lead the culinary team at **Francine,** a new Mediterranean restaurant opening in August at Scottsdale Fashion Square. Inspired by dishes from the south of France, Francine will officially open for dinner on Friday, August 14. Archibald brings over three decades of expertise to dishes like grilled octopus, zucchini carpaccio and steak tartare. For more: francinerestaurant.com.



This summer, the **Phoenix Public Library** will continue to offer Storytime Live for kids. This event showcases local librarians and new stories on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and Thursday at 3 p.m. Storytime Live is broadcast on Instagram (@phoenixpubliclibrary). For more: phoenixpubliclibrary.org.



Hospice of the Valley's White Dove Thrift Shop.

Arcadian Ted Verderame, owner and creator of **Endatto Timepieces,** is presenting his collection of watches inspired by Arizona's natural beauty. Endatto is an independent company "focused on making affordable, high-quality Swiss timepieces." The collection has been in the works for over a year and is now available to the public. For more: endatto.com.

A new "co-work, co-play" spot has opened in the Gaslight Square complex on 36th St. and Indian School. **Canteen Arcadia** opened in early July. Along with the "canteen," people are able to book meeting/work rooms located at the back of the building, along with space to hold Zoom calls. The menu boasts snack foods like chicken tenders, mozzarella sticks, breakfast goodies and soft drinks. For more: canteenarcadia.com.



Fry's Food Stores and Mobile On-site Mammography by SimonMed will provide early detection community screenings to the public. M.O.M. offers the newest 3-D mammography technology accompanied by a professional staff that focuses on patient's comfort, care and privacy. Each exam takes 15 minutes and the results are sent to the patient's care provider and to their home. For more: desertcanceraz.org or checkforalump.org.

Java Hustle is a new coffee joint located inside The Marilyn at 44th St. and Thomas. Owner Lance Larson has been on the Phoenix coffee scene for over 20 years and has partnered his family-owned business with Culinary Roots to bring coffee, tea, espresso and grab-and-go treats such as muffins and croissants to the neighborhood. For more: javahustle.com.

Hospice of the Valley opened its fifth White Dove Thrift Shop in early June near Arcadia. The shop, located at 2711 E. Indian School Road, offers guests quality resale furniture, housewares, art, fashion, designer shoes, purses and jewelry. Proceeds from the stores go to patient and family care. Donations are accepted and HOV is also looking for volunteers to help run the new store. For more: whitedovethrift.org.

Hospice of the Valley has also started a free virtual support group for dementia care partners. The group meets Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m., and is facilitated by a medical social worker who specializes in dementia. Participants discuss the stresses, challenges and rewards of caring for a person living with dementia. Additionally, Hospice of the Valley's dementia campus is scheduled to open in 2021 at Indianola Ave. and 44th St. For more: hov.org.



Club Pilates has temporarily closed three of its Valley studios. During the closure, Club Pilates will offer live mat Pilates classes through their private Facebook group page and Club Pilates GO On Demand video streaming. For more: clubpilates.com.

Medieval Times is reopening its doors to the public on August 6 with extra precautions in place for social distancing safety. All guests must wear a mask and submit to contactless temperature screening before entering the castle, and occupancy will be reduced to 50 percent. Digital menus will be accessible through smartphones and disposable table cards. For more: medievaltimes.com.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

VIRTUAL 8/4, 8/11, 8/18, 8/25

Online dance class

Phoenix Center for the Arts is providing online dance n' sculpt classes every Tuesday at 6 p.m. Head over to Facebook Live for a dance class that will get the whole body moving. Dance Instructor Michaela Konzal will be teaching to every ability and age. Memberships for these classes are $12 per week. For more: dancensculpt.com.

VIRTUAL 8/6, 8/13, 8/20, 8/27

History Happy Hour

Marshall Shore, Arizona's Hip Historian, will be posting weekly "History Happy Hour" posts on Facebook, YouTube and Twitch. Grab a beverage and get ready to delve into some history. Marshall will share interesting tidbits and curiosities from Arizona's past. There will also be trivia, music history, "Little Arizona," and a viewer question, plus a cocktail recipe that's tailored to each episode. For more: visit the Arizona History Happy Hour Facebook page.

VIRTUAL 8/2

Film Festival

4 p.m., Lunafest is a fundraising film festival featuring seven short films by and about women. The films are dedicated to supporting women filmmakers and bringing women together in their communities. The films range from animation to drama, and cover topics such as women's health, body image, relationships, cultural diversity and breaking barriers. All proceeds from Lunafest will benefit local nonprofit Soroptimist International of Phoenix, whose mission is to empower women and girls by providing access to and support of their educational objectives. Cost is $20. For more: lunafest.org.



PURL *by Kristen Lester & Gillian Libbert-Duncan is one film that will be featured at Lunafest.*

THURSDAY 8/6-MONDAY 8/10

Cruise the Zoo

7 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Phoenix Zoo, 455 N. Galvin Pkwy., Phoenix. Cruise the Zoo allows guests to view a variety of animals, including flamingos, giraffes and elephants. This event also includes a guided, educational audio tour, and food and beverage options are available for purchase on-site. There will be a limit of 450 tickets sold per day. Tickets are $65 per car. For more: phoenixzoo.org.

SATURDAY 8/8

Wine Country BBQ

11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at LDV Winery, 13922 S. Kuykendall Cutoff Road, Pearce. LDV Winery's popular Wine Country BBQ promises a good time for wine and BBQ lovers. Guests can enjoy wine tasting, food, winemaker-led tours, outdoor games and photo ops while strolling through Southeastern Arizona wine country. Cost is $40 person for general admission. For more: ldvwinery.com.

FRIDAY 8/28

Pancakes and Booze

8 p.m. at The Duce, 525 S. Central Ave., Phoenix. This L.A. based event started in 2009 and has since traveled to over 35 cities around the nation. This event allows guests to revel in music performances from local artists and DJs and check out local art, meet the artists and watch live art shows…not to mention free pancakes. Tickets are $10 and this is a 21 and over event. For more: pancakesandbooze.com.

Have an event or brief that you'd like us to consider for What's Happening, Arcadia? Send it to editor@arcadianews.com.

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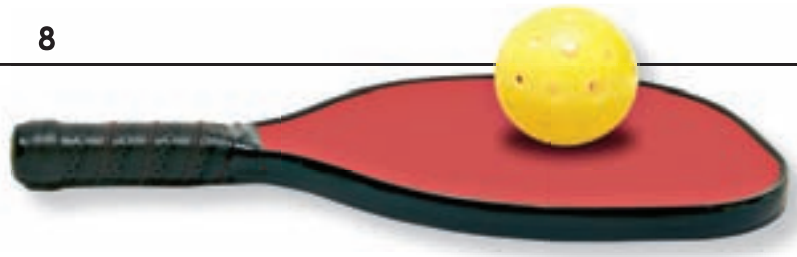
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READY & RECRUITING

Arcadia Pickleball Association looks to expand player base

By Jennifer Marshall

The racquet sport of pickleball has become so popular in the Valley that residents Andrew Seidenberg and Grant Peterson recently co-founded the Arcadia Pickleball Association to allow participants to expand their network of players within the neighborhood.

Pickleball is a cross between ping-pong and tennis. According to Seidenberg, many players are former tennis players, and in fact, many Arcadia residents have converted their tennis courts into pickleball courts. At about 20 feet by 44 feet, a pickleball court is similar in size to a badminton court.

Last November, Seidenberg was playing tennis with his kids at Herberger Park when he noticed what he described as "these weird little tennis courts." These were four new pickleball courts created from half of the existing tennis courts.



"I had some previous experience running sports leagues," Seidenberg said, "and I knew software that could easily run a league and create an association."

The association launched at the beginning of May. The group, "promotes play, but we're fun and social, too," Seidenberg said.

Currently, the APA has close to 100 followers on Facebook (@arcadiapickle) and about 20 who have officially joined the ladder. The ladder is a structure that ranks players individually based on their skill level.

"Arcadia players at every skill level can join our association," Seidenberg said. "Players find and compete against each other based on a similar skill level. Players then move up and down the ladder based on their match scores. The ranking system is totally fun. We're more about bragging rights than being super competitive."

In addition to hosting matches in members' backyards, the association also plays at the Arizona Country Club or on the public courts at Herberger Park. They envision the park as a place where they can one day grow the sport by providing training and skills clinics.

"With pickleball, you don't have to play at the same level to have fun," Seidenberg said.

"Pickleball is easier on the body and less intimidating than tennis, and for kids and the elderly, it's simpler to learn than other racket sports."

While the APA is currently geared toward adult play and socialization, they hope to add children and teen clinics and programs to their organizational offerings in the future.

"Down the road, our goal is to get kids involved," Seidenberg said. "Pickleball is one of the fastest-growing sports in America, and I won't be surprised if it isn't an official high school sport by the next decade."

The APA has two separate seasons. One runs January to Memorial Day, and the other spans August 1 to mid-December. Having two distinct seasons of play gives athletes a break and also allows players to reset their skill position on the ladder. For those who have improved between seasons, they have the chance to compete and rank higher.

"We're all about doing this for the love of the sport," Seidenberg said. "We're all volunteers; no one gets paid here. Connect with us on Facebook and come out and play with us."

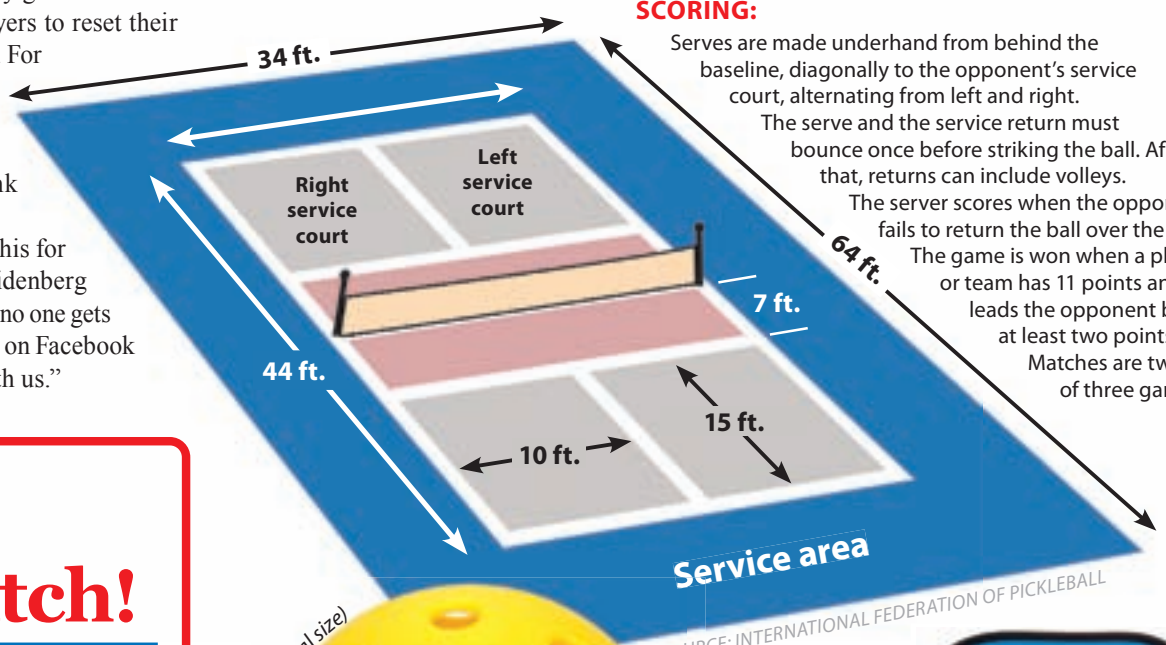


PHOTO BY ANDREW SEIDENBERG

Arcadia Pickleball Association members Mark Beller, Lindsey Beller and Octavio Valenzuela.

PICKLEBALL *RULES AND REGULATIONS*

Pickleball is a racquet sport that combines elements of tennis, table tennis and badminton. It is played on a court that measures the same as a doubles badminton court and uses a ball similar to, but smaller and harder than a wiffle ball. The pickleball flies about one-third as fast as a tennis ball, on a court that is about one-third the size of a tennis court.



SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PICKLEBALL

SCORING:

Serves are made underhand from behind the baseline, diagonally to the opponent's service court, alternating from left and right.

The serve and the service return must bounce once before striking the ball. After that, returns can include volleys.

The server scores when the opponent fails to return the ball over the net.

The game is won when a player or team has 11 points and leads the opponent by at least two points.

Matches are two out of three games.



(actual size)

OFFICIAL BALL:

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Hard-surface paddles may be made of wood, metal or graphite. The hitting surface must be non-compressible or not have holes or textures to increase the speed or spin of the ball. Paddles and grips must conform to size standards.



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Couple celebrates 20th anniversary with the gift of life

By Mallory Gleich

Arcadia couple Bernard and Vicki Levi will celebrate their 20th anniversary this year. Although they have a celebratory weekend getaway planned, Vicki was able to gift Bernard with something even bigger and more important: her kidney.

Bernard is originally from Detroit, Michigan and Vicki from Wichita, Kansas.

"We always vacationed [in Arizona] and came several times a year to play golf," Bernard said. "We spent two weeks looking at houses around Pinnacle Peak because we love that area. One morning, while staying at the Royal Palms, I couldn't get out of the parking lot to go east, so I said, 'let's turn at the light,' which is Arcadia Boulevard."

As they crossed the north side of Arcadia, they saw homes that were the same style as the ones in Kansas.

"We drove across Arcadia to the other side, and I said 'we're done,'" Bernard said. They moved within a few months and have been here for the past three years.

"Arcadia is our fabulous accident," Bernard said.

Bernard and Vicki were introduced on a blind date by a mutual acquaintance in Kansas City, Kansas, where they lived for 38 years before coming to Arcadia. Bernard worked as a cardiologist, and Vicki as a physician's assistant, before retiring.

