ARCADIA NEWS

VOL. 29 NO. 2 ARCADIA • BILTMORE • CAMELBACK CORRIDOR MAY 2021

WE'VE GOT SPIRIT

A St. Thomas seventh grader took school spirit into his own hands when he brought back a favored contest.

PAGE 18

LET IT RUN, LET IT GLIDE

Two Valley residents with Olympic-sized dreams recently competed in the USRowing Olympic Trials in Florida.

PAGE 10

NO PLACE LIKE HOME PLATE

The Arcadia High girls softball team made up for lost time by coming back as a Division 5 school.

PAGE 54

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Valley rower Jasper Liu has won several national regattas and represented the U.S. at the World Championships in 2019 before setting out with hopes of participating at the Summer Olympics.
PHOTO: SCOTT DEL VECCHIO

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Happy Mother's Day to all the amazing moms out there!

This month's cover story focuses on the USRowing Olympic Trials that happened earlier this year. Two Valley residents, Jasper Liu and Sophie Heywood, were able to compete in these trials, and I spoke with them about the experience.

Sophie, whose team finished fourth in the competition, said: "I was grateful just to be there competing after so many months of training in isolation without the guarantee of a race."

Jasper's team was able to secure a spot in the next trial this month in Lucerne, Switzerland. He's currently training there with his rowing partner and hopes that a win will secure them a place at the Tokyo Olympics in July.

This month's edition also showcases our local students as they wrap up their last month of school. One St. Thomas student revived a school tradition by holding a t-shirt design contest. Hopi and Tavan held spirit days where kids dressed up as their favorite characters or decade. Even though the 2021 school year is almost complete, there is no shortage of school pride.

Arcadia News is currently looking for freelance writers for our award-winning newspaper. If you or someone you know loves to write, contact me: editor@arcadianews.com.

To the moms, we say "we love you;" to the students, we say "happy almost-summer break;" and to our readers and advertisers, we say "thank you!"

Mallory

— Mallory

UPCOMING THEMES:

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Summer I	*Summer II*	*Back to School*	*Fall Sports*

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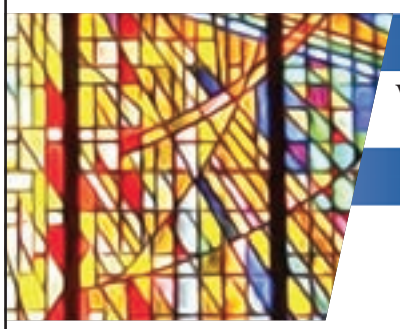

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PHOTOS: RADIANT PHOTOGRAPHY BY THE CHANSONS

AHS 2021 prom queen and king Lexi Flader and Jimmy Furcini.

Arcadia High senior's perspective on prom

By Lily Ashworth

In the beginning, we all secretly enjoyed rolling out of bed in our PJs and clicking the Zoom link from the comfort of our homes. However, after time it became challenging, often sad and lonely.

I missed the interaction with my teachers and peers. Socializing is a significant part of high school, and we as students suffered a great deal from the lack of interaction. Not having homecoming and our last assembly in the gym as a senior was heartbreaking.

As a student, you look forward to the year you get to sit in the front row of chaos corner, and seniors missed out on that. Our chaos corner is so strong at Arcadia and not being able to come together as a community and celebrate with the student body was devastating. The biggest challenge for me as the student body president was not being present as a leader and a role model to my fellow seniors and underclassmen.

> ***"I think I can speak on behalf of most of the student body when I say we just wanted some event, no matter the limitations."***

Thanks to a member of Junior STUGO and help from the community, these feelings changed – if only for a night. Arcadia High was able to enjoy an authentic, outdoor prom this April.

Kate Heglie, who posted the event on GoFundMe, said that within the first 30 minutes of uploading their campaign, STUGO raised their original goal of $1,000. The next day, they surpassed the goal by $500.

"We were shocked," Kate said. "The aura of COVID-19 made us skeptical about who would be on our support system. Operating through these polarized conditions has been complicated, but the community's generosity toward our event reassured us."

Prom this year was located at Arcadia High, and the theme was Clue. Masks were worn and social distancing was in place. As far as dancing went, there were a maximum amount of students on the dance floor and, as others came and went, more students were able to dance.

"All in all, we were so grateful to even be allowed an event like prom to take place," Kate said. "I think I can speak on behalf of most of the student body when I say we just wanted some event, no matter the limitations."

I am so delighted and thankful that we had a prom this year. Getting together with my classmates in one place to socialize and unify was wonderful for us all. Being allowed to have a school dance was a great "last hurrah" for seniors, especially.

Having prom is just what we all needed to end the year on a high note. During these tough times, I've relied on the support and love from my family and friends. Knowing and realizing we are all in the same boat has helped me cope and deal with the changes we all had to face.

Although my senior year didn't turn out like I'd dreamed it would, I am still thankful for the opportunities I've had. Arcadia holds a special place in my heart, and I will forever and always be proud of being a Titan.

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Arcadia Real Estate Stats

2021 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/01/2021-3/31/2021)

Active Homes -	100 homes
Homes Sold -	97 homes
Average Sale Price -	$1,846,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$466
Average Days On Market -	88 days

There is currently 3 months of home inventory. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 home sales have increased 6% this year. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 home prices have increased 7%. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 $ Per Square Foot prices have increased 7%. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 homes are taking 15% less time to sell. (based on 2020 sales results)

2021 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/01/2021-3/31/2021)

Active Homes -	44 Homes
Homes Sold -	48 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$907,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$361
Average Days On Market -	40 days

There is currently 2 months of home inventory. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 home sales have decreased 20% this year. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 home prices have increased 13%. (based on 2020sales results)
2021 $ Per Square Foot prices have increased 10%. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 Homes are taking 32% less time to sell. (based on 2020 sales results)

TOMMY ATKINSON

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WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

Hospice of the Valley's latest project, a dementia care and education campus, has plans to open in phases in early October 2021. The education center will open first with classes, a café and a community support group. Located on 44th St. south of Indianola, the campus will include dementia inpatient care, a 12-bed assisted living home, an adult center, and the education center and café for community and campus visitors.

hov.org

Los Cerritos Mexican Restaurant has reopened in the Arcadia Towne Center at 48th St. and Indian School. Along with new dishes, Los Cerritos offers specialty plates, breakfast burritos, authentic drinks and a 99-cent taco Tuesday special.

Arizona 2021 State Mock Trial Champions

Congratulations to Veritas Prep for becoming the **Arizona 2021 State Mock Trial Champions**. Veritas will compete in the Virtual National Tournament in May. Student Lauren Mukavitz received the Justice Ryan Merit Award for the top performance in the final round. Also, Claire Harris, Lauren Mukavitz and Erika Ghassemi were named to the All-State Team. Good work, Falcons!

A kids' entertainment spot has opened up in the Desert Palms Power Center on 40th St. and Thomas Road. **The Rush Fun Park** hosts parties, events, weekly activities and plenty of things to keep kids busy. There are slides, trampolines, basketball hoops, a climbing wall, dodgeball zone and more. Tickets are around $20 for kids and $7 for parents.

rushfunpark.com

The Wine Store

Chef Mark Tarbell (of Tarbell's on 32nd St. and Camelback) has launched a new premier wine club. The renowned chef and wine educator has sourced and stocked **The Wine Store** (in the same plaza) with libations from all over the world. Yearly fees range from $200 to $6,000 and include discounts on purchases, first-picks for certain liquors, members-only events and more. Delivery options are available for members.

tarbellswinestore.com

City of Scottsdale's **Beat the Heat** donation campaign is ongoing until May 28. The campaign's goal is to bring summer relief to homebound seniors. The most-needed items include reusable water bottles, ice packs, toilet and tissue paper, paper towels, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, hand sanitizer, small fans, books of forever stamps and $35 Fry's gift cards. Drop-off items between 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday to the Via Linda Senior Center, 10440 E. Via Linda Road.

scottsdaleaz.gov

The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, a recently designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, has resumed its daily tours and has debuted new offerings for tour-goers to experience **Taliesin West**. The Guided by Wright tour offers visitors a "multi-sensory experience" using recordings of Wright's voice and words. There are also various completed restoration projects that guests can check out. Reservations are required.

franklloydwright.org

Sur La Table recently introduced a virtual cooking class series. Each month, a celebrity chef will provide a virtual hands-on demonstration of their favorite seasonal dishes. Each class will provide step-by-step instructions on how to prepare a cocktail and entrée. The classes are available for $49 per household. Also, for those interested in pursuing a culinary career, Sur La Table launched their Online Culinary Institute – an at-your-own-pace accredited program with Master Chef Scott Conant.

surlatable.com

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park's **Summer Concert Series** starts Sunday, May 30. The park will feature various local acts playing classic rock, country, rhythm and blues and 80s and 90s music. Various food trucks will also be on-site. There will be assigned spots and masks are required. Attendance will be limited and guests must purchase tickets to assigned seating before attending events.

therailroadpark.com

The **Stamp Out Hunger** event is returning this year on May 8. The City of Scottsdale is asking for help to restock Vista del Camino's food bank. Participants can place nonperishable foods in a box near your mailbox on May 8, and postal workers will pick them up and deliver them to food banks. The Letter Carriers' annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive has been held in May for the past 27 years.

scottsdaleaz.gov

North Valley Symphony Orchestra has announced the launch of their spring Midweek Melodies series. NVSO musicians have been learning, rehearsing and recording music for audiences to view online in the comfort of their own homes. The series will feature music by smaller ensembles and mid-sized string and wind ensembles and include Beethoven piano trios, an arrangement of popular sea shanties and more. Each Wednesday until June 2, NVSO will release a new recording on YouTube.

northvalleysymphony.org

Phoenix resident Joan Greene is hosting a water drive for **The Society of St. Vincent de Paul** until May 16. Those interested in donating can bring cases of water to Fetch Natural Pet Market at 6058 N. 16th St., Phoenix. Monetary donations will also be accepted.

stvincentdepaul.net

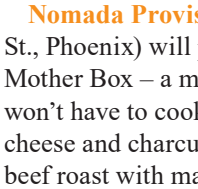
A new contest sponsored by the Phoenix Suns and Hornitos Tequila is now open to Valley residents. Called **The Winning Shot,** applicants are asked to submit a brief description of "how a cash prize will help you take your shot in life." Three finalists will then compete in a 3-point shooting contest on May 11 for the prize. First Place is $10,000. A Phoenix Suns partner charity will be assigned to each finalist, and they will make a matching donation to the charity based on how the finalist scores in the competition.

hornitosashotworthtaking.com

FOR THE MOMS:

Along with flowers and brunch for Mother's Day, here are some ideas to shower mom with love.

Pick up a box of sweets for mom this Mother's Day from **Essence Bakery,**



3830 E. Indian School Road. The Parisian macaron, said to be the "crown jewel of Essence" comes in various flavors: French chocolate, caramel cream, espresso, mint chocolate, organic vanilla and more.

essencebakery.com

Press Coffee is offering 10% off gift subscriptions for Mother's Day. Customers can customize their subscription by choosing how often and for how long, as well as how many bags of coffee they want, what type of bean and the grind they would like shipped to mom.

presscoffee.com

LDV Winery Tasting Room

On Sunday, May 9, the newly remodeled and reopened **LDV Winery Tasting Room** is offering half-off rosé by the glass and 25% off bottles of rosé and viognier for mom.

ldvwinery.com

Nomada Provisions (3410 N. 24th St., Phoenix) will prepare a Cook for Mother Box – a meal for Mom that she won't have to cook! The box includes cheese and charcuterie, a specialty salad, beef roast with mashed potatoes and vegetables and, of course, dessert. All mom has to do is heat it up! This to-go option is available for pick-up on Sunday, May 9 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and includes reheat instructions. Cost for two is $55.

nomadaphx.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

Readers are encouraged to check event websites for safety protocols.