"From 'nice to meet you' to 'I do' was four months," Vicki said. "We both just knew."

They were married in Aspen, Colorado. Bernard was a frequent visitor but knew he wanted to be married at the top of the mountain, so he searched for a friend that could marry the pair.

"Everyone was too busy. But the hotel we were at mentioned someone had married another couple last week and would I like the guy's name, so I said sure. And it turns out he was also from Detroit," Bernard said.

He called the gentleman and found out that the officiant and Bernard's cousin, who was also present, knew each other from back in kindergarten. They lived a couple of blocks away from each other back in Detroit. There also happened to be a medium on the gondola that took the couple up the mountain to get married.

"She said 'I'm a medium' and I said 'a medium what?'," Vicki laughed.

"She read our auras and said 'you guys are good,'" Bernard said. "And she was right."

A while back, Bernard was having mild health problems, so he decided to get them checked out. During a procedure, some complications resulted in his kidneys failing. They recovered for a year until September 2019, when things got progressively worse.

Bernard had high blood pressure and was feeling exceptionally groggy and tired. Before, they were a busy couple – hiking, playing tennis, and scuba diving.

Bernard talked to a nephrologist (a doctor specializing in kidneys) in Kansas City, and she told him to get on a transplant list before things got worse. He was accepted into the program at Mayo Clinic.

"Since I wasn't involved in transplants [as a doctor], I had no idea that you could have a transplant without being on dialysis," Bernard said. "I thought you had to be at the end of your life to get a transplant."

Over the next six months, Bernard's kidneys deteriorated. At that point, the issue was focused on trying to find a donor.

"I kept thinking, 'how do you go about asking someone for a kidney? Vicki was always interested in being a donor. I never in a million years thought she could be my donor."

> **"It's a one in 100,000 match.' 'I immediately started crying. I had, from the beginning, a feeling that it was going to be me."**

Vicki went through 25 appointments, lab work and testing to see if she could be a match. There was also an option called a "pairing program," where Vicki would give her kidney to someone, and then they would give their kidney to Bernard.

Soon after, Vicki got a call from Mayo Clinic and assumed they had found a match for the pairing option.

"I said 'okay, how do we coordinate this,' and they said 'no, you match him, perfectly.' It's a one in 100,000 match," Vicki said. "I immediately started crying. I had, from the beginning, a feeling that it was going to be me."

"Mayo Clinic called in May and said 'how about this Tuesday,'" Vicki said. Plans were then set in place for May 12.

The surgery was laparoscopic and took about four hours. Now, Vicki has one kidney, and Bernard has three – two that work minimally, and Vicki's other kidney. After a couple of nights in the hospital, Bernard's kidneys were functioning regularly.

"Within three days, Vicki was talking about tennis again," Bernard said. "I was ready to go," Vicki said. Unfortunately, Vicki and Bernard had to wait six weeks before getting back to their routine.

Now, the pair has started their daily walks on Arcadia Boulevard, and Vicki has returned to playing tennis. They plan on spending their anniversary in Sedona in the fall.

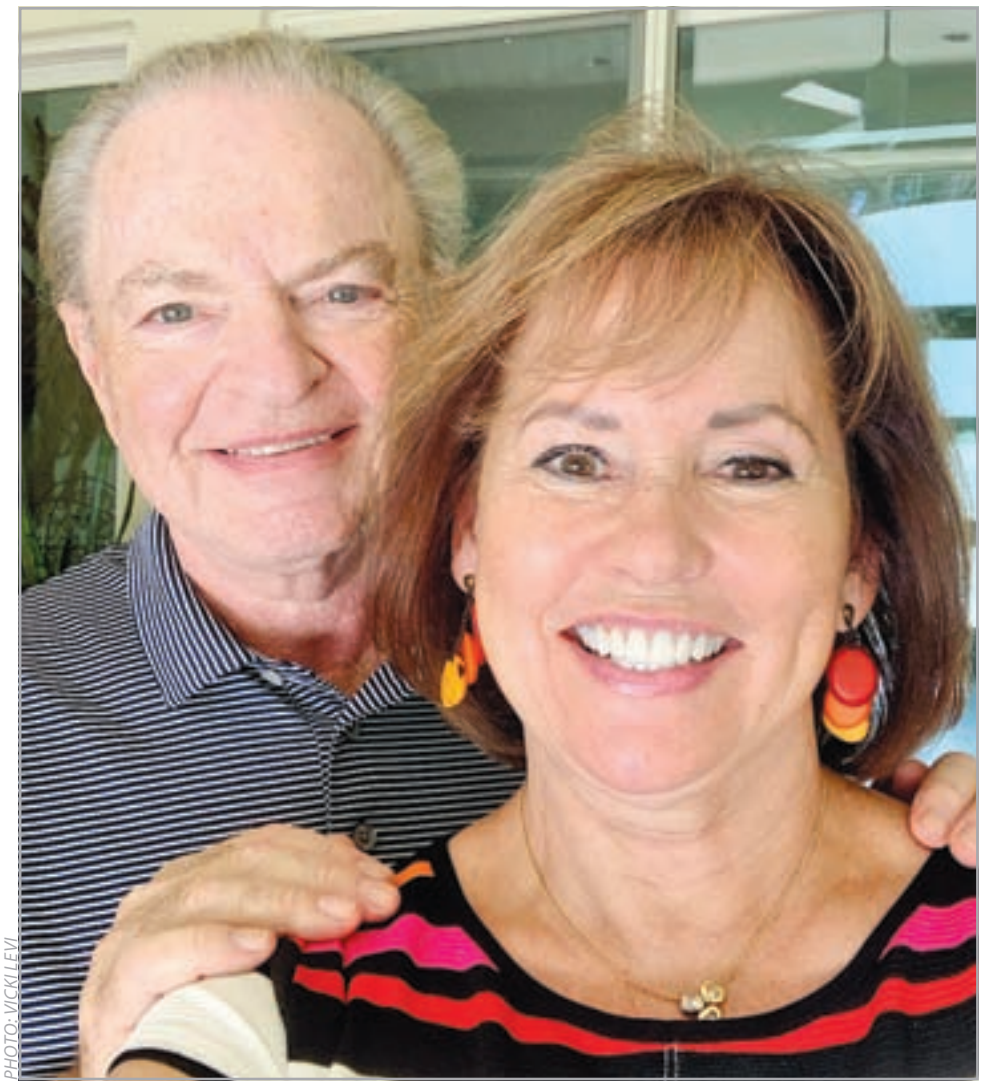


PHOTO: VICKI LEVI

Bernard and Vicki Levi.



Kidz 4 Causes supports Navajo Nation and health care workers

By Kelly Richmond

Over the last five years, Kidz 4 Causes has become a fairly well-known name in the community, due to their focus on fundraising for the Phoenix-based TGen Center for Rare Childhood Disorders. Since the start of the program, Kidz 4 Causes has raised over $141,000 for TGen.

In the last four months, the Kidz 4 Causes staff has grown to 10 members, each assigned a different organizational role. The team consists of students from Phoenix Country Day School, Brophy Prep and Hamilton High School.

Back in May and June, Kidz 4 Causes decided to change its focus to help raise money for the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Response Fund and the CDC Foundation Emergency Response Fund.

"We feel that it is important for the greater community to help those disproportionately affected, like the Navajo Nation," Kidz 4 Causes Public Relations Manager Victoria Moreno said.

The money raised for the Navajo Nation goes toward N-95 masks, face shields, ventilators, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies and toiletries. The group has raised over $11,000 for the relief fund and hopes to raise even more through their summer initiative programs.

One of the programs is Cards for Care Workers. It started on June 1 and is dedicated to thanking health care employees at Dignity Health, Banner Health and Mayo Clinic.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VICTORIA MORENO

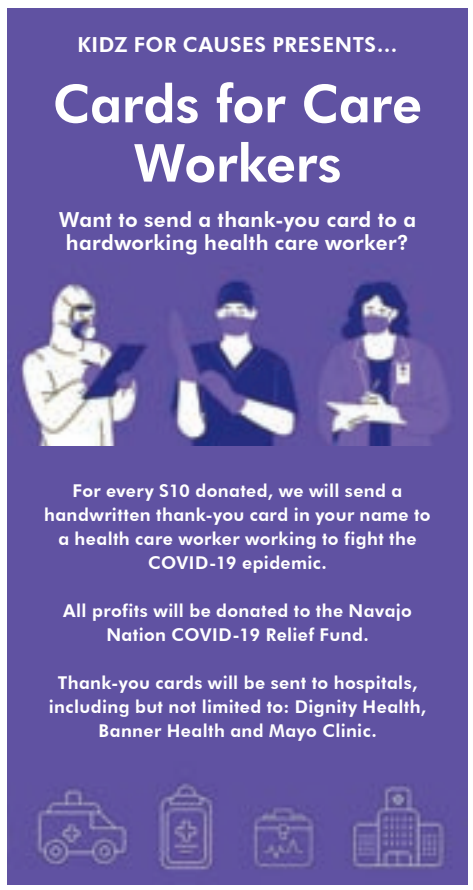
Founding member Michael Bendok (right) and the other nine members of Kidz 4 Causes have come up with various ways of donating time, money and supplies to those in need during the pandemic.

"For every $10 or more donated, we will write a handwritten thank-you card for health care workers," Moreno said.

On July 17, Kidz 4 Causes held a virtual Trivia Night. The event cost $10 to enter, and the proceeds went to the Navajo Nation COVID-19 Relief Fund as well as thank-you cards sent to health care workers with the donor's name.

The game consisted of five rounds of interactive fun. Once people entered the video conference, players split up into teams, allowing them to compete against friends, family and community members for the "Kidz 4 Causes Trivia Champion" title.

Another summer initiative was the Run for Relief event that took place July 19-25. This event allowed the community to sponsor a runner through a tax-deductible donation for every mile they ran. All donations went directly to the Navajo Nation relief fund.



"Depending on the coronavirus situation and whether it gets worse or better, we will go on from there and either plan more initiatives or find a new cause to help," Moreno said.

For more: kidz-4-causes.org





Racing for St. Vincent de Paul's COVID-19 relief fund

By Melissa Hirschl

Combining the exhilaration of running with the satisfaction of giving back to the community proved to be a winning combination for three Phoenix teens. Brophy Prep students Jackson Moran and Charlie Fallon, along with Jamie Stelnik of Xavier Prep, brainstormed a creative way to do both during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The three students, all members of their school's track and field teams organized a virtual 5K/one-mile run between May 15 and June 30. With a suggested $15 donation to participate, the teens raised $6,000, which was donated to St. Vincent de Paul's COVID Relief Fund.

"Racing is a passion of mine," Jackson said, "and it felt really good to help out people who need it most. We had always wanted to put on a race at some point, but the community's needs arising from COVID-19 had us create it when we did. About one hundred people raced, but way more donated."

It wasn't just runners who laced up. The race was open to walkers, bikers and skaters, but only runners won prizes, such as $50 gift cards for Sole Sports or Tortoise and Hare Sports. Raffle prizes included brownies from Fairytale Brownies and goodies from Crumbl Cookies in Arcadia.

With social distancing as the new normal, a live race with cheering friends and family wasn't possible. Instead, participants walked and ran at their location of choice: racetracks, parks, streets and even treadmills. Times were sent to the organizers through GPS trackers, apps or pictures from a watch. "It was basically an honor system, and if people proved their time, it was enough for us," Jackson said. "People could be in the event without donating, but everyone did."

The teens wanted to enroll as many people as possible so they went on a media blitz, using word of mouth, newsletters and emails. They also advertised the event to friends, classmates, teachers, parents and parents' colleagues. The teens were also interviewed on AZ Family's *Good Morning Arizona* segment and FOX10 morning news.

Choosing St. Vincent de Paul as a partner turned out to be a home run for the community. Every $15 the race raised will feed a family of five. Also, funds will be used to pay utility bills and provide much-needed hygiene kits, rent relief and medicine. The philanthropic benefits of the race have extended to the business community as well. Under normal circumstances, St. Vincent de Paul makes all of their food. With that now impossible, all the food provided for families comes from local restaurants and businesses.

"I think we have all grown closer from this opportunity," Jamie said. "I would never take back what I've been able to learn. I chose to help people when I could have done nothing. Combining my passion for running and helping people has turned this into a great thing. It's been an amazing experience. If COVID-19 continues into next year, we may do it again."

For more: stvincentdepaul.net/COVID19relief

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JAMIE STELNIK AND LISA ZUBA

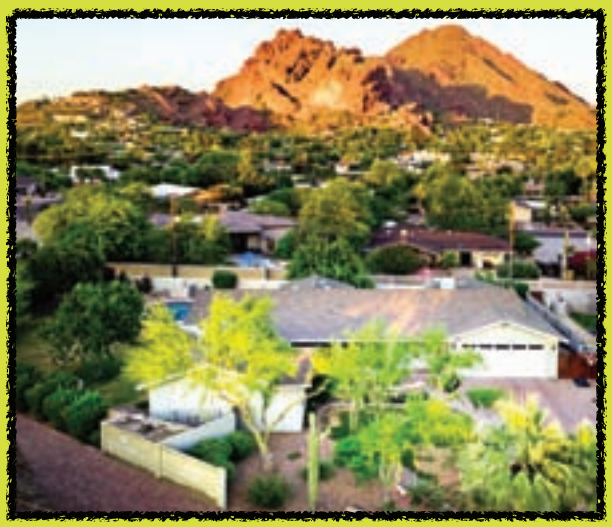




Left: Jamie Stelnik, Jackson Moran and Charlie Fallon participated in St. Vincent de Paul's #AllInForKindness campaign. Right: Director of Marketing Xavier Prep's Lisa Zuba and her friends and family also became part of the cause.

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My thoughts and prayers are with all of you who are dealing with Covid-19 and its side effects. During this time, I have been delivering Covid-19 supplies to the reservations in Arizona, as well as blood supplies to hospitals as a Flight for Life Volunteer Pilot. It's a wonderful opportunity to help make a small difference in a big community. Throughout this health crisis, we continue to be busy and we are very thankful to our clients.