SATURDAY 5/1

Kentucky Derby Lawn Party

1-4 p.m. at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, 7575 E. Princess Dr. Join the Scottsdale Princess for its annual "fastest two minutes in sports" party – also known as the 147th Run for the Roses horse race. The race will be on-screen while guests can find a southern-inspired menu with shrimp and grits and derby pie, plus contests for best outfit and fanciest hat. Tickets start at $119.

scottsdaleprincess.com

Find your Fit

9 a.m. at Scottsdale Quarter, 15059 N. Scottsdale Road. Morning time is the best time to get a workout, especially with temperatures warming up in the Valley. Scottsdale Quarter offers rooftop yoga and workout classes – and this one is the last of the series. The day's class is HIIT Pilates with floo-id yoga. Make sure to bring your own mat. Attendance is free.

scottsdalequarter.com

SUNDAY 5/2

Under the Sea Dance Class

12:15-1 p.m. at Bricks Studio, 4550 E. Indian School Road. End the school year with a splash. Join Bricks Studio for a fun Under the Sea dance class. Children ages 4-7 are encouraged to dress up in their favorite sea creature dance outfit (think mermaids, sea horses and dolphins) and learn a new dance routine, plus go home with a fun surprise. Attendance is $18 per child.

bricksstudio.com

Arizona Balloon Classic

7 a.m.-9 p.m. at Goodyear Ballpark, 1933 S. Ballpark Way. This Sunday morning, the sky will be filled with hot air balloons participating in Hare and Hound races at the fields of Goodyear Ballpark. Attendees will be able to watch inflation and lift off while checking out the fun zone, hot air balloon rides, stunt bike shows, live entertainment and a vendor marketplace. There will also be festival food, live music and a beer garden. Tickets are $20 for adults; 12 and under are free.

abcfest.com

SATURDAY 5/8

Mimosas and Monet

9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Hermosa Inn, 5532 N. Palo Cristi Road, Paradise Valley. Calling all painters, beginners and experts alike. Hermosa Inn welcomes Carrie Curran Art Studios for a morning of art and mimosas. Carrie will teach and guide guests with acrylic on canvas painting of Monet's Desert Agave. Enjoy a mimosa and snack on pastries while creating your masterpiece. Registration is $85.

hermosainn.com

Spring Music in the Garden *at Desert Botanical Garden.*

Mama's Makers Market

9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Shops at Town and Country, 2021 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. Join Local Trade for its third annual Mama's Makers Market. This marketplace will feature over 100 local vendors showing off their one-of-a-kind wares, including art, jewelry, handmade furniture, decor, clothing, health, beauty, food and more. Admission is free and social distancing and masks are required.

localtradeaz.com

Movies in the Afternoon

3 p.m. at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, 7380 E. Second St., Scottsdale. Now that theaters are opening back up, it's time to take the family to a movie. The performing arts center will feature *H is for Happiness,* a family-friendly film based on the book *My Life as an Alphabet,* which centers on a preteen's mission to bring joy back into her family's life. The theater will require social distancing and masks. Tickets are $8 per person.

scottsdaleperformingarts.org

MONDAY 5/10

Arizona Restaurant Association Golf Classic

11 a.m. at the McCormick Ranch Golf Club, 7505 E. McCormick Pkwy., Scottsdale. Hosted by the Arizona Restaurant Association, this year's Golf Classic event invites 144 players to tee up for a cause. Teams will play 18 holes and also get to sip and sample small bites from local eateries. This year's event will benefit the AZ Restaurant Strong Fund, a relief fund for restaurant workers. Registration starts at $295 for individual golfers.

azrestaurant.org

SATURDAY 5/15

Drive the Dream Gala

5:30 p.m. at the Arizona Biltmore, 2400 E. Missouri Ave., Phoenix. The 17th annual Drive the Dream Gala is here with dinner, dancing and a night of fun to support Childhelp, a nonprofit that focuses on advocating for abused and neglected children. This year, television personality Melissa Peterman will emcee the event, and the Childhelp Woman and Man of the World awards will be presented. Tickets start at $1,000.

childhelp.org

Sippin' Series

7-9 p.m. at The Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, 7380 E. Second St., Scottsdale. In this monthly event, guests can "explore regions, spirits and concepts with professionals from Young's Market in an intimate, fun and educational setting." This month's event is focused on tequila and mezcal – guests will learn about the two and try summer-themed cocktails. Tickets are $40 per person.

scottsdaleperformingarts.org

SATURDAY 5/22

Rugged Maniac 5K Obstacle Race

8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park, 20000 S. Maricopa Road, Chandler. This one is a little further away, but the fun should be worth the drive. Participants will find dance-offs, pie-eating contests, a three-story water slide, trampolines, a fire jump and a three-mile course with 20+ obstacles for runners. Each time slot is limited to 200 people to allow for distancing. Tickets start at $49 per person.

ruggedmaniac.com

EVERY FRIDAY IN MAY

Spring Music in the Garden

5:30 p.m. at Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N. Galvin Pkwy., Phoenix. Take in the beauty of the Sonoran Desert with Music in the Garden, a limited series presented by Desert Botanical Garden. Guests will walk the trails, experience the latest art installations and listen to live music. Tickets start at $60 per two guests.

dbg.org

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Arcadia Girl Scout Troop honored with Bronze Award

By Melissa Hirschl

In March, Junior Scouts from Arcadia Troop 4352 initiated a community service project that distributed a cornucopia of community-donated items to senior residents at Arcadia Assisted Living. The project resulted in the troop receiving the Girl Scout Cactus-Pine Council Bronze Award, the highest honor for Junior Girl Scouts.

"The project was a comfort drive for the elderly, a demographic hit hard by isolation," explained Troop Leader Rayme Ellett.

The troop had to commit 20-plus hours of service to be considered for the Bronze Award. Ellett said pursuing the award enables Girl Scouts to evolve in leadership, personal growth and self-discovery.

"I strongly believe in fostering an attitude of service, and I was looking forward to doing this project with them so they could have this educational experience of giving," said Ellett.

Donors included Arcadia neighbors, other local Girl Scout troops, members of Paradise Valley Methodist Church and Hospice of the Valley staff members.

The seniors received practical items along with fun novelty items as well. Donations included socks, scarves, lotion, books, birthday cards and candles, Easter decorations, a large box of origami swans and positive-message bracelets. There was even a unique gift for the staff: 200 donated quilted hanging hearts that encouraged positivity and self-care for caregivers.

PHOTO: LISA PRUITT

Carina Pruitt.

PHOTO: JEN FOX

Troop 4352 put together 28 blankets for Arcadia Assisted Living.

Ellett said the hearts had tags attached with the message: "As you care for others, let this be a reminder to care for yourself."

The girls also created colorful no-sew knotted blankets assembled with donated fleece, and they spent time writing happy, positive messages in chalk on the group home's driveways.

The event took on a deeper meaning for the girls after learning firsthand how the pandemic had emotionally affected many seniors.

"Normally, they'd spend time with family or go out to eat. During the pandemic, they could only wave from the window to loved ones," caregiver Naomi Muraguri said. "This project helped the residents feel loved and connected to the community. It's an amazing feeling to know children have done this."

UMOM Newday Centers, an organization that provides shelters for the homeless and other support services, also received some donations from the Girl Scout Troop. The Scouts gave 81 puzzles and seven board games to UMOM to provide entertainment to children and families living in the shelters.

"I am proud of the group and myself as well," Girl Scout Junior Siena Yonushonis said. "I realized that each one of us matters, and it would make a big difference for the elderly."

The Bronze Award virtual ceremony will take place on May 5.

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LOFTY GOALS FOR USROWING

LOCAL ATHLETES HOPE FOR A CHANCE AT 2021 OLYMPICS

By Mallory Gleich

Earlier this year, Phoenix and Tempe residents Jasper Liu and Sophie Heywood gathered their strength, grabbed their oars and headed to Florida to compete in the Olympic trials for a spot at this year's Olympic games.

THE U.S. TRIALS

Nearly a year after the U.S. Olympic Team Trials were set to start, USRowing held the first of three trials in February in Sarasota, FL, that determined which U.S. rowers would join the National Team.

Rowing includes several different boat classes that race in the Olympics. The smaller boats (one and two-person) are chosen through trial events, like the one in February, while bigger boats (four and eight-person crews) are selected internally through USRowing-led camps.

The boats that competed in the trial were for the men's single sculls, women's single sculls, lightweight women's double sculls, and men's lightweight double sculls. The winners of the lightweight men's single and double events will race at the Final Olympic Qualification Regatta (FOQR) on May 15-17 in Lucerne, Switzerland.

JASPER LIU

Jasper Liu attended Brophy Prep and graduated in 2013. From there, he attended the University of Pennsylvania and started rowing his freshman year.

"In high school, I played baseball, soccer and ran track, but wasn't going to pursue any of those in college. The rowing team at Penn was open to walk-ons, so I decided to give it a go and ended up loving it," he said.

Rowing is a sport that requires technique and a lot of fitness. Liu worked hard, and by his junior year, he was racing with the varsity team.

"I could see that I had a lot more potential, so the thought of pursuing the National Team started budding," he said.

Since college, Liu has won several national regattas for men's single sculls, and he represented the U.S. at the World Championships in 2019.

At the U.S. Olympic Trials, Liu and his teammate Zach Heese won the men's lightweight double sculls event.

"Winning trials was both exhilarating and gave me a huge sense of satisfaction," Liu said. "In March 2020, we were just one week away from the Olympic Trials before they were canceled. I was in the favored boat last year, so I felt like I was so close to achieving this huge goal."

Liu said that the event's postponement added a little more pressure for this year.

"We had previously raced or trained with all of our competition, so we knew that we were the favored boat again. When we finally crossed the line in first place, it was an incredibly joyful and satisfying moment," he said.

PHOTO: CONAL GROOM

Galen Bernick, James Nelson, Sophie Heywood, Sophia Denison-Johnston and Cam Kielty.

Liu and his teammate are currently in Switzerland training for the FOQR to compete for a spot on the U.S. Olympic rowing team and the opportunity to represent their country at the Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

SOPHIE HEYWOOD

Sophie Heywood started rowing at Tempe Town Lake when she was 11 years old. Although the minimum age requirement was 13, Heywood fibbed about her age so she could start earlier.

Before rowing, she swam for the Arizona Marlins and sailed Optimist sailboats with the Arizona Sailing Foundation. She's always dreamed of competing in the Olympics.

"Ever since I met my first Olympian, a woman named Sarah Jones who rowed in the 2004 Games – I saw the way she walked into the room and just radiated superwoman confidence," Heywood said. "I remember being a teenager and thinking, that is the kind of woman I want to be. I spent the next ten years learning to cultivate that kind of power in my practice."

Heywood trained twice a day, six days a week. Throughout high school, she was a top finisher at the USRowing Southwest Regionals and Youth Nationals Championships and competed at the Junior World Championships in Prague and London.

"I was recruited to row for the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I competed for four years and raced twice at the NCAA Championships," she said.

PHOTO COURTESY OF USROWING

Sophie Heywood (front) and Sophia Denison.

After college, Heywood moved to London to complete her master's degree from Queen Mary University. While there, she joined the Molesey Boat Club, and after graduating, she moved back to the states and began preparing for the 2020 Olympic Trials.

"I had been training without a team or a coach, and was completely broke, so once the word came through that the Olympics were postponed, I ended up back in Arizona unsure of my ability to continue training," Heywood said.

After some "soul-searching," Heywood put herself back in the game after a new date for the trials was announced. She spent five months training, and then drove to Florida to race in the women's lightweight double sculls.

PHOTO: SCOTT DEL VECCHIO

Jasper Liu.

> ***When we finally crossed the line, it was an incredibly joyful and satisfying moment.***

"Trials itself was exhilarating," Heywood said. "It was happening against the backdrop of one of the strangest years in our sporting history – it meant that we had no idea what kind of conditions the other athletes were dealing with or what level of speed they would produce. The winning crew in our event broke the world record (unofficially) in the preliminary time trial, so the competition was world-class."

Heywood and her teammate Sophia Denison-Johnston placed fourth in the competition.

Although Sophie will not participate in the final regatta in Switzerland, she said the process of preparing for the event "renewed the passion for the sport that I remember from the beginning," and that she will continue training and racing.

WHAT'S NEXT

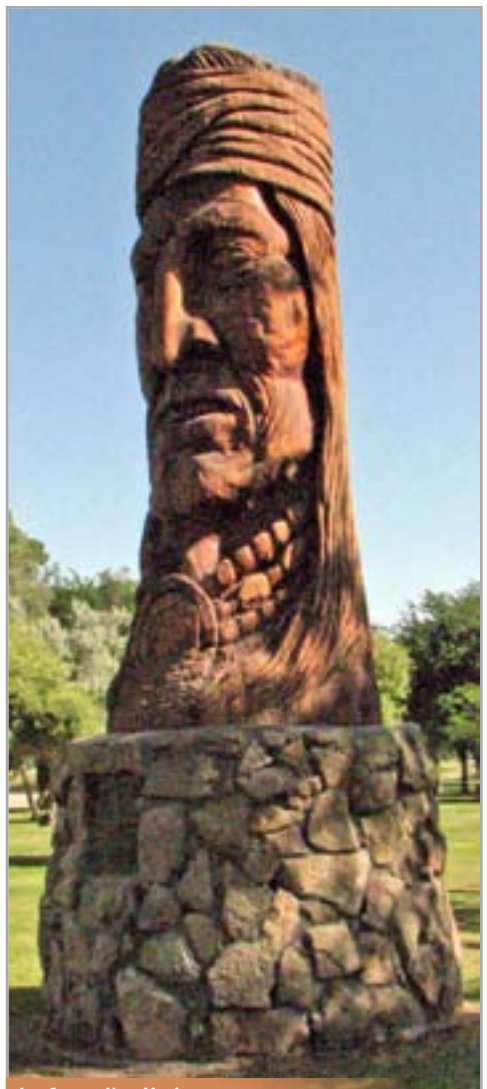
Those competing in the FOQR will be racing crews from other countries that also failed to qualify through the 2019 World Championships. To earn a spot at the Olympic Games, they will need to finish in the top two positions.

usrowing.org

Sculptures across the U.S. pay tribute to Native Americans

Winslow, Arizona.

Oahu, Hawaii.


Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Between palm trees and a patch of bare land on the north shore of Hawaii's most populous island, Oahu, stands a giant wooden carving of the head of a Native American. The carving is the final giant head in a collection of massive sculptures created by Hungarian-born artist Peter Wolf Toth.

Toth became interested in the plight of native people while studying American history before becoming a U.S. citizen. He considered their early treatment by settlers and the federal government inhumane, so in 1972, he set out to make a statement of protest. He called it the "Trail of the Whispering Giants." His goal was to carve and leave one of his massive sculptures in every state.

The Lowe Road

BY SAM LOWE

Former Valley newspaperman Sam Lowe now writes about his travels across Arizona, the U.S. and the globe.

His first was in California, a face he carved into the sandstone along the shores of the Pacific Ocean. Time, water and the other elements destroyed the image, so after that effort, he switched to logs as his medium. He returned to his home in Akron, Pennsylvania, and the journey began with a wooden carving that was eventually destroyed by vandals. He later replaced it.

His path took him across the U.S., to places like Winslow, Arizona; Colquitt, Georgia; Valdez, Alaska; Las Cruces, New Mexico and a small town in New York called Dunkirk. His Arizona effort initially stood next to Winslow's tourist information office near Interstate 40 but has since been moved to a downtown park, about a block south of the world-famous Standin' On the Corner Park.

When Toth arrived in a new city, he asked only to be given a log, a place to install his work, a concrete base and a bronze commemorative plaque. He was never paid for any of the sculptures and lived mainly on donations. He traveled in an old Volkswagen bus he called the Ghost Ship and toured the country looking for cities and towns that would accept his art. Some heads rise more than 40 feet above the surrounding landscape; others are as small as six or seven feet tall.

Toth worked about four months on each project, then moved on to the next state. Eventually, he carved 60 heads, including several in Canadian provinces. His last in the U.S. was the one standing in Oahu, finished in 1987. Most of his sculptures still perform their intended task, acting as sentinels of the past and reminding today's generations of what has gone before. But others weren't so fortunate.

Termites with no regard for art ruined his works in Fort Wayne, Indiana and Ocean Springs, Mississippi. The deterioration that comes with old age destroyed sculptures once carved in Texarkana and Vancouver. The carving in St. Louis had to be removed after it was struck by lightning. The heads that once stood in Groton, Connecticut, and Aberdeen, South Dakota, are in storage while local citizens try to find funds to repair them. Others – like those originally placed in Deland, Florida; Atlantic City, New Jersey; Wilmington, North Carolina and Wheeling, West Virginia – have simply vanished.

But the others remain as a tribute to Toth's 16-year quest to honor Native Americans. Although his journey was complete, Toth didn't retire. After finishing his project in this country, he returned to his native Hungary, where he pursued art. Among his later works is a wooden head honoring Stephen I, the country's patron saint. It stands in Delegyhaza, a small town about 20 miles outside of Budapest. It is his 73rd giant head sculpture.

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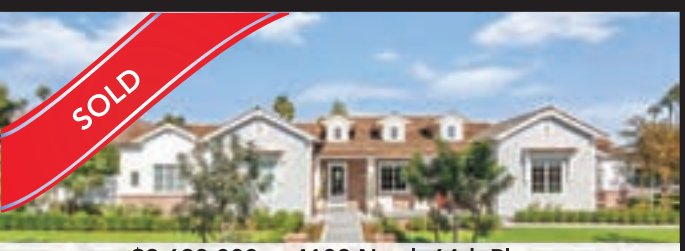
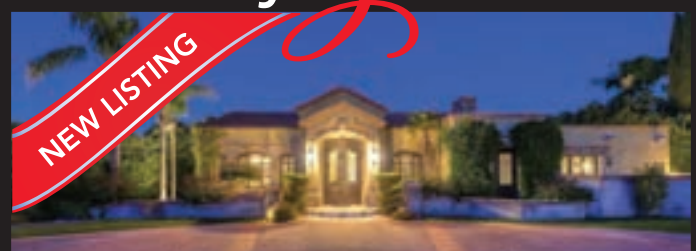


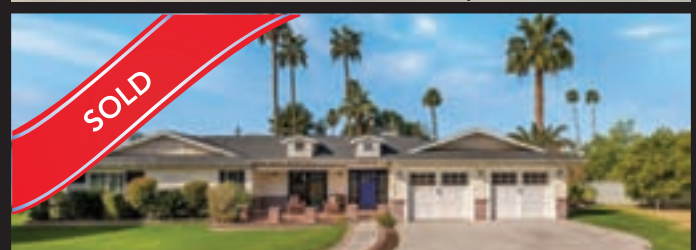
$2,698,000 4102 North 64th Place
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,800 square feet
4102north64thplace.com



$3,450,000 8647 North 64th Place
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 7,920 square feet

$8,000-$12,000 seasonally 8350 East Via del Sol
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,783 square feet

$3,999,999 6740 East Taza Way
5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,764 square feet
6740tazaway.com



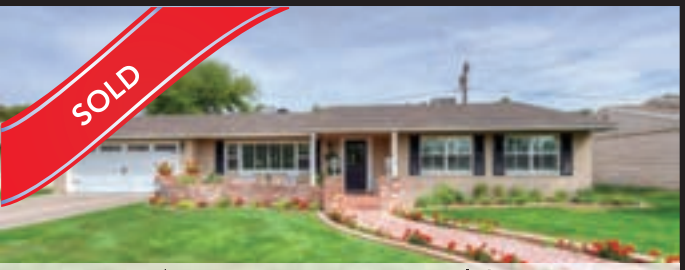
$1,695,000 4120 North 64th Place
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,844 square feet

$1,949,000 6556 North Arizona Biltmore Circle
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 5,455 square feet
6556arizonabiltmore.com

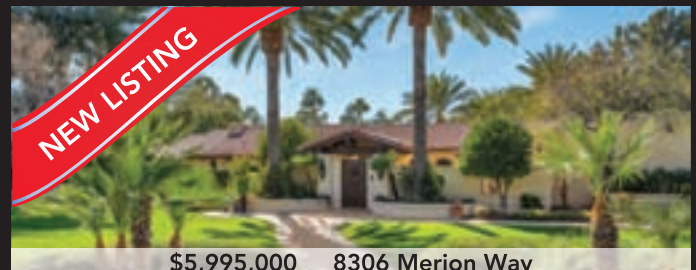
$4,195,000 5309 East Royal View
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 5,005 square feet
5309royalview.com

$3,995,000 6020 East Mariposa
5 bedrooms, 5 baths, 5,309 square feet
6020mariposa.com

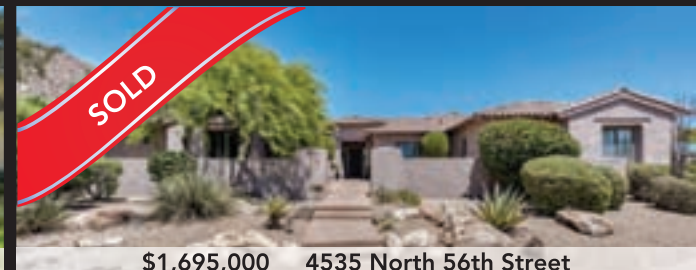
$1,825,000 5330 North Royal View Drive
5 bedrooms, 5 baths, 5,372 square feet
5330royalview.com



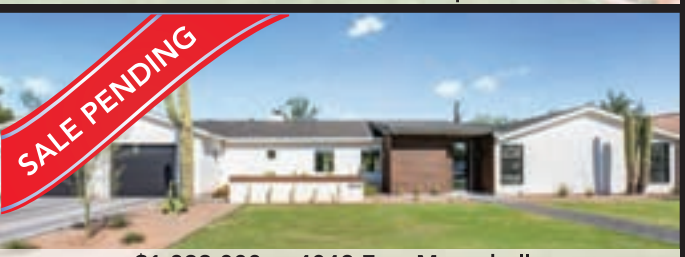
$850,000 4018 East Coolidge
4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,505 square feet



$5,995,000 8306 Merion Way
6 bedrooms, 9 baths, 8,350 square feet
8306merion.com



$1,695,000 4535 North 56th Street
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,602 square feet
4535north56thstreet.com



$1,899,000 4042 East Montebello
5 bedrooms, 5 baths, 3,610 square feet
4042montebello.com

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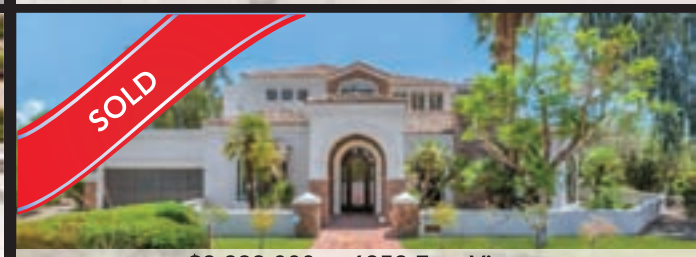


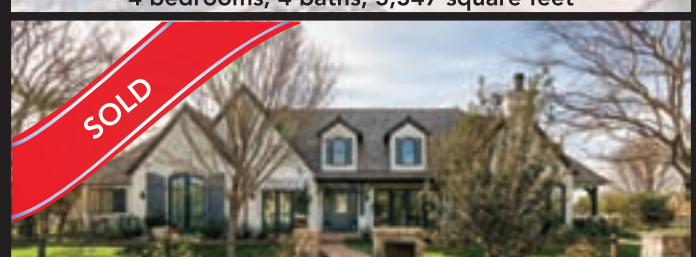
$2,299,000 6352 East Vista
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 5,213 square feet
6352vista.com

$1,249,000 6223 East Calle Camelia
CALL FOR INFORMATION.