Please be well and stay safe.

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Making my way through Utah's big five

THE LOWE ROAD

By Sam Lowe



There are times, due to a lack of foresight and clear thinking, when a seemingly good plan becomes a bad idea. As an example, I cite my recent endeavor for visiting all five of Utah's national parks. Utah is close by, so it seemed like a logical adventure. Then, while checking my map, I observed that all five are in the southern sector of the state, so they should all be viewable in a single trip. Even better, the state's southern border measures slightly less than 300 miles from east to west so I could visit all five parks in a day or so.

So I did. And, having done it, I have one word for those who might be tempted to follow my example: Don't.

The map may say it's less than 300 miles from border to border, but the map doesn't mention that many of those miles are twisty, turn-y, twenty-mile-an-hour stretches that require patience and a lot of white-knuckle driving. Nor does the map allow for photo ops, lunch breaks and bathroom breaks. Taking all those elements into account, a trip such as the one I took should last at least five days – a whole week would be even better.

The journey started in Phoenix and, after driving more than 400 miles, I was able to visit Canyonlands National Park toward the end of the first day. It's about 25 miles south of Moab. However, by the time I arrived, the sun was about to perform its evening vanishing act, so I was forced to cut the visit short.

> *"It took nature millions of years to create these sights, so we mortals should not be in such a hurry to appreciate them."*

What I did see of Canyonlands was spectacular, partially because, as the late afternoon sun descended, it heightened the color of the red rock formations and created sharp-edged shadows that gave them an unworldly appearance. Sort of like being in a land of acute-angled giants.

After a night in Moab, I arose early and went directly to Arches National Park, only about five miles north of the city. It was an overcast day, complemented by a slight drizzle. My gut instinct told me to wait until the clouds cleared, but my sense of urgency reminded me that I still had three parks to go, and they were way across the state.

I drove a few miles into the park and stopped to take photos of magnificent sandstone monoliths, obelisks and balancing rocks. But, after a quick check of the map acquired at the visitor center, I realized that although there are more than 2,000 arches in Arches National Park, I wasn't going to see any of them due to my self-imposed time constraints. Fortunately, I had taken a good shot of an arch the night before at a rest stop south of Moab.

The drive to Capitol Reef National Park was a snap. I got onto Interstate 70 and, because the speed limit on Utah's interstates is 80 mph, I was able to make good time to State Route 24, which took me directly to Capitol Reef. Few words can describe its beauty. Splendid. Heart-stopping. Magnificent. All descriptive, all inadequate.

Giant mesas erupt from the flatlands, accentuated by thick cumulus clouds that wandered in and out among the large red, gray and brown formations. To further the enchantment, small streams ripple their way through the canyons.

I arrived in Torrey, a small town at the intersection of Routes 24 and 12, at noon and asked a local for a mileage estimate between there and Bryce Canyon National Park. About 80 miles, he said, but warned that the road isn't very straight. An understatement if there ever was one. The road appeared to have been laid out by someone following the path left by a rattlesnake with hiccups. It winds, convolutes and tangles its way across mountains and cliffs, interspersed with sheer drop-offs that'll suck your breath away. It took more than two hours to traverse those 80 miles.

Bryce Canyon made up for the trauma. The hoodoos and pinnacles, the canyons, the multi-colored formations and the trails down into the depths all display nature's ability to leave us awestruck. Although I had been there twice before, this was a new experience, primarily because it was getting dark.

As the evening progressed, the formations cast bewildering shadows on the red and ocher ground, while hikers and their backpacks provided splashes of contrasting colors.

I arrived at Zion National Park at sunset the next day. I expected to be disappointed but instead was entranced at the way the diminishing rays outlined and brightened the colossal rock outcrops, which are eerily reminiscent of Jabba the Hutt from *Star Wars*.

Where the other four parks were relatively tourist-free, Zion was filled with camera-toters, backpackers, bicyclists and houses on wheels, creating a circus-like atmosphere filled with sounds that rebounded off the giant stone outcrops. But Zion's walls are so massive that they swallowed the noise, reducing it to a pleasant hum rather than an urban cacophony.

My odyssey ended with a night in Cedar City. And while driving back to Phoenix the next day, I realized that it took nature millions of years to create these sights, so we mortals should not be in such a hurry to appreciate them.



Canyonlands National Park



Bryce Canyon National Park



Arches National Park



Zion National Park

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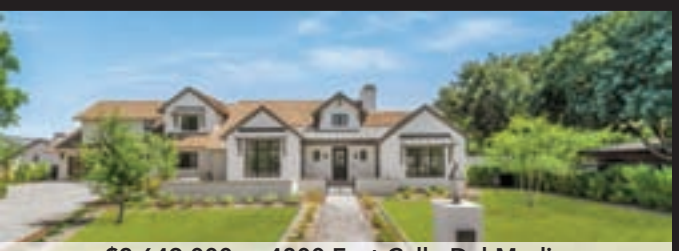
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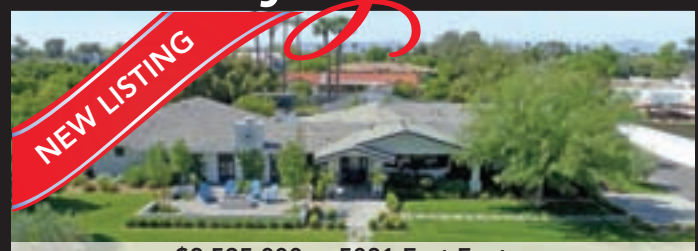
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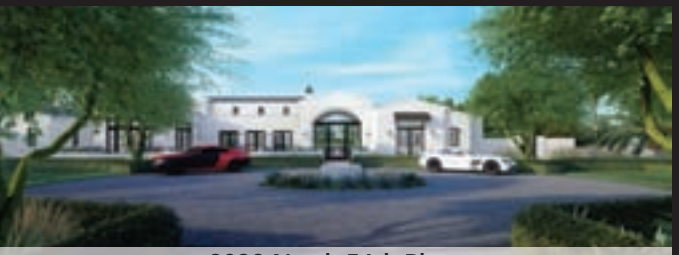
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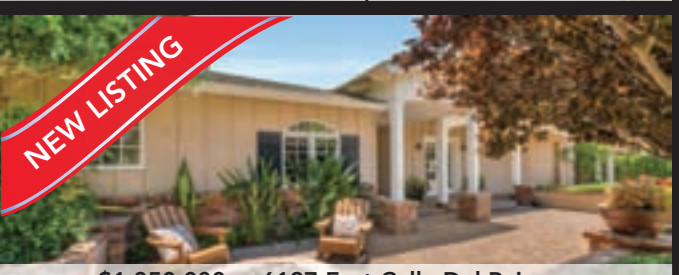
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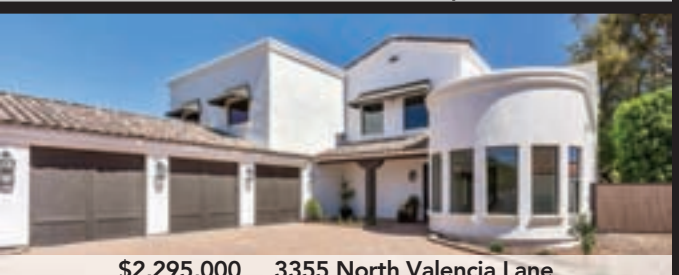
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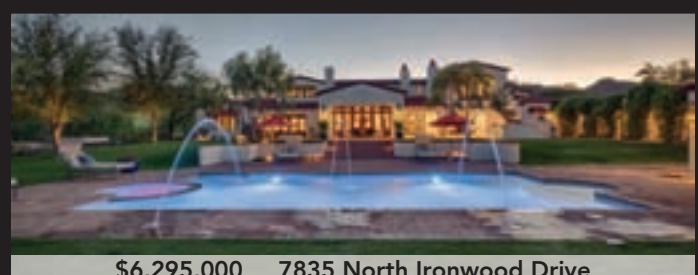
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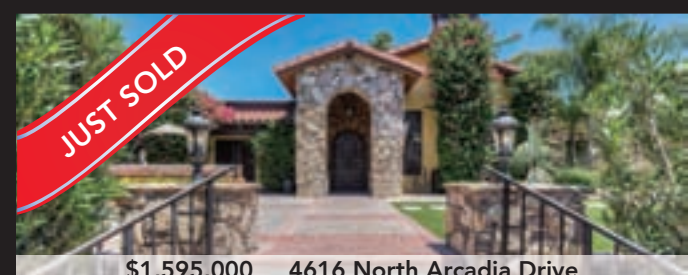
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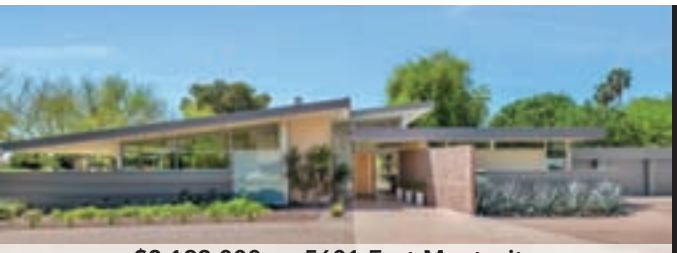
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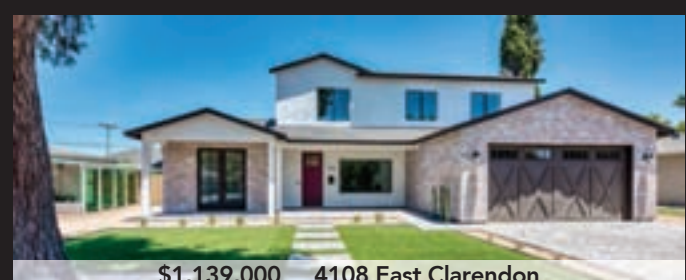
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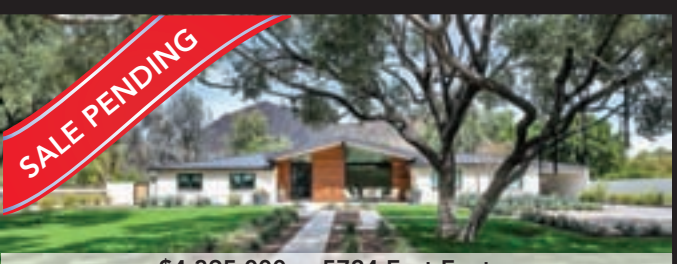
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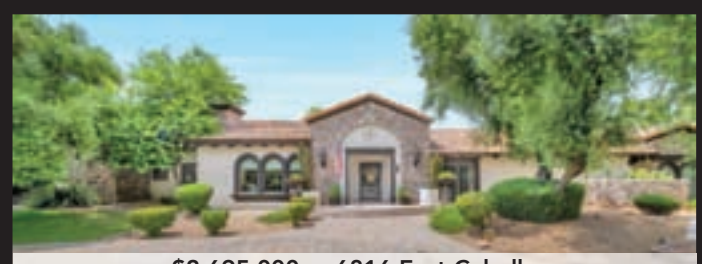
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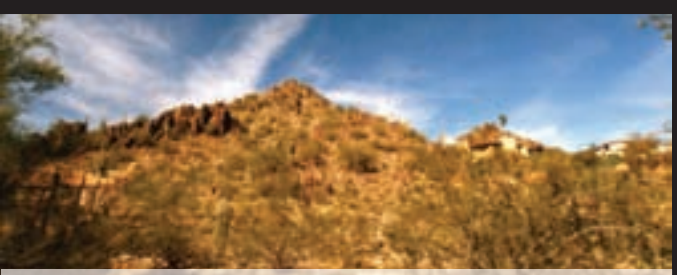
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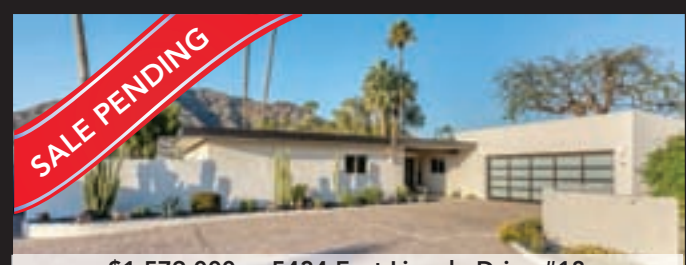
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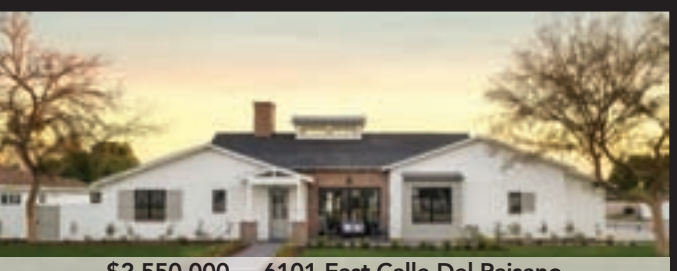
$995,000 7133 North 40th Street
1.33 Acres



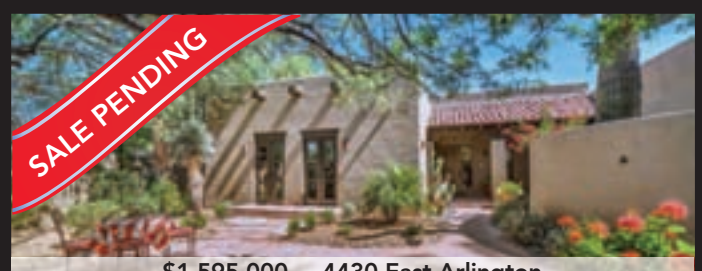
$1,479,000 4153 North 49th Street
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,695 square feet
4153north49thstreet.com



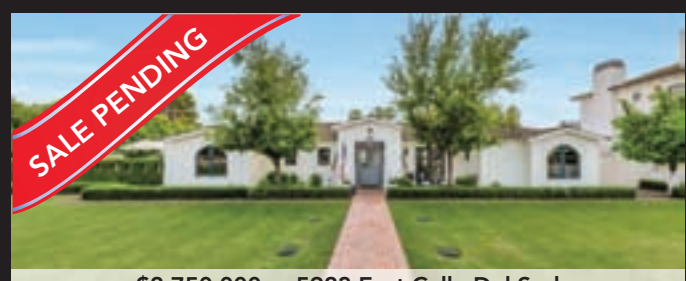
$1,579,000 5434 East Lincoln Drive #18
3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,534 square feet
5434lincolndrive.com



$2,550,000 6101 East Calle Del Paisano
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,143 square feet
6101calledelpaisano.com



$1,595,000 4430 East Arlington
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3,147 square feet
4430arlington.com



$2,750,000 5923 East Calle Del Sud
5 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,366 square feet

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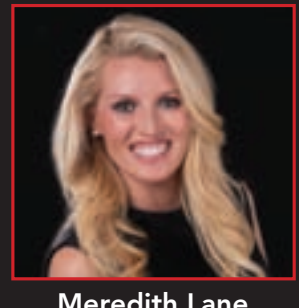
LAUNCH REAL ESTATE



Robert Joffe



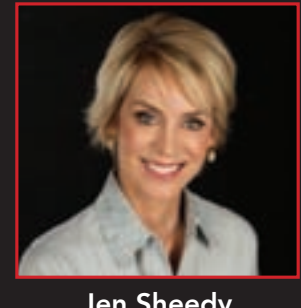
Jonah Joffe



Meredith Lane



Andrew Mehlman



Jen Sheedy

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CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVING ARIZONA TOURISM

By Rachael Bouley | *PHOTOS COURTESY OF VERDE CANYON RAILROAD*

The Verde Canyon Railroad, known as "Arizona's longest-running nature show," has carried thousands of visitors a year through the breathtaking red rock country near Sedona. This year it is celebrating 30 years as one of Arizona's top attractions.

The railroad's history dates back to 1888, when Montana resident William Andrew Clark purchased the United Verde Mine in Jerome for $80,000. It became the wealthiest privately owned copper mine in the world. The railroad was built in 1912 to bring building supplies in and ship copper out, along the most accessible route naturally shaped by the Verde River and Canyon.

Clark went on to build Clarkdale in 1912, which is today's home of the railroad depot.











"If you lived in Clarkdale, you worked for Mr. Clark. Everything you purchased was bought on credit. At the end of the month, charges were settled against your wages," Teresa Propeck, vice president of marketing and passenger services at Verde Canyon Railroad, said.

Clark constructed upper and lower-income housing, churches, cultural facilities, parks, two grade schools, a high school and a commercial district.

Although the mining activities eventually died down before closing in the 1950s, the railroad continued to operate. It was known as "The Verde Mix" for the assortment of people, animals and goods it transported.

Since 1990, the railroad has carried more than two million passengers for an unforgettable tour of the canyon. Propeck says the region's history is still alive and well, giving visitors a glimpse of what life was like all those years ago.

"In 1911, for over a year using only pickaxes, mules and dynamite, a crew of hundreds lived in this canyon constructing the railroad," Propeck said. "Today, the route is still 'exactly' where it was placed in 1911 following the natural flow of the Verde River."

In 2005, the railroad reached its one-million passenger mark and was named an Arizona treasure by then-Governor Janet Napolitano.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this year, the railroad closed to the public during the stay-at-home order, but it reopened on July 1 and welcomed guests back with adequate social distancing and health and hygiene measures.

The Verde Canyon Railroad staff is happy to be riding the rails once again and offering visitors a truly memorable experience in the rugged and beautiful canyon.

The train ride is a four-hour, 20-mile journey that can be spent gazing at the scenery from indoor and outdoor viewing areas in refurbished train cars. There's no shortage of impressive views of red rock buttes and ravines, and many guests are lucky enough to catch a glimpse of majestic bald eagles soaring through the Arizona sky.

On November 21, the railroad will celebrate 30 years with its passengers. A private invitation-only celebration will be held on November 22.

No matter what the future has in store, the Verde Canyon Railroad team hopes to keep it going for years.

"The railroad has shared the canyon with the resident wildlife for over 100 years, and they coexist perfectly with the daily run," Propeck said.

"Our goals are to preserve and protect the canyon's pristine condition and make sure it is here for our grandchildren's grandchildren to see it."

For more: verdecanyonrr.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

STARLIGHT ADVENTURES
Aug. 1 and Sept. 5
Departs at 5:30 p.m. and returns at 9:15 p.m.

RAPTORS ON THE RAILS
Aug. 8, Sept. 10, Sept. 12, 24; Oct. 15, 18

REPTILES AT THE RAILS
Aug. 12, 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

ALES ON THE RAILS
Sept. 15-Oct. 31, 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

SEDONA FALL COLORS TOUR
Oct.-Nov.

THE MAGICAL CHRISTMAS JOURNEY™
Dec. 4-23

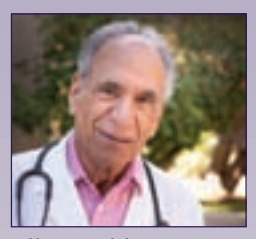
ENGINEER FOR A DAY RIDE-ALONG
Dec. 24

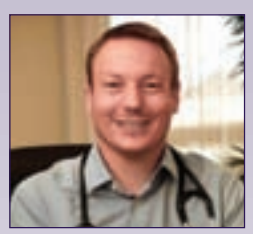
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Dec. 31

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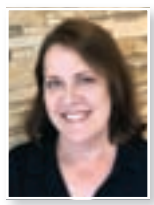
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MON-WED 7AM-7PM THURS-FRI 7AM-5PM SAT 7AM-NOON



In-home learning support for the 2020-21 school year

By Nola Enge



Parents: Expect twists and turns this school year. Tough decisions must be made between online, in-person, hybrid schooling, or homeschooling. Schools may open, only to possibly close during outbreaks. Making plans for various home-learning scenarios may calm anxiety in the family.

Are your algebra skills rusty? Don't fear; plenty of support exists for navigating difficult subjects. Teachers, tutors and other educational professionals can also assist with performing arts, fine arts, physical fitness, learning plans, speech, behavioral and counseling services and literacy development. There are also helpers for athletes, SAT testing and college applications.

Here are a few things to keep in mind: First, get your child on board. Help them see assistance as a positive endeavor to reach personal goals. Get referrals from people who know your child's personality and learning style. Seek people that create positive connections with your child – this is very important during social distancing.

Do your parental due diligence and run background checks on individuals working with your child. Require a fingerprint clearance card from the Department of Public Safety and call DPS to verify. Call their professional references. Once hired, set them up in the same room as you, even if the consultation is an online platform like Zoom.

Know what credentials you want in a home-learning helper and find someone who meets you and your child's needs.

To make AP history come alive, or understand the "why" of calculus, you'll want an expert in those fields. Credentialed teachers also understand educational theory, have strategies for learning and can adequately identify unique needs. Tutors will typically have specialized training in certain areas.

Set clear boundaries on how you want a helper to assist your child. For example, avoid academic drills with young children. Early childhood educators will offer developmentally appropriate activities, suggest tools to enrich play, recognize developmental milestones, offer alternatives to electronic devices and find safe ways to connect with peers.

Many educational resources cost nothing. For young children, reach out to their preschool for support or contact organizations like Southwest Human Development or First Things First for guidance. The free Birth to Five Helpline has bilingual specialists to help with questions ranging from challenging behaviors and sleep issues, to speech and psychological referrals. Call 877-705-KIDS.

The free online Khan Academy is well-known for college test preparation, but it serves students of all ages with resources for parents.

Librarians are also wonderful resources for home learning. Phoenix Public Library offers curbside pickup of books and will deliver them to the trunk of your car with no contact. Older students can take advantage of Phoenix Public Library's College Depot for help with college admissions.

Consider a different kind of tutoring experience and have your high schooler shadow a professional in their potential field of interest. Ask Phoenix and Scottsdale civic groups to help arrange connections.

School buildings may temporarily close, but learning doesn't stop. There are plenty of people ready to support you and your child. They may even help you find more time for family activities, making the best of this historic time in which we find ourselves.

— Nola Enge, Ph.D., is director at The Hills School at Shepherd of the Hills, 5524 E. Lafayette Blvd. For more: thehillsschool.org.

★★★★★

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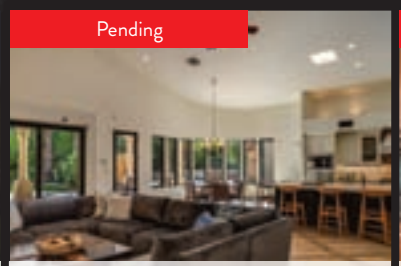
- Allison G.

Back on the Market



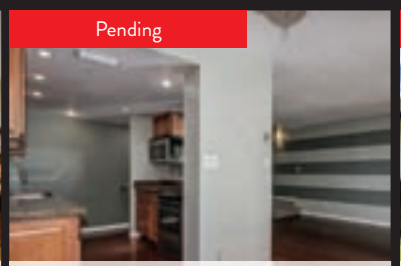
4101 E. Solano
$1,299,000

Pending



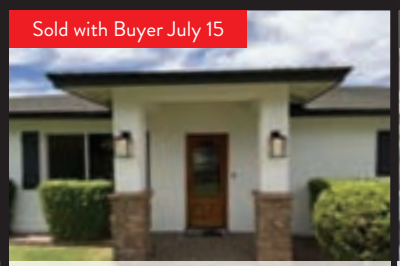
9141 N. 70th Street
$2,495,000

Pending



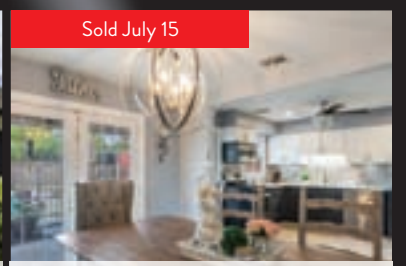
7839 E. Valley Vista
$245,000

Sold with Buyer July 15



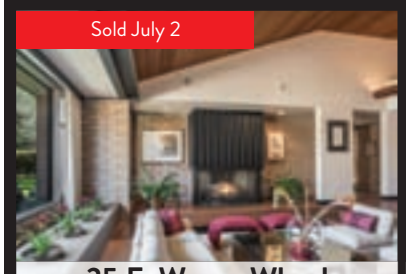
4228 E. Indianola
$750,000

Sold July 15



2530 E. Monterosa
$450,000

Sold July 2



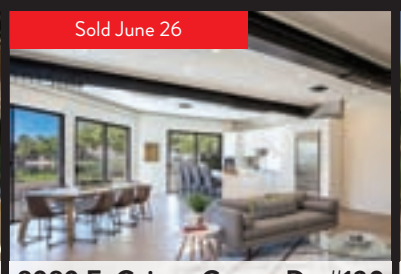
35 E. Wagon Wheel
$1,100,000

Sold with Buyer July 2



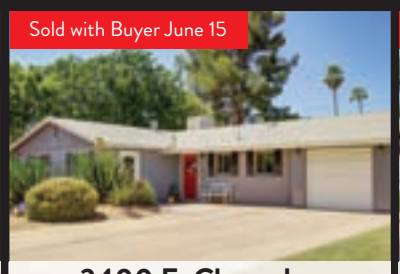
1225 E. Escondido
$430,000

Sold June 26



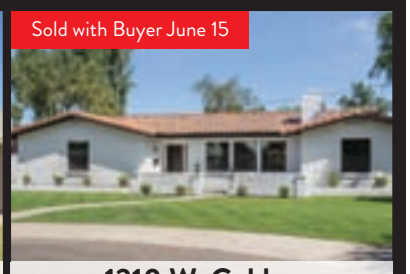
8989 E. Gainey Center Dr. #130
$995,000

Sold with Buyer June 15



3400 E. Clarendon
$499,000

Sold with Buyer June 15



1210 W. Golden
$602,500



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In the Kitchen

with The Stand's Eva Hofstedt



By Mallory Gleich

Eight years ago, Eva Hofstedt decided to open her own business and become part of Arcadia's well-known restaurant industry. Through trials and tribulations, The Stand has become a staple in the neighborhood and shows no signs of slowing down. *Arcadia News* caught up with Eva to see where this entrepreneur got her start.

Where are you from?

I'm an Arizona native. I've lived in Arcadia for six years now, but I grew up in Paradise Valley.

What do you like most about Arcadia?

I love the neighborhood and the neighborhood feel. It's tough to replicate the sense of community that's been established in this area. I haven't experienced it anywhere other than in Arcadia. I lived in Paradise Valley most of my life, and I never really knew my neighbors like I have known and still know my neighbors in this community.

What is your history as the owner of The Stand?

The Stand has been open for seven years, and I've been the owner for eight. I started it from the beginning. I come from a very successful and well-known restaurant family, and I didn't think I was ever going to be in the restaurant business because it's challenging. It's one of the most challenging industries to be in. The success rate is low, and profit margins are slim, but the restaurant business is in my blood, and I couldn't shake it.

Was The Stand built from the ground-up?

The building used to be an old Dairy Queen. But before that, it was ten different things. The building was in disrepair, so we had to do a lot of cleaning and scrape it back down to the walls and the floor. It took five to six months to get the building back to where we thought it was clean and sanitized, and then we started putting the aesthetics on top of it. The building was always here, but it was unrecognizable. When we opened, people were like, "You know this is what we call the cursed cubicle, right?" and I'm thinking well, we're about to change that. It's not going to be anymore! This building has no business doing the business it does. I just have such respect for it. It's been a jewel box and such a blessing.

What is your favorite part of being a small business owner?