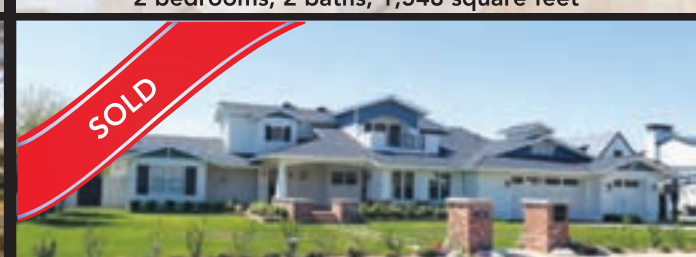
$1,850,000 6127 East Calle Del Paisano
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,347 square feet

$605,000 4805 North Woodmere Fairway #2006
2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,548 square feet

CALL FOR PRICING 5240 North Casa Blanca
6 bedrooms, 7 baths, 7,267 square feet
5240casablanca.com



$4,000,000 6601 East Exeter
5 bedrooms, 8 baths, 5,253 square feet

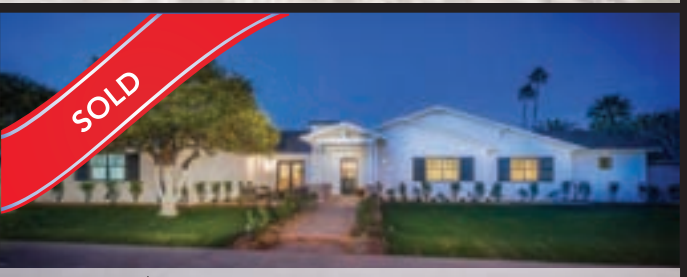


$2,850,000 5901 East Calle Del Sud
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 5,350 square feet

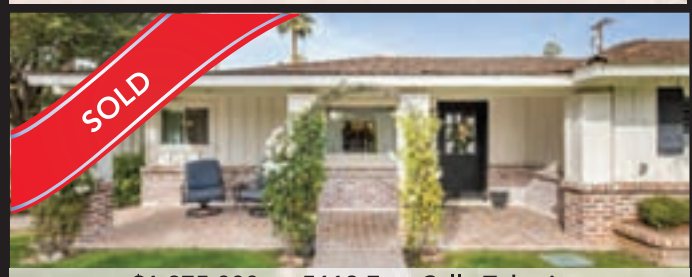
$1,695,000 3719 East Elm
4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 3,016 square feet
3719elm.com

$1,999,999 3355 North Valencia Lane
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 5,712 square feet
3355valencialane.com

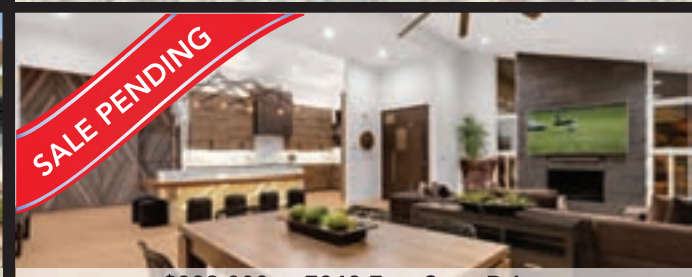
$245,000 5104 North 32nd Street #302
1 bedroom, 1 bath, 811 square feet



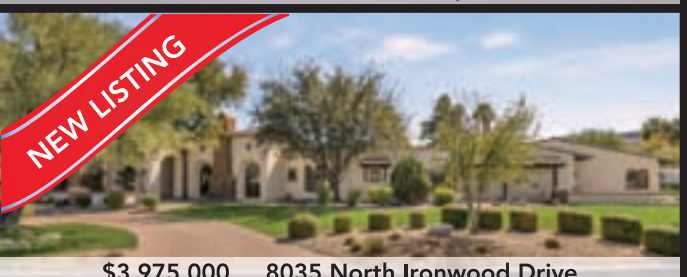
$2,700,000 6402 East Calle Rosa
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,409 square feet



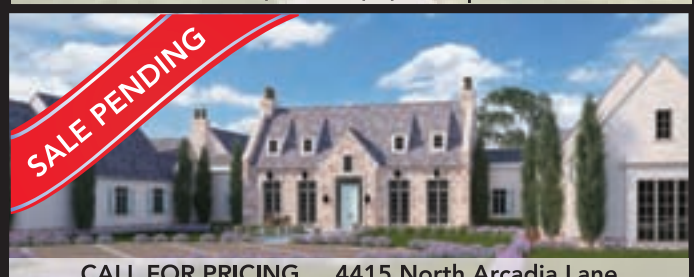
$1,275,000 5612 East Calle Tuberia
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,554 square feet



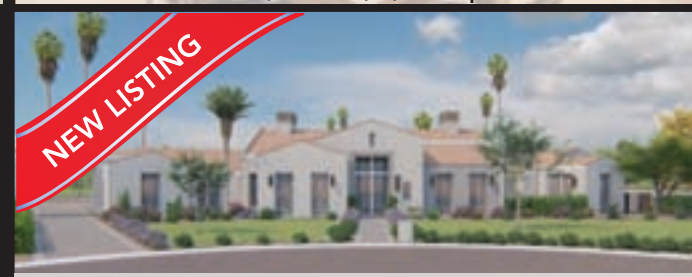
$999,000 7848 East Sage Drive
3 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2,757 square feet



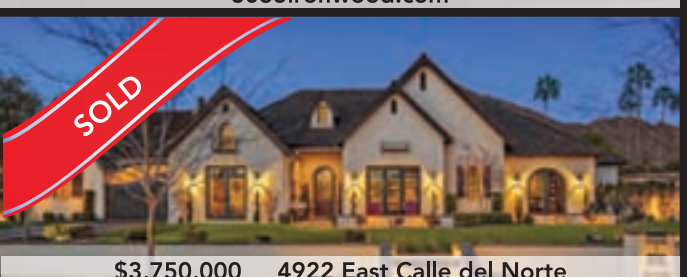
$3,975,000 8035 North Ironwood Drive
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 7,249 square feet
8035ironwood.com



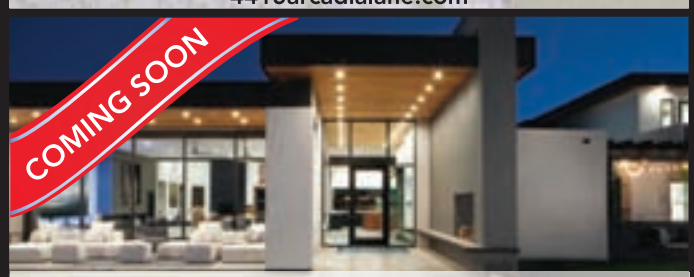
CALL FOR PRICING 4415 North Arcadia Lane
6 bedrooms, 14 baths, 12,748 square feet
4415arcadialane.com



CALL FOR PRICING 8436 North Golf Drive
6 bedrooms, 7 baths, 8,216 square feet



$3,750,000 4922 East Calle del Norte
4 bedrooms, 6 baths, 5,809 square feet
4922calledelnorte.com



4621 East Camelback
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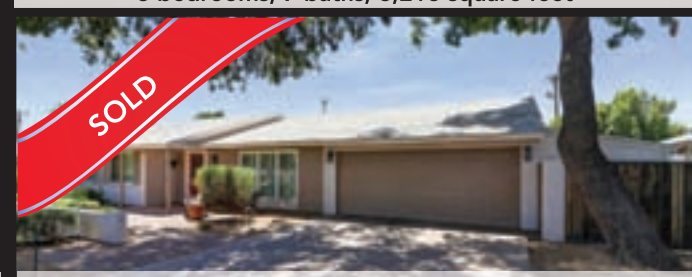
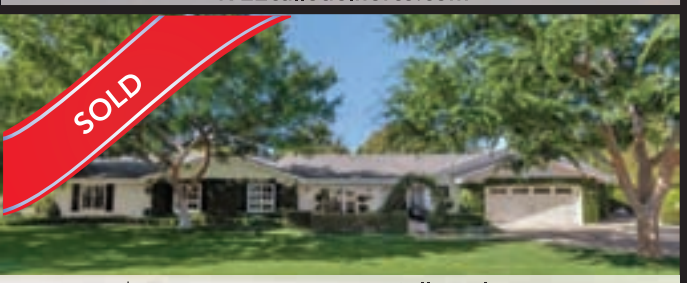
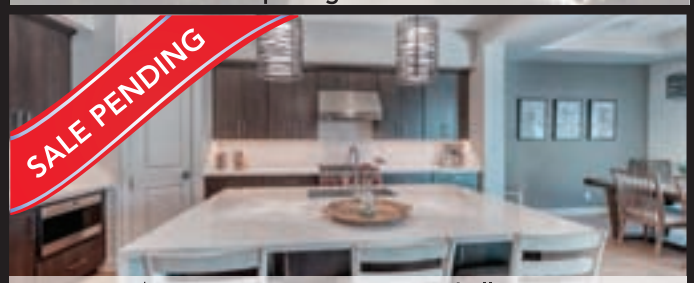


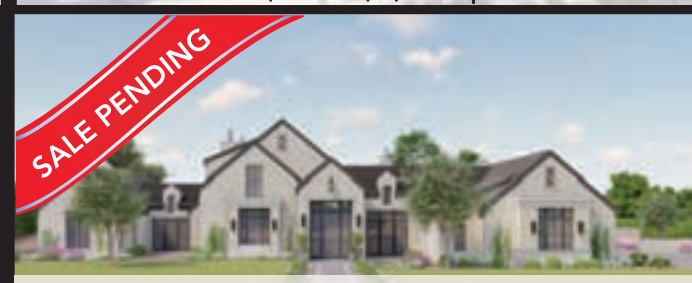
$735,000 4137 East Coolidge
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,632 square feet



$2,295,000 4627 East Calle Del Norte
5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 4,030 square feet



$1,350,000 3923 East Mitchell Drive
3 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2,339 square feet



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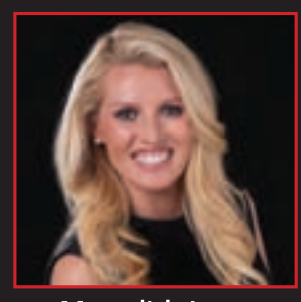

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In the Kitchen

with Jeremy Pacheco, Executive Chef for Genuine Concepts

4041 N. 40th St. Phoenix • thevig.us

By Mallory Gleich

From the cotton and wheat fields in Tucson to the flashing lights of Las Vegas, native Arizonan Chef Jeremy Pacheco has had his fair share of experience in the food industry. Pacheco started working in the kitchen as a teen – to save money to buy a car – and his career evolved into multiple positions throughout the Southwest. Now, his plate is full as the executive chef and culinary director for Genuine Concepts, which operates five locations of The Vig, Ladera Taverna y Cocina, The Womack, The Little Woody and The McMillan.

How long have you been a chef?

I got my first sous chef position at the Phoenician in 1999 after graduating from culinary school. So how many years is that? That's why I cook – because I can't do math. I've worked at The Vig for almost a year now. I rotate through each location. I'm kind of all over the place.

Where did you grow up?

I am a ninth-generation from Tucson and moved to Phoenix in 1997. I've always lived in the south Scottsdale area.

Where did you work before Genuine Concepts?

I moved to Scottsdale to go to the Scottsdale Culinary School. While there, I worked full-time at The Phoenician, and I was there for around seven years. At one point, I was looking for something new, and a position opened up at the brand-new Wynn Resort in Las Vegas. It was the biggest and best thing happening at the time. I worked at the SW Steakhouse, opened Encore and the Society Café.

Then a position opened up at the Hermosa Inn here in Phoenix, so I jumped on that and spent three years there before the chef at Wynn talked me into going back to Vegas. It didn't take long for me to remember why I left, so two more years there and then back to Hermosa Inn for four years, and now, I'm here at The Vig.

What was it like working for a large Las Vegas resort?

It's interesting because it's more similar to the multiple outlets (like the five Vig locations). The experience I had between the Phoenician and the Wynn and running multiple outlets – 24-hour room service, three meals a day – is like running three-plus restaurants at a time. At one point at the Wynn, I was circling through all 20 outlets. I move around a lot and try to keep everything running as smoothly as possible. The Vig is not on a grander scale like the Wynn, but I hope to bring some of the same excitement to the menu.

Did you always know you wanted to be a chef?

No. My family is in the farming industry – they grow cotton and wheat in Tucson. So my very first job was pulling weeds in the cotton fields, and I knew I hated that. The first real job I got when I was 16 was because I wanted money to buy a car. I got a dishwashing job at The Sheraton for a year or so. I tried bussing for a while but discovered I didn't like to be out on the floor, so the chef asked me to go back to the kitchen, and I ended up becoming the lead cook there at 18 years old. I didn't even know culinary school was a thing at that time, but I researched it and found Scottsdale Culinary.

After starting school, I bugged the chef at the Phoenician to give me a part-time job, which they didn't normally do, but I kept calling until he finally hired me. Being a chef kind of fell into my lap, I guess. Once it's in your blood, you're screwed.

Who taught you how to cook?

My grandmother is an awesome cook. We had Sunday suppers and tamales for Christmas, so I've always had an appreciation for food. My mom learned how to cook traditional Mexican dishes from my dad's grandmothers, so it was part of growing up.