I love being a woman-owned business. I hope that I can be inspiring to someone else that has a dream or has something they want to accomplish. But you have to be willing to do the same thing every day for years. It doesn't just happen. I try every day. Never give up. That's the thing I've learned the most.

What's something most people don't know about The Stand?

The whole place is a tribute to my grandmother. She is a restaurant legend in the Valley – it's a tribute to her and kind of coming full-circle. We get famous people here all the time, like the Cardinal's quarterback or the Sun's general manager, and I think the reason they come back is that they can go, sit in a corner, no one bothers them, no one asks for autographs. We pride ourselves on treating everyone the same – if it's a person in need or a person with celebrity status.

What kind of food can people find at The Stand?

We grind our beef fresh every day and make everything fresh from top-to-bottom. We hand spin our shakes. The fries we cut from hand – it's a two-day process. We didn't invent the wheel; we just sort of took it apart and put it back together to give the customer the freshest product we can offer.

What is the most popular item on the menu?

The Grand Royale burger – grilled onions and jalapenos, bacon, cheese, Stand sauce. The whole thing is pretty great. The most popular shake is probably the Dulce de Leche, but a close second is Chocolate Chile. We also just added a coffee shake with ground-up espresso beans and Nitro brewed coffee. I love our shakes because they're not too sweet – everyone enjoys them, mostly adults, which is something that's hard to do because a lot of people don't like overly sweet. The most important thing for me is balance, so that's the motive behind our shakes.

Who first taught you to cook?

My grandmother and my mother. They're incredible. I was a late bloomer; I didn't learn until I was 25 or 30 because I didn't have to. I was in the kitchen, but I washed dishes and prepped, putting things together wasn't my job. Finally, something clicked – I was good at washing dishes, but I needed to learn the art of putting flavors together. My mom and grandmother taught me everything I know, and I can say I'm better [at cooking] than them now – it took me a long time to confidently say that. Like it or not, I was training my whole life to do this.

What is the most challenging part of working in the restaurant industry?

It's not just one thing. The challenge is problem-solving. What you become in owning your own business or if you're an entrepreneur of any sort – what you learn about yourself is that you need to solve problems quickly.

Things require efficient responses. And especially if you're a small business, you don't have a lot of money to throw at things. You have to be preemptive with how you view your day. You have to be able to negotiate your day with something that may or may not happen – people not showing up, call-outs, vendors that don't show – and because we offer fresh products, we have to start from scratch every day. I do payroll, the office – all of that put together is challenging.

What is one item you can't live without in your kitchen?

A really good pan. You can do a lot of things with it – it's the most versatile piece of equipment. Anything else you can improvise.

What is your go-to comfort food?

I have a gluten allergy, so I have a very specific diet. I like gluten-free pizza – the only place I eat pizza from is Spinato's. I get a gluten-free Mamma Spinach, a Caesar salad, and dessert from Nami. Pizza with root beer – that's my jam.

What do you do when you're not working?

I don't really ever have a day off. I'm always working to some capacity, which is the thing about being an entrepreneur that people don't get. It's not a 9 to 5. When the restaurant closes, there's still paperwork to do, payroll, vendors. It never really ends. I do make time for myself each day. I love to walk. I love to work out. I like to eat well. I have two kids, and I love spending time with them and my family. I'm a big family person.

Who inspires you?

The women in my family. I come from a long line of successful women who came from nothing, were given nothing and made incredible successes out of themselves. My mom's side is Hispanic, and they experienced a lot of racism and were denied a lot of opportunities. But they forged through and did very well for themselves, independently of the men they were married to, which was forward and progressive in the 40s, 50s and 60s. They created their own opportunity.

What advice has stayed with you throughout the years?

If you are blessed, it's very important to give back. That's something I learned from my family and my dad. You take care of the people that take care of you. That resonates with the way I view my business. People in Arcadia have blessed me with their patronage and given me confidence. I am not without my faults, I have good and bad days like everyone else, but they keep coming back and giving me chances to do better the next day. I'm grateful for that and I love giving back to my community whenever I can.

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"Meet Mr." | Ray Artigue

Graham Rossini

By Ray Artigue

If ever there was a question about what Graham Rossini was destined to do in his professional life, it didn't come from anyone who knew him.

At the age of four, he started playing tee-ball – and he has been in and around the game that we call "America's Pastime" ever since.

Though born in New Jersey, Rossini and his younger brother were raised in Mobile, Ala., under their selfless and dedicated parents' watchful eye.

"My most treasured memories from Mobile are from the neighborhood where I grew up. It reminds me a lot of Arcadia because of the sense of community – lots of families with kids playing out front, pool parties in the back and everyone cherishing their time together," Rossini remembers fondly.

> *"Arcadia is the ideal place to grow our family."*

He says that there was still a sense of competitiveness in the games that were waged through all the playfulness, and that's where he learned to compete – and to excel.

"I've always applied myself, working to achieve a high standard in anything I do," said Rossini. "I like to think that I'm someone who brings value and enrichment to those around me."

The 40-year-old's hard work and dedication is evident in his achievements in school and at the office. Graham graduated *cum laude* from ASU's School of Business with an undergraduate degree and an MBA. While there, he was a member of the baseball team and also met his wife, Alison. She, too, was a student athlete.

Today, they both work for the Arizona Diamondbacks, where Graham serves as vice president of special projects and fan experience, and Alison works in corporate partnerships.

Rossini's duties with the franchise have him involved in various programs and projects, including acting as a liaison for all Major League Baseball special events and various international activities. He was instrumental in the development of Salt River Fields at Talking Stick and bringing the 2011 All-Star Game to Chase Field. Currently, he is working to bring the D-backs' new training academy online to the Dominican Republic.

"Working in baseball has provided more than I could have ever dreamed of. Baseball was also why I attended ASU, but the association has grown far beyond that," the proud Sun Devil said. "I've maintained an association [with ASU] since day one; as a student, an employee (director of baseball operations after graduating) and now as a board member of the Alumni Association."

Rossini says one of his proudest accomplishments was the co-creation of the D-backs' Youth Jersey Program, which has outfitted 120 Little League teams throughout the Valley with more than 70,000 free jerseys and caps.

But all Graham's pride in that program and other achievements pales with his pride in becoming a father. He and Alison have a 19-month-old son, Rhett.

"The moment we found out Alison was pregnant, we set our sights on moving into Arcadia," Graham said. "It's the ideal place to grow our family and other families in what is a true sense of community."

And it's probably just a matter of time before "Coach Rossini" organizes the neighborhood's first tee-ball game.



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The recently-unveiled mural was created as a nod to Arcadia for its continued support. Northbound travelers on 44th St. will see it on the right.

Seven decades of history, food and family

By Rachael Bouley

Known for its deep-fried food, Pete's has satisfied the cravings of locals and visitors across the Valley for 73 years. It was founded by Indianapolis native Peter Grant Jr., a World War II PT boat skipper, NBA basketball player and international golf champion, not to mention a big fan of English-style fish 'n' chips.

When Grant Jr. contracted malaria, dysentery and rheumatic fever in 1946, he was discharged from the military and told to move to a hot, dry climate like Egypt or Arizona. Citing his inability to speak Egyptian, he chose the Grand Canyon State and never looked back.

Grant Jr. and his pregnant wife Ruth packed up their life in the Midwest and headed south on Christmas Day 1946, with him anticipating a job as a schoolteacher. He took a different turn instead, feeling inspired by all the fish shops he visited in Europe. Deciding to test his luck by opening up a shop of his own, he started a Pete's Fish & Chips food truck, with the initial location on Van Buren Street. Although he pocketed a $12 profit on his first day, business quickly picked up.

Before long, Grant Jr. had established eight additional locations, including one on Mesa's Main Street and another on North 44th St. and Indian School Road in Arcadia. The original 44th St. Pete's Fish & Chips was built in 1959, located between a gas station and the Milk Depot on Indian School. They moved across 44th St. and opened the current location in 1967.







PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAT FOSTER

(top) Pete Jr. with his truck, circa 1947. (left) Pete's Fish and Chip's location in Mesa. (right) The current Pete's in Arcadia.

Pete's Fish & Chips was wildly successful, even after Grant Jr.'s tragic death in December 1987. A thief fatally shot Grant Jr., stealing his $30,000-coin collection. A Scottsdale coin dealer had read about it in a national trade magazine and called the police when someone tried to sell him Pete's Fish & Chips commemorative coins. The thief, James D. Karis, was arrested, found guilty of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison. Grant Jr.'s daughters Kathy Adams and Pat Foster took over the family business in their father's honor.

Pete's Fish & Chips has remained a steadfast neighborhood tradition, with few changes other than the construction of newer buildings with drive-thrus. Foster couldn't be prouder of her family and the restaurant's legacy. "As for our food, we have changed very little, because our customers seem to like what we are serving," Foster said.

As owners, Foster and Adams' commitment to quality service and communication has helped the business overcome the challenging start of the year, and according to them, Pete's Fish & Chips is doing fine, thanks to loyal customers.

"Pete's was well-positioned during the pandemic because we have offered drive-thru and take out service since 1947. We closed off our dining tables on the patios until it was safe to open some of them back up, keeping social distancing in mind," Foster said. "We continue to follow the CDC and Maricopa County Health Department regulations, and we look forward to life getting back to normal."

The support of Arcadians is nothing new to the business. "The Arcadia community is part of our Pete's family," Foster said. "Our dad raised all four daughters in Arcadia, and we attended Ingleside and Arcadia growing up. Ours is truly a family business, and although we have eight locations throughout the Valley, our location in Arcadia is very special."

Foster lives in Arcadia as do two of her children and three of her grandchildren, while Adams' son Kyle manages the 44th St. location. He recently updated the mural on the wall near the business, giving a nod to the Arcadia community for their unwavering support. Adams has made other improvements to the restaurant, including sandblasting old paint from the original block for a more modern look and the addition of decorative lighting, plants and shade screens on the patio for a more enjoyable dining experience.

"We like to think we do a good job of keeping our customers happy. We want them to experience a true family tradition," Foster said. "We have not expanded past our eight locations like the corporate giants, preferring to concentrate on what we have." Pete's is also one of the only eateries that doesn't accept credit cards. It's a cash-only establishment.

Pete's Fish & Chips is ready to keep serving the community for a long time to come, remaining committed to their founder's saying of "Pete's serves three things: price, quality and service."

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Want more money? Move.

CAREER CORNER

By Angela Copeland

With many people stuck at home during this pandemic, it has become more and more common for employees to find alternative working locations. For some, it has been their vacation home or staying with out-of-state family. Now, a third option is emerging.



The pandemic is forcing employers to rethink their policies regarding where people must work. And given the lower cost of living in smaller towns, employees can't help but consider a move.

Cities are taking notice of this trend. Several places are offering relocation bonuses to remote workers. These cities know that workers will spend money and bring tax dollars to their economies. To attract remote workers, they're offering incentive programs that range from $5,000 to $15,000.

In Oklahoma, Tulsa is offering people $10,000 to move there. They'll also throw in free desk space at Tulsa's top co-working community and other perks. To be considered, you must be a remote worker who can relocate within six months and be at least eighteen years old.

Alabama has a similar incentive program for remote workers. They offer those in the tech industry up to $10,000 to live in and work from The Shoals.

In Kansas, the Choose Topeka initiative offers up to $15,000 to relocate to the city and the Shawnee County community. To qualify, you must purchase or rent a home within a year of your move.

The Choose Topeka website highlights that the average cost of a single-family home in Topeka is $125,000, and the average monthly rent is $762.

If moving to a cheaper city has ever crossed your mind, the next year may be the time to try it. Start by searching online for remote jobs. You can do this on every primary job site (LinkedIn, Indeed and Glassdoor) by using the word "remote" in the field where you specify the city.

If you've been at your current job for a long time and have a good relationship with your boss, you could ask if working remotely is an option with your current role. Or you may want to see what your company decides to do about returning to the office. Some companies, like Twitter, have decided to allow employees to be remote indefinitely.

If you've ever thought of relocating, spend some time researching to determine what cities may be offering.

— Angela Copeland, a career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching, can be reached at copelandcoaching.com.