I remember always liking to bake cookies – probably because I liked cookie dough more than anything else – but we had a recipe that used Rice Krispies. I asked my mom if we could make some, and she told me to measure and see if we had enough Rice Krispies, so I got a ruler out, stuck it in the box and said, 'We've got about two inches of Rice Krispies, is that enough?' That's a fun memory.

What were some of the first dishes you cooked?

I started as a fry cook, so onion loaves, potato skins. From there, I was doing banquets for several hundred people, and we cooked T-bone steaks over open wood fires. I also remember diving into my culinary school textbook and learning how to cook various dishes – some of those seem silly now.

What is your inspiration in regards to coming up with new menu items?

It's an evolving menu. I'm learning what works and what the customers want. I felt like the menu was all over the place when I first started here, so now I'm working on getting fun, shareable items for people. There's inspiration there. Getting local producers and supporting them is what I like to do, so growing with that, as well.

What is the most challenging dish you've had to cook?

There have been a few. When we opened the steakhouse at the Wynn, the chef wanted to do a foie gras pastrami. At the time, I hadn't worked with foie gras much, so there was a lot of learning. We did a pastrami brine, smoked it, and it just turned to mush. So we had to roll it, rub it in honey mustard. It was just a huge, drawn-out process.

Opening the Wynn was challenging in itself. I had seven years at the Phoenician, and I thought I knew quite a bit, but I opened the menu and didn't know half the dishes, so it was like, okay, a new education, which was a cool opportunity. But it was so busy – the entire experience was challenging.

What is your signature dish?

The salt rock tuna – ahi tuna that's seared on a Himalayan salt rock with yuzu-soy sauce, pickled onions and jicama wraps – has been following me for a while now.

Do you have a favorite memory from your time working as a chef?

Most of them are probably not good for publication, but there's a story that I always tell at Christmas that some of my chefs have heard several times.

I have a cranberry sauce recipe that uses half peeled and half unpeeled oranges. You grind it, so it's all fresh. I gave a case of oranges to the sous chef and told him to peel half of them and leave the other half whole. So, he took the case and peeled half of the actual orange.

That's one I tell every year when we make the cranberry sauce, and I have a chef who has been with me for four years, and he says, "Oh, we have to hear this story again?"

What are your hobbies outside of the kitchen?

I like to golf. I don't get a whole lot of free time. I have two boys, age seven and ten, so right now I'm keeping them going at school and taking care of the house. I got a small pizza oven for the backyard, so we've been playing around with different doughs and stuff.

What or who inspires you?

A lot of times, I motivate myself. With new challenges at this restaurant, especially. But I've always set my own goals – so like, getting the executive chef position at Hermosa. What's the next step? I push myself. Inspiration comes from the environment I'm in.

How do you overcome challenges in your life and the kitchen?

In the kitchen, there's always stuff to solve – figuring out how to make things better. My past experiences have helped me a lot operationally. Working at the Wynn was a mess for a while until operational changes were made – learning the operation from the current chef there helped me a lot. The first week I started working for The Vig, I visited all the kitchens and decided to change the setup at three locations. Being a chef is about problem-solving and what will make the most sense and be the most efficient, and I think that carries into my home life, too.

What does the future look like for Chef Pacheco?

I'm excited to continue growing and grooming the menu at The Vig and continuing to look for new opportunities of growth.

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One student's drive to boost school spirit

By Melissa Hirschl

When February 2021 rolled around, it seemed as if St. Thomas the Apostle school's annual spirit t-shirt design contest wouldn't happen. There was nothing on the horizon until seventh-grade student Colin Goossen became determined to carry on the tradition.

Frustrated because his old spirit shirts were now too small, Colin took the initiative to spearhead the contest.

He approached the school principal and asked him if he could continue the contest as a service project. The principal was immediately on board, and Colin quickly put the wheels in motion, creating a flyer for the art contest. It turned out that Colin's schoolmates were eager for some new school spirit shirts, too. Colin received 75 submissions, which he narrowed down to his favorite five. He presented them to the student council, who picked their top two, and the principal made the final selection.

"Traditions are an important part of our school," Colin said, "and allowing a student to use their artistic talents to create a spirit shirt that everyone wears is one of my favorites."

Fourth-grader Angel Montero won this year's contest using bold and colorful imagery inspired by the Bible verse "Do not fear, for I am with you."

"I thought it was marvelous how much detail stood out in Angel's artwork," Co-Student Council Coordinator Karen Wells said.

Angel's image was created with pencils, sharpies, and colored pencils.

"I wanted the dove to represent God," Angel said. "My design represents how God is with us through any disaster or turmoil. He will never leave us. I also created tornados and clouds to show disasters."

Angel's father, Miguel, beamed with pride when talking about his son's spiritual and artistic accomplishment.

"He has made me and his mother so proud. He's a very determined boy who is always pushing himself in whatever he does, whether it's piano, baseball or school," Miguel said.

Each year students and staff choose a school theme and vote on a winning design for the school's spirit shirt.

"At the end of the year, I collect about 60 Bible verses from the seventh graders," Religion Teacher Tom Parks said. "They are verses that speak to them spiritually."

The students pick their top ten favorite verses, and then the teachers vote for their favorite. The winning verse is displayed in every classroom the following year. The Student Council selects the artwork, and the winning image and verse are on the back of the shirt with the school logo on the front.

In a display of school pride and unity, students showcase the shirts every Friday on Spirit Day.

PHOTO: AMANDA GOOSSEN

Angel Montero and Colin Goossen.

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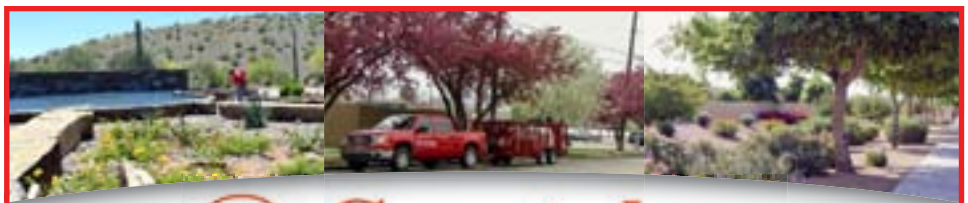

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HOPI ELEMENTARY

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Shane Whiteman – Spartan. *Nicky Lazzara as George Washington.*

HOPI SPIRIT DAY EVENT ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO DRESS AS THEIR FAVORITE ERA

During Hopi History Day, students pick their favorite eras or favorite person from the past and dress up like them.

TAVAN ELEMENTARY

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELLEN YOUNG

Jonathan Cruz – Diary of a Wimpy Kid. *Angelo Soto and Teeghan Burnett* – Harry Potter.

TAVAN CONTINUES CELEBRATION OF READ ACROSS AMERICA WITH A DRESS-UP DAY

Tavan Elementary participated in Read Across America activities, and since they were having so much fun, they decided to extended literacy activities throughout the month. The highlight was when the students and staff dressed up as their favorite book characters.

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Arcadia shows off its wheels

This year, Arcadians flocked to the 3rd annual Arcadia Auto-Rama, sponsored by ACMNA, to take in the beautiful weather and check out some of the neighborhood's coolest cars. The show was a hit, according to ACMNA Chairman Craig Steblay: "It was one of our best events ever. Almost 100 show cars and over 400 spectators!"

Check out some of the participants below.

PHOTOS: AMANDA MCCAULEY

Brian Flader and Tristahn Schaub with "Best in Show" winner Jack Nock and his 1932 "Hot-Rod" Roadster.

"Best in Arcadia" winner: Bull Earnhardt and his daughter Estee with their 1977 Ford Bronco.

Jody Moman, ACMNA board member, with her grandkids admiring a Ford Model A.

ACMNA's founder Gerrit Steenblik (red hat) and former ACMNA President Paul Barnes (red shirt) with Gerrit's 1952 Ford Pickup.

Jared Sherman, Arcadia's Community Action Officer, with a 1948 Plymouth Special Deluxe police car. This car was featured in the 2000 Hallmark movie The Runaway *starring Dean Cain.*

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20/30 Club's mission to raise money for children

By Mallory Gleich

Touting members such as Barry Goldwater, Charles Lindbergh and honorary member Frank Sinatra, the Active 20/30 Club has made a name for itself both worldwide and here in the Valley.

The club's motto is "Youth, to be served, must serve," which explains their mission, as well. This group's focus is about being active in the community and helping raise money for children's charities in Arizona.

The Scottsdale branch was founded in the late 1980s.

"The men that founded our club recognized a need to give back to local children. This still stands true today as the men of this club continue to grow together to meet the children's needs," Chairman Chris Nace said.

The Scottsdale Men's 20/30 Club comprises nearly 50 young professional men who work together to raise money through two events they hold every year: Agents Benefiting Children/Brokers for Kids and NiteFlite.

Agents Benefiting Children (ABC) is an event where teams of residential real estate professionals fundraise and compete against each other in a field day called the Olympiad.

This year, the Olympiad is being held on May 14 at Scottsdale Stadium.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRIS NACE

"The idea for the Olympiad is over 20 years old and was first formed by club members from that era," Nace said. "It was initially a commercial real estate event and has since grown to the residential sector of the market as well."

The commercial real estate side of the event is called Brokers for Kids (BFK). This group also has teams that compete against each other, both on the fundraising front and on the field.

"The event is a ton of fun. My favorite part is the dodgeball game, which is the final contest of the Olympiad," Nace said.

The on-field winner of the BFK competition faces the on-field winner of the ABC competition in a winner-takes-all dodgeball match. The last team standing gets to hoist the Olympiad Cup.

The Scottsdale 20/30 branch also works with the Care Fund program, which provides mortgage and rent assistance to families who have a child with an extended health crisis.

"We believe a parent should never have to choose between working to pay their mortgage or caring for their ill or injured child. The money raised goes to nearly two dozen charities, Care Fund being one of those," Nace said. "From there, the money goes straight to local children in need."

In the past, the ABC/BFK events have raised over $500,000. This year, their goal is $600,000.

scottsdale2030.org

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"Meet Ms." | Ray Artigue

Shannon Keller

By Ray Artigue

Shannon Keller grew up in a large, lively family that she credits as shaping who she is today. One of six children and fourth in line, she learned early on to roll with the punches. Literally!

"It was crazy growing up with three sisters and two brothers, all with strong personalities, but it taught me to grow a thick skin and take what life throws at you," the Midwest transplant said.

Her father was an advertising executive, and that influenced Keller as well. Even as a youngster, she always thought she would pursue a marketing career. After graduating from Loyola University in Maryland with a degree in communications, Keller had stints with public relations agencies in Chicago, L.A. and Phoenix.

> ***My life is the sum of the people who have inspired me.***

One of her first jobs in PR was working on the 'Got Milk?' campaign. It took her from Maine to Miami, donning the iconic milk mustache as the campaign spokesperson at every stop along the way. Today, Keller serves as chief marketing officer for True Food Kitchen restaurant brand.

"While there's no real playbook for a CMO, I've found that to be effective, you must find the balance between growing sales, growing your brand and growing your people," Keller said. "Having an open heart and being present for your team is so important, now more than ever."

In her role, Keller has helped grow the restaurant brand, founded in 2008, from 11 restaurants in 2015 to 37 restaurants today, with plans for more locations this year and beyond.

"I love my job and was fortunate to come on board when True Food was in high-growth mode, which allowed me to introduce this concept to so many new markets," Keller said. "Since technology is the engine that drives how we're reaching the consumer, we continue to innovate on this front to stay relevant."

When she isn't working, Shannon and her husband, Rick, stay busy raising their two-year-old son, Zane. She admits that parenting can be "messy, frustrating and downright overwhelming" but is quick to point out that motherhood is her crowning achievement.

"No matter what, nothing I do in life will ever be as great as being Zane's mom. He is my life's work and my legacy, and it doesn't get much better than that," she said.

As residents of Arcadia, her family loves meeting other young families and sharing bike rides or strolls. "Arcadia is reminiscent of my hometown and childhood, which inspires me to slow down, be present and celebrate the little joys with my family."

When asked what the title of her autobiography would be, she said, "In Good Company."

"I wouldn't be the woman I am today without the awesome people in my inner circle – mentors, teachers, family and friends – who have challenged me and pushed me to be better," Keller said. "My life is the sum of the people who have inspired me, challenged me and elevated me."