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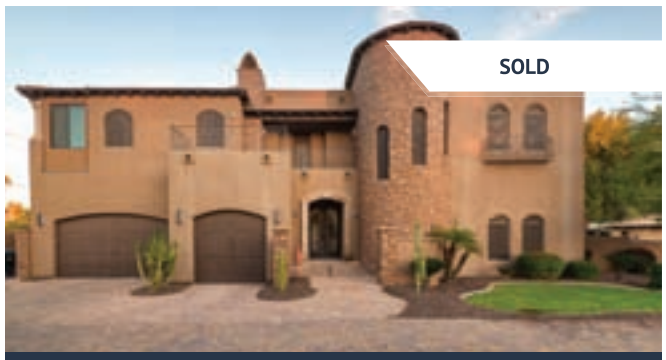
5430 E Calle Redonda $1,925,000

4 bed / 3.5 bath / 3,283 sqft



3808 Fairmount $1,245,000

4 bed / 3.5 bath / 2,800 sqft



3675 N 59th Place $1,195,000

4 bed / 5.5 bath / 4,808 sqft



4602 E Calle Tuberia $1,825,000

4 bed / 4 bath / 3,693 sqft



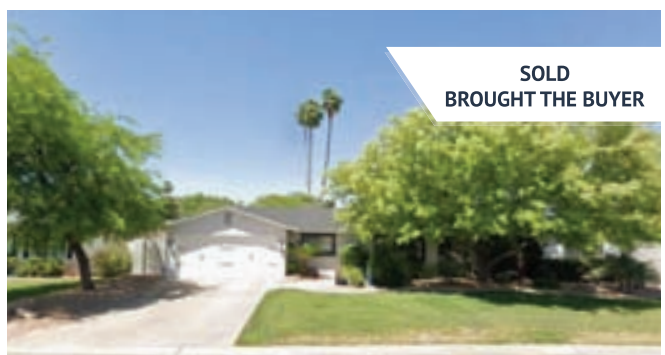
4802 N 46th St $2,850,000

4 bed / 3.5 bath / 4316 sqft / 3 car garage



5421 E Montecito Ave $2,250,000

6 bed / 6 bath / 6,723 sqft



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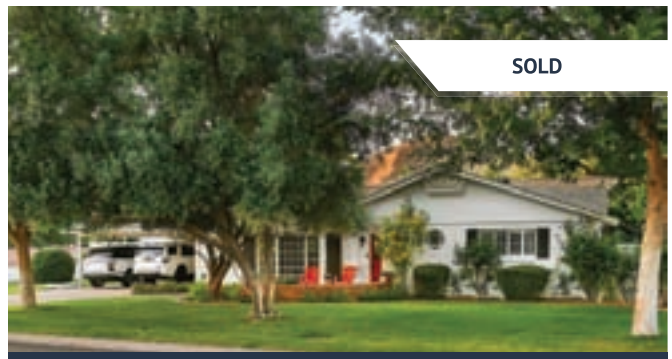
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4 bed / 3.5 bath / 3,446 sqft



6130 E Calle Del Media $2,950,000

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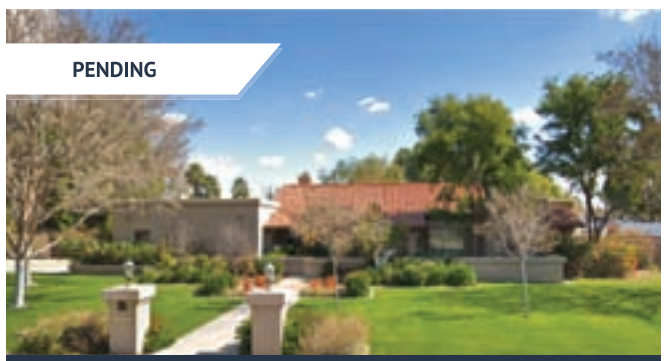
5408 E Calle Redonda $950,000

3 bed / 2 bath / 2,134 sqft



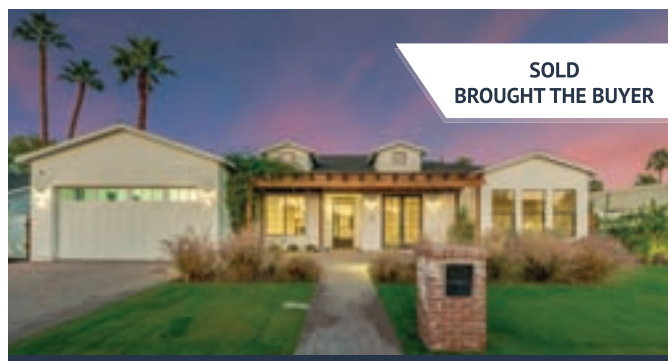
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4544 E Calle Tuberia $1,550,000

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4735 E Calle Del Medio $2,150,000

5 bed / 4 bath / 4,473 sqft



4601 N Arcadia Drive $910,000

30,000 sqft lot



4825 E Exeter Blvd $1,340,000

27,748 sqft lot

Keeping summer vacations close to home

By Robin Sewell



Usually, a long, hot Arizona summer starts to feel even longer come August when we are still in triple digits and it feels like there's no relief in sight. Given the pandemic we are facing, options for out-of-state escapes with cooler temperatures are few and far between. By now, you may be genuinely overwhelmed with cabin fever.

These past few months, I reached out to mayors across Arizona to get their insight on how their communities are handling the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of everything, I also wanted to know what activities their communities are offering for Arizonans to experience safely, whether it's a day trip or a weekend getaway.

A fun idea for all ages is the Verde Canyon Railroad. Nestled between the Prescott and Coconino National Forests and adjacent to the Sycamore Wilderness Area, you will get a front-row seat to Arizona's longest-running nature show. The open-air viewing cars offer a feast for eyes as guests gaze upon the towering red buttes, the native flora and fauna and spectacular vistas, only accessible by rail. Keep your eye out for bighorn sheep and bald eagles that are commonly seen on this ride.

As far as safety is concerned, the railroad is allowing only 50 people at the depot at a time, and the train itself will be filled at less than 50 percent capacity, allowing for plenty of social distancing. All employees and passengers must wear masks, and other precautions are being taken so folks can enjoy a magnificent excursion while feeling comfortable and safe.



PHOTO: BILL MORROW

Flagstaff Extreme offers adventure courses that have obstacles and ziplines, with options for adults and kids.

ROBIN'S ADVENTURES

If you are looking for a more active adventure, head further north to Flagstaff. Flagstaff Extreme is a series of high wire adventure courses where guests will experience 10 to 17 different obstacles and zip lines. Everything from rope swings, scrambling walls, hanging nets, wobbly bridges and "suspended" surprises.

The courses range in difficulty from beginners to more advanced, and they have options for both adults and kids. Flagstaff Extreme is limiting guests. They have strict protocols on sanitizing and handling equipment, and staff will be wearing gloves and masks. What's also great about Flagstaff Extreme is that it's all outside and easy to social distance on this playground in the trees.

While most Phoenicians head north to escape the heat, a trip down south to the mile-high city of Bisbee can also be refreshing. This quaint, quirky, charming town has temperatures in August that average in the low 80s during the day and 60s at night. When I talked to Bisbee Mayor David Smith, he said the city is open to visitors and is safe for a getaway. If you want to stay outdoors, there are plenty of hiking trails or hop aboard a Lavender jeep tour.

One of Bisbee's most famed attractions is the Queen Mine Tour. Led by a miner-turned-tour guide, guests will go deep into the Queen Mine's old workings wearing a headlamp to guide their way. It's truly a step back in time to the era where copper was king, and Bisbee was a boomtown known worldwide.

If you are ready for a change of scenery but don't want to go too far from home, a visit to one of Arizona's rural treasures may be just enough to lift your spirits, cool you down and make you appreciate even more this great state we all call home.

— Robin Sewell is the host and executive producer of the Emmy Award winning Arizona Highways Television.





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Renovations ahead for Kiva Elementary School

By Rachael Bouley

Kiva Elementary School is moving forward with plans to remodel the school campus. As one of 15 elementary schools in the Scottsdale Unified School District, Kiva serves 455 students pre-K through sixth grade. By the time construction commences, it will be the school's first major remodel since it was built in 1957.

The long-anticipated renovations became a reality on October 1, 2019, when the SUSD Governing Board voted unanimously to select Kiva as the sixth school to be renovated through a 2016 voter-approved bond proposal. A recommendation for rebuilding/renovation resulted from the SUSD annual school capacity analysis.

In March 2020, Principal Alice Spingola announced a 23-member Visioning Committee to collaborate in re-imagining the school's campus. The committee members included Kiva's parents, teachers, staff and neighbors. They have met several times each month to go over project goals, designs and building plan analysis.

"This will be a total modernization project, so our entire campus will be updated," Spingola said. "Our campus needs a major remodel to accommodate the needs of today's learner."

The Visioning Committee is working with architect firm Orcutt Winslow to develop the overall vision and project design, with construction expected to begin in spring 2021. The contractor's phasing plan will determine the project completion date, but the work could last for up to a year.

The school is preparing for the big overhaul, which will cover classrooms, common areas and the historic main building itself.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMY BOLTON

The 2021-2022 remodel will be the first for Kiva, which was built in 1957.

Kiva has welcomed students for more than 60 years and everyone at the school is eager to see what's to come.

"The Kiva community is very excited, and they want to be involved," Spingola said. "Kiva is a true community school, and the Kiva community has waited for the modernization for a long time. I am most excited that the students will have a new learning environment."

Early polling and research found that some of the changes the community wants to see include larger classrooms, a better performance space and improved parking and traffic flow. Design elements that Kiva families hope will be included are natural light, open layout and environmentally-aware education spaces.

Spingola and the Visioning Committee believe there will be many positive changes to the school in the months and years to come.

As the project start date approaches and the design discussions develop further, Kiva's leaders are determined to make a difference for the students they are so proud of by adding more support and opportunities.

"We want to continue to provide an exceptional education for our students, one that provides students skills that prepare them for tomorrow's world," Spingola said. "Our goal is to develop those life skills necessary in society, including citizenship, communication (receptive, expressive, digital), creativity and critical thinking."






From left: Echo Canyon's new lobby, Ingleside's new tables and cafeteria, complete with a new stage and lighting.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAT HUGHES AND CHRIS THUMAN

Echo Canyon and Ingleside Middle School have a new look

By Jennifer Marshall

This summer, Echo Canyon and Ingleside Middle School underwent extensive renovations, designed to improve their students' and staff's overall well-being.

Thanks to a 2016 Scottsdale voter-approved bond, Echo Canyon was able to redesign its front office, increasing safety and security.

"When school starts this fall, anyone coming on campus will have to sign in and be cleared," Echo Canyon Principal Kat Hughes said. "Visitors will no longer be able to enter through the back door and freely roam the campus."

According to Hughes, this relatively simple modification involved adding some doors and removing a few walls. These changes now mean students and admin can access the office without having to pass through an electronic door.

"We also installed an electronic marquee," Hughes said, "which is great for safety, security and communication."

Thanks to a brand-new paint job, Ingleside Middle School is also unveiling a fresh, new look.

"We painted the inside and the outside of the school building," Principal Christopher Thuman said. "Hallways, stairways, fencing, railings and windows – the entire campus shines and blends in better with the surrounding neighborhood. We now have a better combination of colors than what was previously there."

Ingleside also remodeled their cafeteria and constructed a new stage complete with upgraded lighting, curtains and sound system.

Like Echo Canyon, Ingleside also revamped their front office for enhanced campus security.

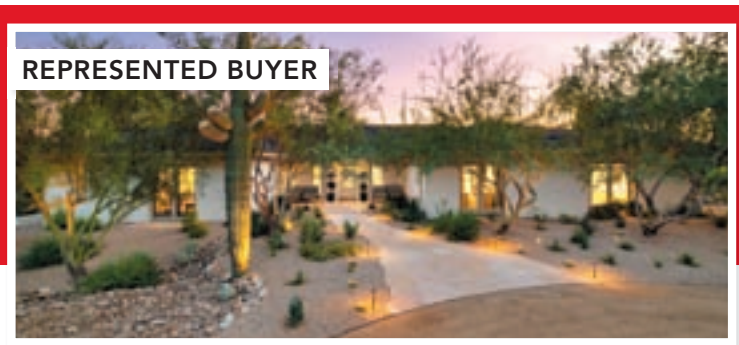
"We have wireless access for all the staff," Thuman said, "and we can better control who's on campus and when."

The classrooms received attention, too – new clocks, which all sync with the school bells, were installed. And school officials invested about $150,000 on modern chairs, desks, tables and whiteboards. New state-of-the-art equipment was also purchased for the robotics and fine arts departments.

"Everything we've done this past summer results in a better learning environment and more safety for our students," Thuman said.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF LORI CALHOUN

Last year, Arizona Helping Hands was able to provide over 3,500 birthday packages to foster kids.

Birthday Dreams brings celebrations to foster children

By Jennifer Marshall

Imagine being eight years old, and no one remembers your birthday. You feel alone and forgotten. This is the reality for the roughly 14,000 Arizona children who are currently in foster care. Arizona Helping Hands is working to change this through their Birthday Dreams Program.

Kathleen and Paul Donaldson started Arizona Helping Hands in 1998. It began as a promise to Kathleen's dying sister to do one good deed a day. The goal of the nonprofit was to help as many at-risk people as possible.

In 2013, the organization shifted its focus on helping foster children, according to Chief Operating Officer Jodie Sprayberry.

When children are removed from their homes by Child Protective Services, they are unable to take anything other than the clothes they're wearing. And foster parents must have certain items ready before a child can live with them.

"Since it's costly to have all the essentials, we fill this gap," Sprayberry said. "From the appropriate bedding, clothing and hygiene items – we provide everything a child needs so the foster parents can focus their time and energy on the child and meeting their unique emotional needs."

14,000 Arizona children are currently in foster care.

Last year, Arizona Helping Hands served over 5,000 children. They believe that every child is entitled to safety, health and permanency.

To further their mission, Arizona Helping Hands created the Birthday Dreams Program. "Most foster kids don't have birthday celebrations, so they feel forgotten and unloved. Think about a child living in a group home with 12 other kids with one adult overseeing them, and no one remembers their birthday," Sprayberry said.

Foster parents and the Department of Child Safety workers can file birthday requests through the Arizona Helping Hands website. Volunteers shop the organization's warehouse for toys and other goodies.

> *"Foster kids need to feel that they're loved, that they're worthy and that someone remembered them on their special day."*

"What items aren't donated, we write grants for, and if we don't get grants, then we buy what we need," Sprayberry said. Every gift is new and handpicked for the individual child. Currently, the program does 300 plus birthday celebrations a month.

All presents are wrapped and arranged in decorated birthday bags. Kids also receive another bag containing a cake mix, a pan, streamers and balloons – all the items for a traditional birthday party.

Foster children 12 and under receive three toys and one book, and kids 13-21 receive a gift card, a writing journal and a large duffel bag.

Older children have a harder time getting adopted, and they're often moved from group home to group home. The duffel bag is meant to give these kids a sense of dignity and pride; when they move, they're able to keep their belongings with them.

"Foster kids deserve to have great birthdays," Sprayberry said. "They deserve to be happy and to open their eyes on their birthday and be excited. They need to feel that they're loved, that they're worthy and that someone remembered them on their special day."