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College or career first?

By Angela Copeland

An old question recently resurfaced: Should high school seniors go straight to college, or should they enter the workforce first?

Those who argue that high school graduates should work for a few years before college may believe 18-year-olds are too young to make big decisions – that they will take college for granted, select the wrong major and incur high student debt before they know what they really want to do.

However, sending recent high school graduates out into the workforce – or on a backpacking trip – is not the answer. Some say 18-year-olds aren't qualified for many jobs. It can be hard to even secure an unpaid internship. A high school graduate may end up working in fast food, as a nanny or in some other entry level job. In my opinion these jobs won't likely provide information about what career path to take.

Career Corner

BY ANGELA COPELAND

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

When a high school graduate does go straight to college, two things happen. First, they aren't taken off their normal path. They continue their education and don't end up delaying schooling or never going back.

Second, they will meet many other students who have different backgrounds and experiences, and knowledge about various careers. They can also network with professors and career advisors who can expose them to a range of careers. And, they will likely have the option to complete an internship or two that will give them real life career experience.

All of these things can help students have a better chance of making the right decision about their future career.

And even if a student still struggles with picking the right college major, it's important to know that it is very common to graduate with a degree in one thing and end up doing something different in your career. A college major is often less important than we assume.

From the Archives

ARCADIA NEWS

Vol. 20 No. 2 AWARD WINNING NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS SINCE 1993 May 2012

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The Marvin Family (clockwise from upper-left): Bridget, Danya, Grace, Abe, Emelia, Vivian, Max and James. Not pictured: Superdad Joe Marvin. *Story page 16.*

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With a little help from the Dad's Club, four Ingleside sixth-graders give back to the community by starting Kids for Kids.

Page 22

The smallest Arcadia Little Leaguers (T-ball and coach-pitch leagues) play at Camelback Christian Church. We capture some of them in photographs.

Page 50

The Marvin Family (clockwise from upper-left): Bridget, Danya, Grace, Abe, Emelia, Vivian, Max and James. Not pictured: Superdad Joe Marvin.

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New podcast aims to help with addiction and recovery

By Cliff Summerhill

Arizona's largest substance abuse treatment provider, Crossroads, introduced a new podcast this year to expand its reach to those who may need its help.

Beth Mercado, Crossroads' communications director, and Donna Alexander, community outreach director, launched the bi-monthly podcast to bring vital information regarding addiction and recovery to listeners. Each episode features guests who are recovery experts, addicts in recovery, community partners and many others. Recovery On-Air aims to peel away the stigma of addiction and provide an honest, candid approach to the topic.

"Addiction numbers have been on the rise for years now, and often those struggling are afraid to admit they have a problem and seek help," Mercado said. "Our podcast helps draw attention to the fact that this is a real issue."

Beth Mercado

Donna Alexander

Alexander is the host of Recovery On-Air. She has over 12 years of experience working in the recovery community. Mercado describes herself as a "recovering co-dependent and love-addict who is new to the community."

"The podcast is unique in its mission to inform the public about the addiction epidemic and do it candidly," Mercado said. "There is so much confusion surrounding the topic of addiction that we want to be the place that individuals can reach out to with questions or special requests."

Mercado hopes the podcast will reach those who want help or friends and family members of individuals who may need services. "Some of the subject matter will be important and interesting to people in recovery and those who want to know more about a topic we are covering," Mercado said.

The duo will discuss various issues, including how people can get help, information about community resources and survival stories through a segment called "So, What's Your Story?"

"In future episodes, we are interested in getting experts on both sides of the decriminalization topic of certain drugs," Mercado said. "We also have a goal of getting 'big pharma' on to help us understand how the opioid crisis happened and to talk about their needed role in the solution."

As the podcast grows, Alexander and Mercado hope to engage the public on future ideas and guests.

"Our goal and mission at Crossroads is always to help," Mercado said. "With getting the word out there about Crossroads and our expanding services, we hope to be able to admit and help more suffering people."

Recovery On-Air is available on local personality Dave Pratt's podcast network, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Pandora and Spotify.

thecrossroadsinc.org

Notre Dame Prep hits fundraising goal – and then some

By Cliff Summerhill

Students at Notre Dame Preparatory held an eight-hour telethon-style livestream event for the school's annual Mardi Gras Giving Day, an event that helps raise money for the school's Saints Fund. This year, students met their goal, raising over $86,000 for school improvements, equipment and tuition assistance.

The fundraiser was spearheaded by students from the NDP Live! Club, which offers a wide array of opportunities to learn about marketing and media.

"I'm so proud of these kids," NDP Live! moderator Jayce Henderson said. "They are professional beyond their years and work hard to produce quality content. The success of Giving Day is all theirs."

The annual Mardi Gras Giving Day is an important fundraising event for the school, and it helps honor the students and the school's Catholic identity.

"Mardi Gras Giving Day is just a super-charged fundraising event to celebrate our school," Kimberly Haub, assistant director of communications, said. "We chose Mardi Gras because it's the day before Lent when many Catholics are thinking about almsgiving (giving to others as an act of virtue) and ways to give to God."

The student-led event reached their $50,000 goal in the first five and a half hours, and with the remaining time, they were almost able to double that goal.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NOTRE DAME PREP

Joseph Jebara (left) works the soundboard in the NDP Live Giving Day production. Carlo Lanza (right) takes a break from his on-camera anchor job to assist producers. Noah Lederer (front) updates the website for audience engagement and feeds fundraising stats to on-air anchors.

"I was so tired when it was over," senior Juju Montes, one of the show's co-anchors, said. "But it was worth it because we reached our goal early and then went on to raise even more money for our school."

The students produced various entertainment segments for the event, including interviews with alumni, current students, and representatives from other school programs. Most notably, drama student Olivia LaPorte sang a song from the school's upcoming musical *Little Women*.

Montes worked with senior Bennett Curran to produce the livestreamed show. With their media team, the duo created 84 unique videos that intertwined with live, top-of-the-hour fundraising updates and informative segments about the school.

"It was a celebration of all the things we love about our school," Jenni Douglas, alumni engagement coordinator, said.

Shortly before the crew went live, they were surprised with the announcement that they had won eight awards from the Arizona Interscholastic Press Association for their work from the previous school year. The awards included recognition for news anchors Montes and Curran, two feature stories and other production achievements.

The AIPA ceremony was canceled, but students received their awards in the mail in April.

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Relive the Old West right outside of Phoenix

By Cliff Summerhill

If you're looking for a desert adventure that's just a little jaunt away, you might be in luck with Goldfield Ghost Town. Located off Route 88 outside of Apache Junction, this old mining town is now a popular western attraction visited by people from all over the world.

The town of Goldfield was established initially in 1892 during a gold boom. The town reached a population of almost 4,000 but soon foundered when miners extracted all the gold out of the Goldfield Mine. In 1910, new mines were established and a small community named Youngsberg emerged. But by 1926, those mines closed as well, and the town was deserted.

Unfortunately, a fire in 1943 destroyed most of the town, and it remained in ruins until it was sold to resident Bob Schoose and his business partners in 1983. Five years later, the place was reborn as Goldfield Ghost Town.

The area is laid out the same as the original Goldfield site, and some of the original building foundations were used. The snack bar is located on the site where Doc Waterbury lived. He was the last owner of the mine until the 1970s.

The privately owned town became a passion for Schoose, who named himself the unofficial mayor of Goldfield. Schoose even wrote a book about the history called *Goldfield Boom to Bust – Arizona Territory 1893*.

In addition to its historically recreated main street, Goldfield Ghost Town hosts a variety of unique attractions. There is the Goldfield Historical Museum and LuLu's Bordello, which showcases a historical performance about the women of the 1800s.

Other features include the Superstition Zipline, where guests can see the entire town from 115 feet in the air. Visitors can also visit the Eagle Eye Shooting Gallery, do some gold panning and see the Goldfield Gunfighters show. Several tours are available, including the Goldfield Mine Tour, Apache Trail Tours and a walking ghost tour.

Goldfield Ghost Town is free to visit. The cost of the attractions ranges from $2-10 per person.

Local nonprofit redirects excess food from landfills to plates

By Deja Brumfield

Food is the most significant contributor to landfills in America, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Nearly 40 million tons of food go to waste in landfills every year, and the Scottsdale nonprofit Waste Not is aiming to reduce that.

For more than three decades, Waste Not has combated food waste in the Valley. They partner with over 100 local businesses, such as restaurants, convention centers, catering companies and grocery stores to deliver excess prepared and perishable food to 80 Valley organizations.

According to Waste Not Executive Director Kate Thoene, the nonprofit's model is what makes it so unique compared to other organizations that help with food waste redirection.

"We're one of the only organizations – I think the only organization in Arizona – that will take prepared and unpackaged food from places like the convention center downtown or catering companies and event venues," Thoene said.

Waste Not relies heavily on donations and partnerships. Atlasta Catering, a full-service event planning and catering company, has been a partner of Waste Not for 12 years. The company's President and CEO Steve Short said their partnership with Waste Not came after years of trying to focus on sustainable ways to save food waste.

"Before Waste Not, we tried to save all of our over-prepped food items. We would freeze them, and then once or twice a month, we would heat the food, and we'd take it to different homeless shelters that we have relationships with," Short said.

Short explained that the company started thinking long term about their processes and how they could contribute less to landfills.

"We wanted to go to a zero-landfill model with all of our kitchens, and the only way that we got there was through Waste Not," he said.

Waste Not continues to form new partnerships, and last year teamed up with Laura's Gourmet Granola.

The company's founder and owner, Laura Briscoe, said that Gourmet Granola has always taken a philanthropic approach when it comes to being able to share its product. During the pandemic, they found that some organizations were less willing to accept donations. Waste Not, however, offered a solution.

The nonprofit was able to take Briscoe's excess product that was usable but not sellable and donate it to organizations in need.

"The most rewarding part is that the product – that I think may end up going to waste – finds a home on someone's plate. For us, we love the idea that what we do could be enjoyed by anyone, no matter who that individual is," Briscoe said.

Thoene said that Waste Not continuously reaches out to food service industry workers to let them know that the nonprofit can be a business solution for excess food needs and help people in need as well.

"The most rewarding part is when I go out to the agencies we serve, and I see the people that benefit from the food we provide and know that our work is impactful to those individuals and those families," Thoene said.

wastenotaz.org

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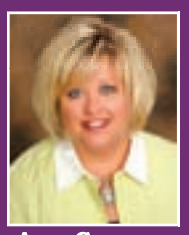
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Grab your gloves, it's community gardening season

By Jennifer Marshall

For those who are eager to grow fresh veggies but lack the knowledge, yard space or time, securing a plot in a community garden could be the perfect way to get started.

Community gardens typically have master gardeners on the property to guide newbies. Because the beds are a manageable size, gardeners have ample room to grow what they want without becoming overwhelmed.

Here are a few community gardens to help folks get growing.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOM WALDEN AND KEEP PHOENIX BEAUTIFUL

Pierson Street Garden – Cub Scout volunteers.

Mountain View Park Brick Courtyard volunteers.

DIGit.GROWit.SHAREit Garden

27th St. and Glenrosa Ave., Phoenix
dgsgarden.org

A little over a year and a half ago, Jenna Pierides established DIGit.GROWit.SHAREit on a 22,000 square foot plot of land.

"On March 7, we celebrated our one-year anniversary," Pierides said. "We have 40 4x8 foot plots, which we rent to members for $20 a month, and right now, we're booked with a waiting list."

In addition to providing growing spaces, this garden also offers irrigation sprinklers and a composting facility. For the relaxation of its members, there is a hammock area, picnic tables, yard games, a meditation garden and a fire pit.

"I originally envisioned a small community garden space," Pierides said, "but then I discovered this lot that was owned by a woman in California. The lot was vacant, and she had no plans to sell it. I asked her if I could put a garden on her land, and she said okay. Now, we have this beautiful growing space that the neighborhood loves."

Members are welcome to grow whatever produce they desire. Among some of the top favorites are lettuce, peppers, tomatoes, Swiss chard and basil. The property also features a fig tree and peach tree.

Mountain View Park Community Garden

9901 N. 7th Ave., Phoenix

Pierson Street Community Garden

1822 W. Pierson St., Phoenix
keepphxbeautiful.org

The Mountain View Park and Pierson Street Gardens have been operating since 2017. These gardens replaced the 15-acre community garden that Keep Phoenix Beautiful (KPB) managed for six years on leased property at Central Ave. and Indian School Road.

KPB is a nonprofit that receives city funding and corporate sponsorships. Both gardens offer 2x4 planting plots, and compost is provided to gardeners. Members pay a small monthly fee for water. Each garden has about 35 members.

"The Pierson Street Garden features chickens, bees and composting," KPB President and CEO Tom Waldeck said. "Many of the neighbors who reside in the nearby apartment buildings have garden beds with us."

Kids are often a fixture at the Pierson Street Garden since the preschool across the street has a bed that their students maintain.

Native Health, which helps address the healthcare needs of Native Americans, has a bed where they cultivate seeds from their communities.

The Mountain View Garden has a significant number of senior citizens who enjoy gardening.

"One special feature at Mountain View is our food bank garden beds," Waldeck said. "Our first harvest yielded about 15 pounds of fresh vegetables for the food bank."

Members benefit from educational opportunities, including on-site master gardeners who know what grows at what time of the year.

Both KPB gardens are on the lookout for small businesses willing to sponsor one or more garden beds (sponsorships start at $100). Companies will receive recognition for one year via signage on their sponsored bed and a tax donation certificate. Funds will go toward water, seeds and soil for gardeners.

Friends in Gasca Gardens (FIGG)

Warner Road and Bonarden Lane, Tempe
Friends in Gasca Gardens Facebook page

Ten years ago, Pam Smyth asked her neighbor Deena Gasca to donate some land she owned in Tempe that was unsuitable for residential or commercial development. Smyth knew it was the perfect place to create a community garden, which she named after her friend.

"My mom, with the help of a bunch of volunteers, worked hard to build this 29-bed garden," daughter Meredith Smyth said. "She did such a nice job; it's a beautiful, shining star."

Twelve beds are funded by sponsors who assist with the maintenance costs, such as the water bill. Vegetables harvested from these beds are donated to local food banks.

"This year, even with COVID, we gave 1,000 pounds of fresh produce to the food banks," Meredith said.

Also benefiting the neighborhood are the garden's educational program partnerships with the YMCA and the Girl and Boy Scouts. One bed is dedicated to growing experimental crops, and master gardeners teach kids about healthy soil concepts.

The remaining beds at FIGG are available for the public to cultivate their gardens. The plots are 4x16 feet, and members pay a nominal fee for their bed. Some gardeners have been members since FIGG began, and many volunteers tend the food bank beds.

Educational opportunities are available to garden members on subjects like soil, compost and fertilizer. The FIGG community also participates in clean-up days and partakes in harvest meals.

THE GLOBAL SEED VAULT

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Facts about the global seed vault, quoted from livescience.com:

- **There are more than 1,700 gene banks around the world that keep collections of seeds that are vulnerable to war, natural disasters, equipment malfunctions and other problems.**
- **The Svalbard Global Seed Vault was the brainchild of Cary Fowler, a scientist, conservationist and biodiversity advocate. In 2003, Fowler started to envision a backup storage facility where all of the world's seeds could be stored as safely as possible. In 2008, Fowler's idea was realized, and the Global Seed Vault was carved nearly 500 feet into the side of a mountain.**

- **The Svalbard Global Seed Bank is located in Svalbard, a Norwegian archipelago in the Arctic Ocean. According to the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Svalbard is found north of mainland Europe, halfway between continental Norway and the North Pole.**
- **In addition to keeping the seeds at 0 degrees Fahrenheit, the seeds are sealed in three-ply foil packages and then sealed inside boxes. These boxes are placed on shelves inside the vault, where temperature and moisture levels are closely monitored. This process helps keep the metabolic activity in the seeds low, keeping them viable for long periods.**
- **The vault, and other vaults around the world, can be a way of preserving historical species of plants. According to National Geographic, an estimated 90 percent of historic fruit and vegetable varieties in the United States have disappeared. The seed vaults can protect these seeds for future generations.**

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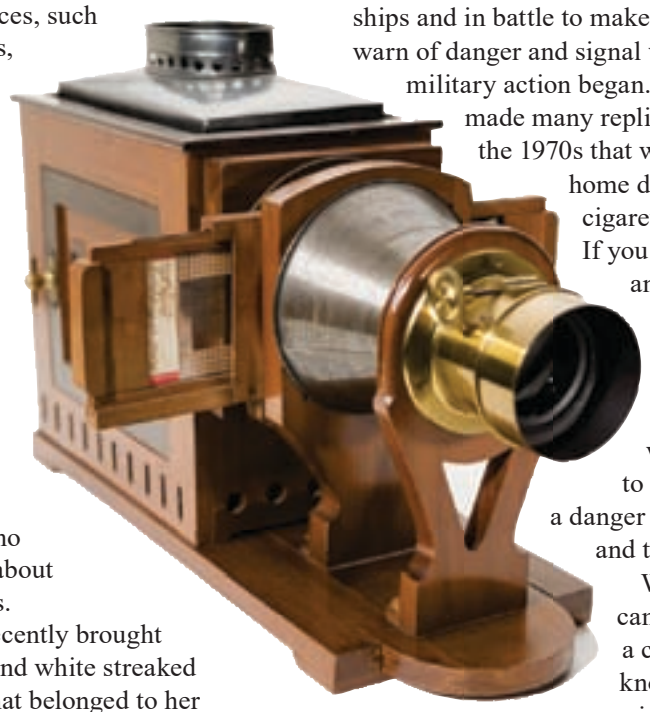
Spills, signals and magic

Over the years, we've crossed paths with clients who have brought us many unusual and different pieces, such as spill vases, magic lanterns and signal cannons. These everyday household items from the past can be very intriguing and interesting to collectors and those who are curious about rare antiques.



A client recently brought in a purple and white streaked glass vase that belonged to her grandmother. We referred to it as a spill vase, which is a term she said she had only heard her grandmother use.

A spill vase was used in the mid-19th century to hold rolled paper and skinny wood sticks used to transfer fire from the fireplace to candles, lamps or a gentleman's cigar. It was usually kept on the mantel.

Another item of interest a client brought us was a 15-pound cast-iron cannon with cannonballs, fuses and black powder. It was owned by an older gentleman who said it had been in his family for over 175 years. To his surprise, it was a replica of a York Cannon from the American Revolutionary War and was known as a signal cannon.

This type of cannon was used aboard ships and in battle to make salutes, warn of danger and signal when military action began. Companies made many replicas during the 1970s that were used for home décor or as cigarette lighters. If you ever find an original one, don't be tempted to fire the thing, as it was known to have been a danger to fingers and thumbs.

We also came across a contraption known as a magic lantern. This item was invented in the 16th century and became popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The earlier device was made of tin or sheet iron and had a single adjustable scope with a kerosene lantern that reflected light through a glass-etched slide. People used it to project images on a wall.

It was a marketing success, with many different mass-produced glass slides used in churches, theatres and schools.

Many homes have antique items like a "sad iron," a red-handled wooden kitchen utensil, a shopper's scale, kerosene lamps or vintage furniture. Clients often ask us if those items are collectibles. Our answer is "yes" for everything since objects in the collecting world are constantly changing.

If it is out of fashion today, wait long enough, and it will be back and worth big bucks again.

Ask the Appraisers

BY TOM HELMS & JEFF PEARSON

Contact Tom Helms at The123@cox.net or A-Z Appraisal & Estate Consultants; 5525 N. 12th St., Phoenix, AZ.

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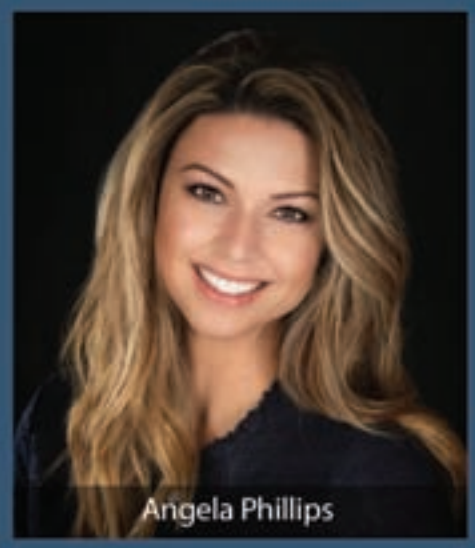
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Around the Globe, right here in Arizona

Robin's Adventures

BY ROBIN SEWELL

Robin Sewell is the host and executive producer of Arizona Highways Television, *Saturdays and Sundays on CBS.*

Just an hour and a half east of the Valley is the town of Globe. The name comes from silver nuggets found in the late 1880s that resembled the Earth. Until the 1930s, copper drove the development of Globe, which was a genuine Wild West town, with brothels, tales of justice and revenge and a trading post where people came to buy and barter their wares.

Globe has a colorful history with remnants of the past remaining today, but there's plenty of new and exciting additions to make your visit fun and memorable. Globe is famous for its Mexican food. La Casita on Broad Street was started by a great grandmother and her two sisters from Marfa, Texas.

La Casita has six locations across Arizona, but the original was opened in 1947 by Salusita Reynoso in Globe. It's now run by the 4th generation of the La Casita legacy. Great-great-grandson Ray told us that the family's women are the true recipe for the restaurant's longevity. He said that they push hard and never give up.

The restaurant boasts tried and true recipes created by Salusita, like her green chili enchiladas and green corn tamales.

If your taste buds are craving another type of cuisine, Bloom is a sushi and Asian fusion restaurant that serves food from Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore. Some of their signature dishes are the teppanyaki beef, an Arizona star roll filled with spicy tuna, asparagus and topped with avocado and eel sauce or the "trust me roll," which is never on the menu and never the same. You have to trust the chef's creativity.

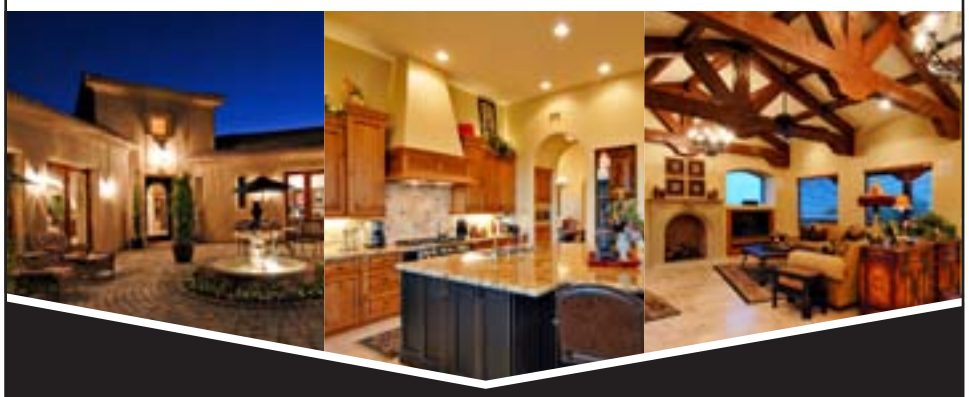
Bravo is another restaurant option in Globe, and they are all about the wood-fired pizza and putting new twists on Italian and European favorites. It's like going around the world without needing a passport.

If you are looking for a bit of adventure, head over to the Old Dominion Mine Park. The mine permanently closed in 1931, and the area is now used for recreation and gatherings. It has 13 trails all named after original mine claims. The "silver nugget" starts at the park's main entrance. It's flat, making it great for walking and biking and features a boneyard of historic mining artifacts to explore. There's also a mining-themed playground, picnic pavilions and a nine-hole disc golf course.

Another option is to take a guided bike adventure with Darryl Griffin of E-volve Adventure. He grew up in Globe and loves getting folks out to explore his hometown. It's a great way to cruise through the town's silver and copper mining history and take in the great views of the clouds rolling over the Pinal Mountains.

Globe is yet another Arizona town that proves you can get away without going far. When you arrive, you'll be about 2500 feet higher in elevation and 10 degrees cooler. And when you leave, you will know more about Arizona's exciting past and may even take home a trinket to remind you of your close-to-home getaway.

FROM THE GROUND UP



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Arcadia High's theater program goes virtual

By Cliff Summerhill

After months of planning, staging, producing and pivoting to a virtual platform, the Arcadia High theater program took to the stage with both virtual and in-person performances of their spring production, "And We Will Share the Sky."