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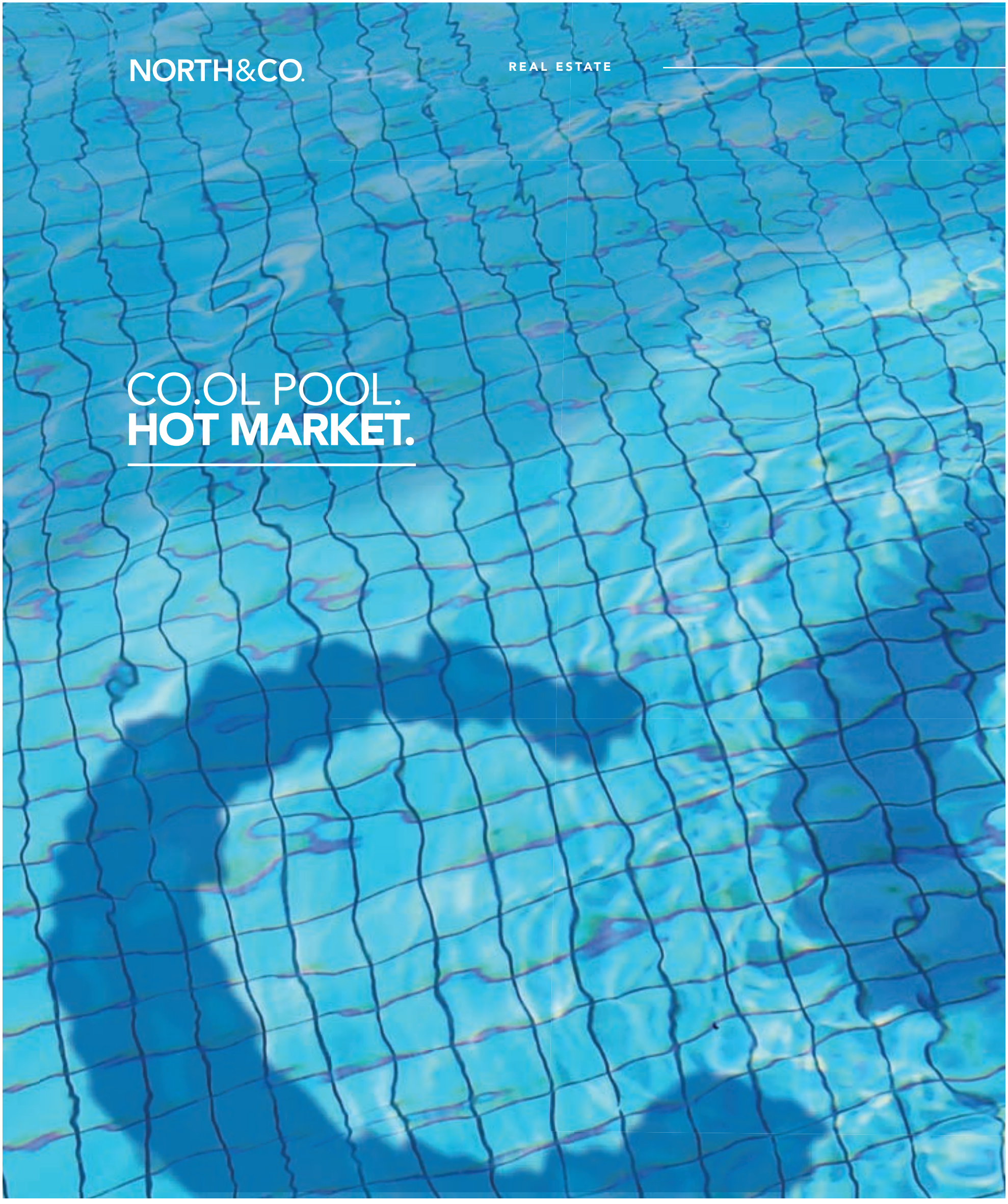
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28 years of keeping Phoenix clean, one graffiti mark at a time



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOWNTOWN PHOENIX

Don Olund has cleaned over 50,000 graffiti marks.

By Cliff Summerhill

After a storied career as downtown Phoenix's spotlight member of the Clean and Green Team, Don Olund has retired, leaving a profound emptiness in the Downtown Ambassador Program.

"When I informed members of our hospitality and convention task force of Don's retirement, the reaction was shock and gratitude," Chief Marketing Officer R.J. Price said.

Olund was a downtown Phoenix staple before his retirement in June. Since 1993, Olund has cleaned over 50,000 graffiti marks in the area. He was always the first to be called when a graffiti tag needed to be removed. "I loved what I did. I took great pride in my work. It was my calling," Olund said.



Don Olund

"For years, our partners at Visit Phoenix, Phoenix Convention Center and the large hotels have been able to sell downtown Phoenix as one of the country's cleanest downtowns due in large part to Don Olund," Price shared.

The "Clean and Green Team" strives to make Phoenix neighborhoods clean, friendly and welcoming central hubs. Olund exhibited this mission and, in his 28 years, embraced this attitude every day.

"Don had an ability to adapt and overcome," Downtown Phoenix Ambassador Chuck Padilla shared. "His dependability, work ethic, friendliness and kind thoughtfulness showed through every day at work."

Olund moved to Arizona from Alaska in 1993. He also lived in the Midwest. Back then he was described as a talented youth hockey player. Upon moving to Phoenix, he responded to an ad in the newspaper for a job with downtown Phoenix's Clean & Safe Team (they would change the name a few years later). According to Dan Klocke, Executive Director of the Downtown Phoenix Partnership, Olund was late to his interview, but when he eventually made it there, he was hired to become a member of the team.

"On one of his first days on the job, he was dispatched to the First Ave. bridge in the warehouse district to remove some graffiti tags," Price said. "And that's what he did for the nearly three decades that followed."

Olund will be remembered for his "can-do" attitude and mentorship to other ambassadors, but he also sported a signature hairstyle until shortly before his June retirement.

"My favorite tidbit about him is that he has maintained his signature mullet all of these years," Klocke shared. "In January, he cut off the 'party in the back.' So, it's been a year of significant changes for Don. A true end of an era in a way."

Klocke explained that Olund would share his graffiti removals as if he was "a soldier in a war." Olund had many confrontations throughout the years, but it never stopped him from doing his job.

Furthermore, Olund created friendships with downtown Phoenix's homeless population and would try to help them as much as he could. "I was right out in the streets and saw people at their worst. They would see me and say 'Don, we found a couple tags for you,'" he said.

Known as the Graffiti Man, Don would help out the population by buying them shoes and bringing them meals from Dunkin' Donuts, Subway and even home cooked meals.

"I wanted to try to make their lives a little better. Do what I can to brighten their day a bit and show them a little love. Especially now, we have to help each other," Olund said.





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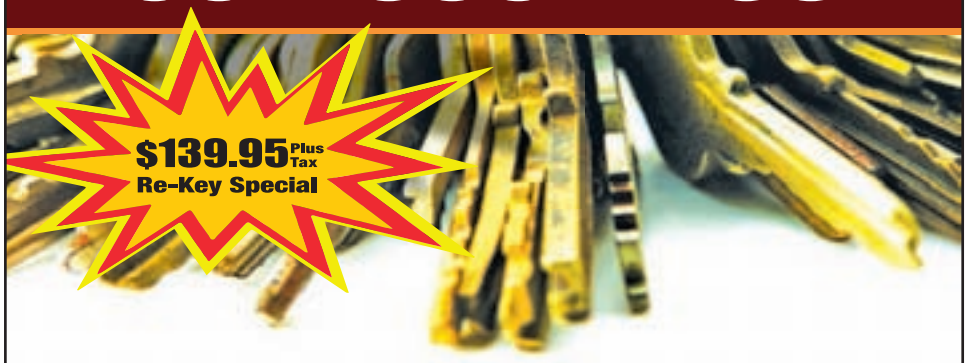
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Antique, vintage and retro: which is which?

ASK THE APPRAISERS

By Jeffrey Pearson

Everything bought for the home, like furniture, rugs, lighting and artwork can be placed on some form of a timeline and affixed with labels like contemporary, antique, vintage or retro. An item's age is not a key determinant of its value because other variables must be taken into consideration, such as condition, quality and demand. The age of an item is evaluated not only in terms of its actual date of origin but also in the context of contemporary fashions and social and economic trends.



Not everything for sale has a certified date of origin. Sometimes, we have to rely on the claims placed by the seller. A quick scan of Craigslist or eBay reveals that terms such as "antique" and "vintage" are often used interchangeably. Some use the term "antique" for almost anything that belonged to grandma.



The term "vintage" is often used by sellers to indicate something that is too old to be considered used, but not as old as our grandparents. "Retro" to a seller might mean something is outdated and out of style. By calling an item "retro", a seller hopes to place sentimental or historical value on something that is no longer cool. These are what sellers want us to think – but the official definitions are more nuanced.



An antique has to be a minimum of 100 years old. If an item is not definitively datable to 100 or more years, it cannot be referred to as antique, unless it is a car – then, 25 years classifies it as antique.

Denoting an item as vintage is trickier. The term can be used for an item that was produced from a certain period, as in vintage 1950s. Still, it can also mean that it exhibits the best of certain qualities associated with that specific era. In other words, vintage items should be somewhat recognizable to the era in which they were made. The term "vintage" should not be used for objects less than 20 years old.

The term "retro" means "reviving," or made in the styles and fashions of the past: fashionably nostalgic or old-fashioned. Retro furniture may not be old, but it references styles of the recent past. "Retro" can also mean something that is not old but is old enough to be more than just something made new from last year.

Today's retro items convey thoughts of mid-century modern style furniture such as Heywood Wakefield or the many reproductions in today's market. Vintage items conjure up images of faded, lacey fabrics in beige or off-white that adorned dresser tops and backs of chairs.

Your current car may be an antique, the sofa vintage, the marble top parlor table an antique and the chrome and Formica table with the four plastic covered red chairs retro. All of these terms make up the eclectic look in most homes.

— Contact Jeff with questions: damshill@yahoo.com or send your letter to 5525 N. 12th St., Phoenix, AZ 85014.

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PHOTO: MICHAEL SIMON

Marlene and Leanne use their everyday lives as inspiration for their comedy-improv show.

Ladies in the Headlights provide social distanced fun

By Mallory Gleich

Their mission: To laugh at life's most routine moments. Their vision: As memorable as mom jeans. Transplants Leanne Schmidt and Marlene Strang make up the Ladies in the Headlights, a physical comedy show that combines theater, improvisation, movement and, most importantly, fun.

From Buffalo, N.Y. and Detroit, Mich., Schmidt and Strang met back in 2003 when they were attending Arizona State University. They became friends and bonded over their love of dance. Years later, they decided to combine their talents as moms and dancers, add a dash of comedy and start an improv show.

"We created a piece in 2016 about breastfeeding titled 'Cluster Feed,' and these characters were developed, and they just stuck," Strang said. "Our lives as mothers and wives primarily inspire our work. We love drawing on life's everyday moments and showing how ridiculous and awkward a lady's life can be."



Leanne Schmidt



Marlene Strang

When they're not performing, the ladies work in dance education. Strang is an adjunct professor of dance, and Schmidt works as a dance specialist for the North Valley Arts Academies in Paradise Valley. They're both moms to two kids.

They are both professionally trained dancers and have performed at Triskelion Arts in Brooklyn, N.Y., the Beta Dance Festival in Phoenix, Center for Visual Arts in Denver, the Regional Alternative Dance Festival in Kalamazoo, and were showcased at the 50th anniversary of Dance at ASU.

The idea for Ladies in the Headlights came about as a result of the pandemic.

"We were getting so sick of screens for our children, for ourselves, and we had to find a way to create and experience without the use of screens," Schmidt said.

"Since we are both teachers and moms, once we became quarantined, our whole lives moved to the screen. We were working on the computer. Our kids were doing school on the computer, we had meetings on the computer, etc.," Strang said. "We were feeling fed up with looking at screens. We decided it would be great to get people out for a safe but fun evening and bring some life back to our community, not to mention our own lives."

The idea is simple: head to the venue, park your car and turn on your headlights. Attendees will be able to listen/hear the music for the show through their car radio and watch the Ladies perform their act.

"As people panicked to buy groceries and things like toilet paper, we saw a lot of people lined up outside of businesses to get first dibs. There are also people getting together outside, six feet apart, to have a little socialization time," Strang said. "In Ladies in the Headlights, the ladies are out waiting for businesses to open, while socializing six feet apart. Our audience members have just shown up a little later than we have."

Along with the Headlights show, Schmidt and Strang are also the creators of Let Your Lady Out and Ladies Gone Mild, two self-guided shows that allow participants to explore a pop-up boutique resort and a panel of self-help gurus.

"We love allowing participation in a fun and social experience," Schmidt said. "We always create opportunities for the audience to influence what happens in our shows through participating or not. No show is ever the same, which is so exciting. We love to laugh, and we get so much joy in making what we do accessible to everyone."

Schmidt and Strang say that the inspiration for their shows comes from juggling being parents, wives, homemakers, artists and teachers.

"From meals being made and not eaten to receiving advice about how to get rid of muffin tops, the inspiration behind our works is from the mundane and relatable parts of life. There is something that everyone can relate to in our show content," Strang said.

In the future, The Ladies plan on continuing their shows and bringing them to venues around Phoenix. They also recently started a non-profit to provide improv workshops to businesses and groups.

For more: wearetheladies.net

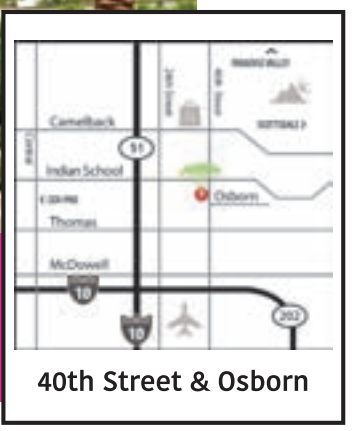
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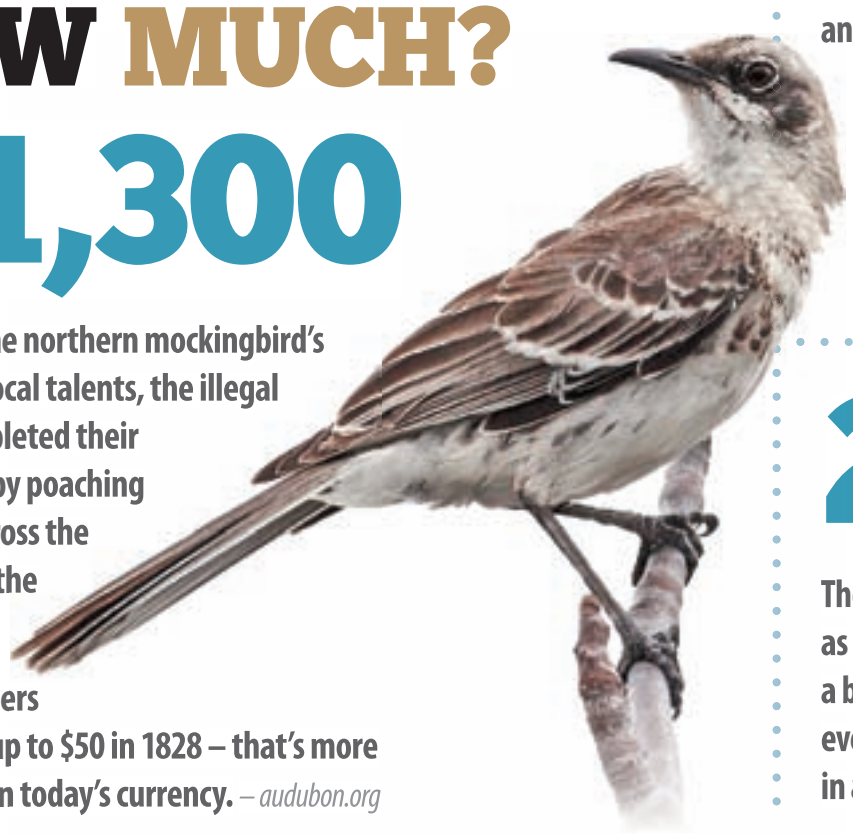
1758



The northern mockingbird was first described by Linnaeus in his *Systema Naturæ* in 1758 as *Turdus polyglottos*. The mockingbird's Latin name is *Mimus polyglottos*, which translates to "many-tongued mimic." – *itis.gov*

HOW MUCH?

$1,300



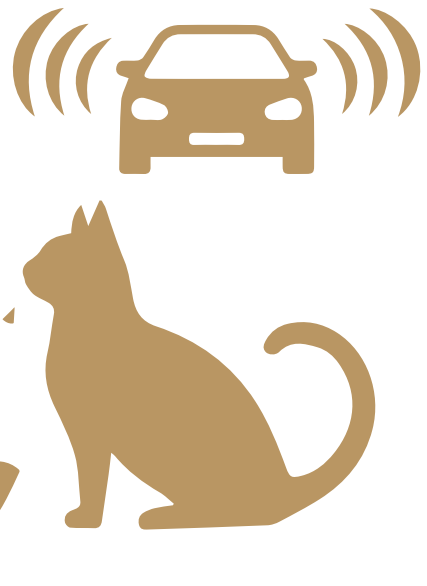
Because of the northern mockingbird's impressive vocal talents, the illegal pet trade depleted their populations by poaching wild birds across the east coast in the 19th century.

The best singers were worth up to $50 in 1828 – that's more than $1,300 in today's currency. – *audubon.org*

HOW MANY?

350 songs

The mockingbird's vocal cords, called the syrinx, can produce a wide variety of sounds. A typical mockingbird has 200 to 350 songs in its repertoire. They have been know to mimic car alarms, cat meows, dog barks and even music. – *nytimes.com*



27 eggs

They are known to make as many as seven nesting attempts during a breeding season, and one female even set a record of laying 27 eggs in a single season. – *birdsoftheworld.org*



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DID YOU KNOW? MOCKINGBIRDS

MOCKINGBIRD FACTS

Females are much quieter than males.

Males and females look similar, with the males being slightly larger.



Only bachelors sing at night.

President Thomas Jefferson had a pet mockingbird named "Dick."

They can identify humans, especially those that have disturbed their nests.

Mockingbirds can live up to eight years in the wild and 20 years in captivity.

Mockingbirds are monogamous.



A couple of mockingbirds will have two to three broods per year.

It is the state bird of Texas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Florida and Arkansas.

They are very territorial and will not hesitate to attack intruders.

– americanexpedition.us

MOCKINGBIRD WORD SEARCH

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U X U F A X D M F T A I K H Y N R D F I Q N Q X W
W D O O R B D E W H E Y A X S Y T K M T X Y E D O
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V F W Q A X O V D N O S R E F F E J S A M O H T I
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T V Y L A F Q P S U F X B M U S L O I C R L M F K
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THOMAS JEFFERSON
TOAD
VOCAL CORD

SAY WHAT?

'Ribbit, ribbit, ribbit'



Northern mockingbirds are known to imitate at least 12 different species of North American frogs and toads. Though illegal to own, pet mockingbirds can even learn to imitate a few words of human speech. *– quora.com*





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Arcadia Eagle Scout makes way to U.S. Army

By Mallory Gleich



David Schleeper

In a span of just 30 days, David Schleeper graduated from Arcadia High School, earned his Eagle Rank from Troop 6, entered the Army, and celebrated his 18th birthday.

David was awarded his Eagle the day before shipping out for basic training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. He entered the Army as a Private (E-1), but once his Eagle paperwork from the national Scouts organization catches up with him, Schleeper will receive a promotion to E-2.

"If he would have had it before he went in, he would have started a rank ahead," Amy Schleeper, David's mom, said.

David has been part of Boy Scouts for over a decade, after signing up in 5th grade while attending ANLC (now Echo Canyon). Now, he's taking the skills he learned to the Army.

After a few more weeks at Fort Leonard, he will head to San Antonio for 16 weeks of medic training.

"He has wanted to 'be an Army man' since he was little," Amy said. "We lived on an airbase in the UK for five years, and I think he liked the men and women stationed there. His father is an Army veteran, and his grandfathers were in the Air Force and the Navy."

David has been regaling his mom with tales of basic training – including that his Boy Scout training has helped a great deal.

"He learned so much with Scouts, from knot tying, teamwork, leadership and problem solving," Amy said. "Last week in one of his letters he said 'who knew that the rock-climbing merit badge would come in handy at basic,' but it did."

David had once told his mom that he wanted to be an EMT with the fire department when he gets out of high school. Now, he's making that dream a reality, with the Army training him to be a combat medic.

"He is so excited to see where the Army will take him," Amy said. "He loves the idea of helping people wherever he is. He loves the adventure of basic training; I know it's not supposed to be fun, but he is having a blast. He said it's like Boy Scouts camp but for adults and a lot more fun."

Two doctors plus one book equals calm kids

By Melissa Hirschl

These days, kids' fears about COVID-19 have become palpable as they hear adults talking in hushed tones about daily deaths, case numbers, hospital beds and other sobering observations. Parents might feel helpless and confused when explaining the disease to their children. But now there is a children's book that aims to help: *Captain Quarantine – A Child's Guide to Understanding COVID-19.*



The book is the brainchild of Dr. Lyn Ashley Gildar, Psy.D, a clinical psychologist in Phoenix, and Dr. Linda Eller, D.O., a family medicine practitioner in Scottsdale. The women met while working at a community health center in Tempe, and their friendship evolved in parallel with their professions.

In this colorful 24-page book, children go on a journey to understand the disease through the eyes of a child named Alex, who visits the family doctor and a therapist to talk about "big feelings" regarding COVID-19.

"It's a simple way to learn through a child's perspective," Eller explained. "Our goal was not to have it be overwhelming or too intense. I know my own 3-year-old has recognized how society is shifting. He noticed how we couldn't eat in restaurants."

This timely book deals with issues most children can relate to, such as the loss of playmates and school experiences. Practical advice is offered, such as proper ways to cough, social distancing and how video chats can help provide a sense of normalcy. Also, children learn about how to soothe their emotions through deep breathing and creating schedules.

"For some time, we both wanted to use our specific clinical knowledge to write a children's book that would be helpful for kids' health," Gildar said. "When COVID-19 struck, we knew this was our opportunity to make a real difference."

The medical duo wrote the book at warp speed. The idea came in March, the writing in April and the publication in May. "We wanted to positively educate children about COVID-19 basics and how to cope with their emotions," Eller said.

According to the authors, the book is ideal for teachers, social workers, administrators, doctors, therapists, parents and health care providers. It is available on Amazon.

Stinknet poses dangerous threat to Arizona neighborhoods

By Rhys Lee

An insidious weed called stinknet has been spreading throughout Arizona and Southern California for the past few decades. Hailing from South Africa, this weed seems harmless with its small round yellow blooms, but the problems it causes can be devastating. It has been in Arizona since the early 1990s and has increased slowly under the radar for years. It gets its name from the noxious smell it gives off.

Stinknet has spread throughout the North Valley from the I-17 east to Cave Creek and Carefree between 2005 and 2019. In general, it has trouble competing with native plants, preferring to fill in the empty areas.

However, it is able to sneakily overtake native plants. John Scheuring, conservation director of the Arizona Native Plant Society, said stinknet grows at the base of creosote bushes and tall grass. Over time, it expands and takes over the blank areas. Scheuring said that stinknet's infestation has exploded over the years as a result of Arizona residents choosing not to remove it because of its attractive yellow flowers.

The infestation has also become rampant partly because the plant wasn't added to Arizona's invasive plant list until January 2020. City of Phoenix Park Ranger Brian Miller said that stinknet is sprouting in the cracks of unused sidewalks. He also said that it's crowding out other invasive plants and has taken over Phoenix earlier than most biologists thought it would.

Both Scheuring and Miller say that the stinknet infestation is also a major concern for one main reason: fire.

Scheuring said that stinknet burns fast like gasoline. It's like kindling and can cause fires to spread over acres very quickly. Many wildfires have involved stinknet – including Cave Creek's 980-acre Ocotillo Fire in May. Scheuring also said that any stinknet seeds already in the soil when a fire comes through will come up the next year because the plant thrives on disturbed soil.



PHOTO BY: ART KARTS HUSEONICA, ESTRELLA MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK

Stinknet, a.k.a. Globe Chamomile.

The primary way to get rid of stinknet is herbicides. However, residents can grub (the removal of roots) it out before it blooms (February-April). There aren't any preventative measures to keep it from growing in a yard because the seeds are tiny, and just one yellow bulb can drop up to four hundred seeds.

"It is something worth taking the time to pull and take out because it promotes fire. If you do grub it out, you are preventing fire, especially around your property," Miller said. "As a land manager, it's frustrating to see it suddenly appear on the invasive plant list. But it's here now, and it's prevalent, and it's not going to go away. It's going to be part of the urban area like the tumbleweed."

For more: aznps.com/invasive-plants

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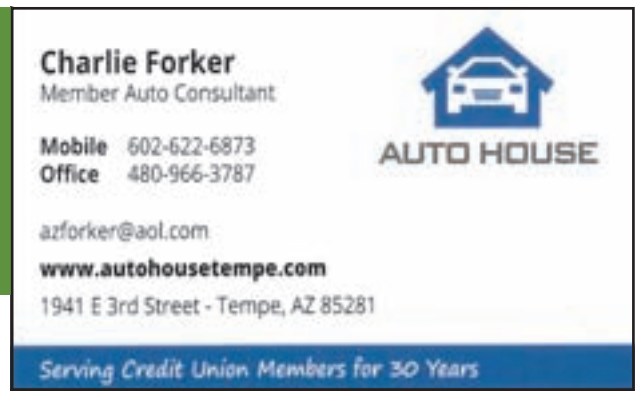


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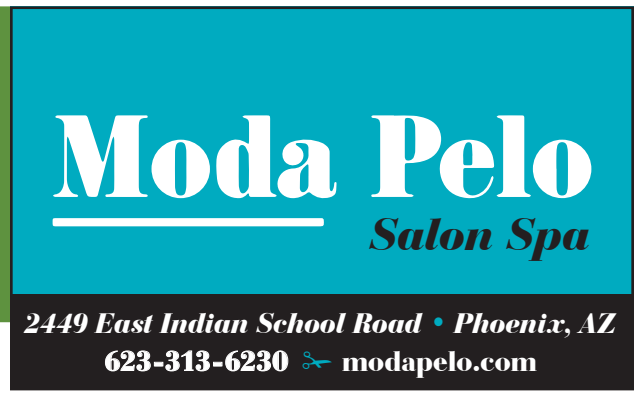


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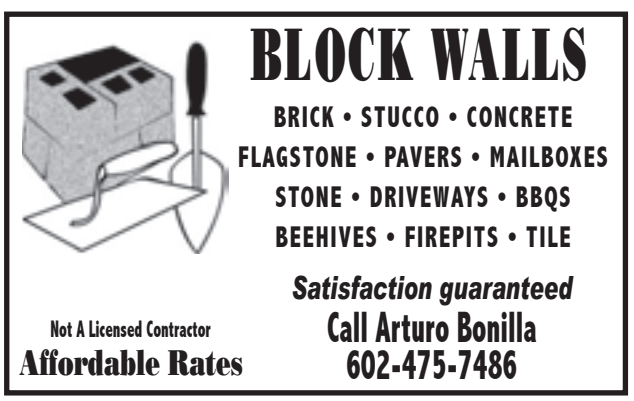


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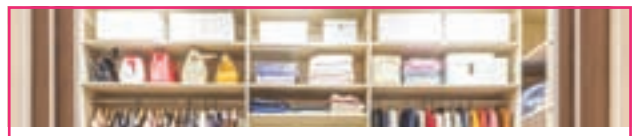
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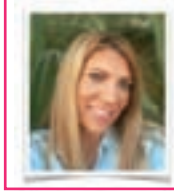
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