"Scottsdale Unified School District allowed us a small live audience carefully spaced out, so we had a mix of live and virtual," Richard Fairchild, the head of Arcadia's theater department, said. "While we've missed live audiences all year, it's been a good challenge exploring new acting techniques."

The play explores the myths about the relationship between the moon and the sun. Fairchild chose the play because he wanted something his students could modify to a live-streaming performance. The play's publisher was able to change the license to make it easier for schools to stream their shows.

Although the virtual performances helped increase the student's adaptability, the move wasn't easy.

The performances have been a blend of live and virtual all year, so in-person students had the challenge of rehearsing lines and staging scenes with other students that were working from home and projected on a screen.

Fairchild said, "It hasn't been ideal, but it's given them a unique challenge in theater and forced them to solve problems new to the performing world."

The technical theater students also had to adjust to these changes. Some of the biggest challenges they faced were learning how to transition lighting, audio, set construction and the rest of the foundational elements of a live theater performance to a virtual one.

While the theater students and Fairchild look forward to their performances returning to normal, their willingness to learn, experiment and adapt has its benefits.

"It's been a challenge, but honestly, the students have shown a huge effort this year," Fairchild said. "Some of my hardest working performers are joining via Zoom, and I'm working hard to keep our theater family together. We have had a few students drop because they weren't interested in the virtual format, but also plenty of new and enthusiastic members."

Arcadia High has a long tradition of theatrical performances that keeps the department thriving through even through the worst of times.

"I've been here for 17 years, and we've done a variety of performances," Fairchild said. "We've had a great history of experimentation, including several student-written musicals and participation in community events like the Rock n' Roll Marathon."

For the rest of the school year, the department will focus on student-written short plays, streamed virtually and available to a limited in-person audience.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICHARD FAIRCHILD

Alya Elhassan (on-screen) was the narrator for the spring production. Below, Mary McManus (left) played the Sun and Avery Durbin (right) played the moon.

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RENDERING COURTESY OF THE SHEMER ART CENTER

Director Shonna James said that conjoining the parcels will allow the creation of a Shemer campus with two educational buildings, an extended lawn and defined hardscape areas for events.

Shemer Legacy Campaign update

By Mallory Gleich

The Shemer Art Center's Expansion & Legacy Campaign is an ongoing effort by the nonprofit to raise funds to expand and improve its existing grounds and facility.

The campaign began in March 2020 when Shemer entered into a real estate purchase contract to obtain the property to its south, which is already surrounded on three sides by Shemer's land.

The nonprofit art center was closed from March-May 2020. During this time, a majority of donations were used to battle issues due to the pandemic.

"During the last quarter of 2020 and first quarter of 2021, thankfully, we have seen an increase in donations for organizations like ours that continue to serve the community and the arts," Shemer Director Shonna James said.

The campaign's goal is to raise $2 million to buy the property, remodel it and then landscape the site to improve the grounds.

James explained that the property will eventually be donated to the City of Phoenix, which owns the land and home where the Shemer is located.

"This will be something given to the community that will forever serve the community," James said. "We only need a few more donors to help us complete the acquisition of the property next door. We encourage anyone interested to call or take a tour of our current facility, housed in the very first home built in Arcadia, and see why the legacy of the Shemer Art Center is important – to the neighborhood, city and state of Arizona."

The center is hoping to raise the remaining funds needed to complete the property purchase as soon as possible and then continue to raise funds for the remodeling and re-landscaping efforts through the remainder of 2021. James said that donation levels will offer name recognition if they are between $250-$750,000. A GoFundMe account has also been set up.

shemerartcenter.org

Tavan's science unit is egg-cellent, thanks to baby chicks

By Jennifer Marshall

For over a decade, kindergarten students at Tavan Elementary School have had an opportunity to answer the age-old question: Which comes first – the chicken or the egg? During their science unit on farm animals, kindergartners watch the hatching process of fertilized chicken eggs, thanks to Tolmachoff Farms in Glendale.

"The owner of Tolmachoff Farms invites our curious young students out for field trips every year to see their chickens, and while there, they also get to pick produce," Support Coordinator Ellen Young said. "Tolmachoff has been wonderful to us, and we have a terrific partnership with them."

The kindergartners bring fertilized eggs back to Tavan, where they're placed inside an incubator at the school and remain for up to 21 days before hatching.

"Seeing them hatch is the most wonderful sight," Young said. "Last year, the students had to watch online, so it's so nice to have them back on campus this year to watch them in person."

While the eggs will often hatch at night, Young said there had been many daytime hatchings where the kids are mesmerized by the sight of the baby chicks pecking their way out of their shells. Young said that the children love this fun moment in time and described the lifecycle as "one of the coolest things to see."

The new chicks are then placed into Tavan's temporary coop, which staff can move around the kindergarten yard. Because the enclosure is tiny, it cannot house full-fledged chickens inside it, Young said.

When the chicks reach a specific size, which usually takes about a month, they are returned to Tolmachoff Farms, where they continue to develop into chickens.

"Our long-term goal is to have the necessary means to raise the chicks into full egg-producing adult chickens," Young said. She's hoping that maybe a local Boy Scout troop will help build them a bigger chicken coop.

Having a larger permanent coop in place will allow them to then receive fresh eggs.

"While we don't think that we would be able to sell these eggs because we're a school, we would love to develop a nice, working partnership with a neighborhood co-op, which will allow our community to also benefit from our bounty," Young said.

So, while the chicken-egg question remains unanswered, Tavan students will continue to learn and may find an answer yet!

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELLEN YOUNG

Paul Kaveinga and Calli Jeffrey with the incubator.

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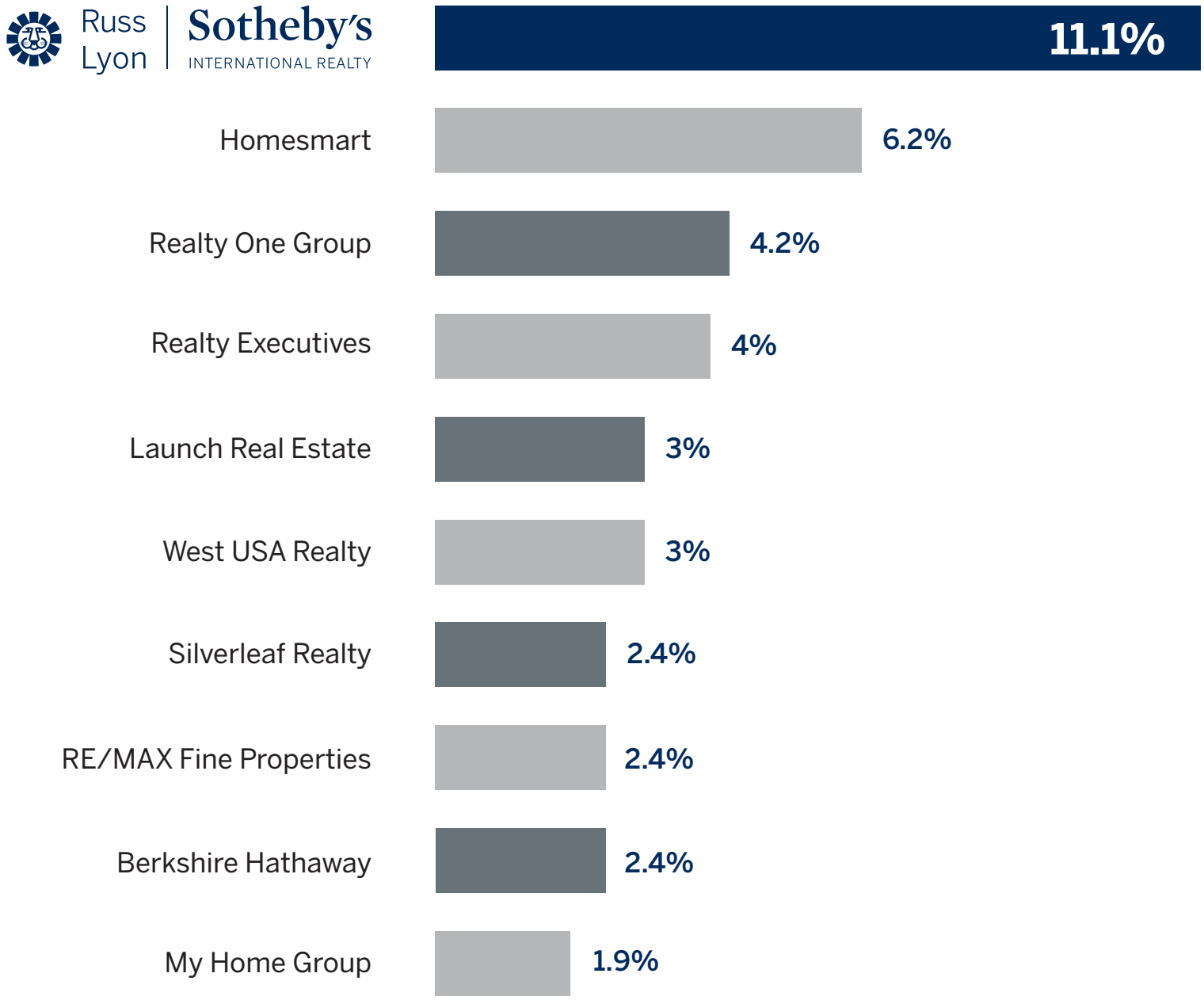

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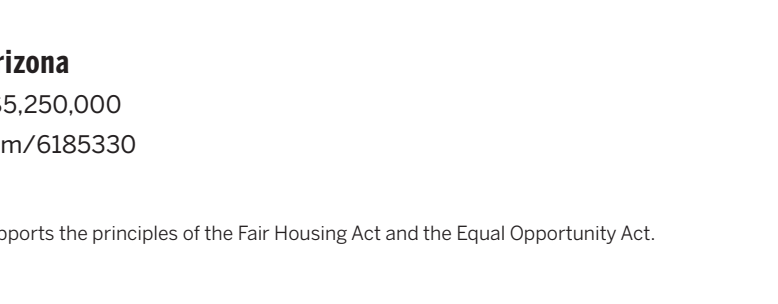

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Highlights from Xavier Prep's school year

As Xavier students head into the last month of the school year, we're taking a look back at some of their accomplishments from 2021.

PHOTO BY INVU PORTRAITS

Monica Gaspar (front, middle) and the Xavier Spiritline. Gaspar has been coaching cheer and pom since 1995.

Sister Lynn Winsor named to the National Interscholastic Athletic Administration Hall of Fame

Sister Lynn Winsor

"To be named as an inductee into the 2021 Hall of Fame is an honor I never expected," Sister Lynn said. "In my 44 years as Xavier's athletic director, I have had the privilege of working with outstanding student-athletes, dedicated coaches, supportive parents, and an administration that truly believes in the value of interscholastic sports. I am blessed and most grateful."

A formal ceremony will take place in December in Denver.

Spiritline Coach wins Coach of the Year award

Monica Gaspar added another recognition to her name with the National Federation of State High School Associations' 2019-20 West Section Girls Spirit Coach of the Year award, presented earlier this year. This is her second time being named.

Monica Gaspar

"I was humbled and honored to win. I do not think any coach does this work for awards," Gasper said. "We do it for the kids. I love the relationships I have with them and seeing them reach their goals."

Gaspar's past accomplishments include the 2015 Xavier College Prep Woman of Achievement Award, the 2004-05 Women in Sport Leadership Award, and she was named the Arizona Spirit Coach of the Year in 1998.

New varsity swim coach

Glen Coy

Glen Coy will be Xavier's new swim coach. He currently coaches at the Rio Swim Club and has been the swim coach at Mountain View High School in Mesa since 1999. Coy has been named Arizona State High School Swim Coach of the Year six times.

"I am excited to get a chance to work with the best swimmers and team in the state," Coy said. "My goal is to bring the state championship trophy back to Xavier and carry on the traditions of winning that were set by the coaches that came before me."

Senior receives multiple awards

Jordan Herrera

Senior Jordan Herrera has been selected as one of Rio Salado's two All-Arizona Academic Team scholarship recipients. The award comes with a two-year tuition waiver to any Arizona university.

Herrera participates in Xavier's Dual Enrollment Program with Rio Salado College and will graduate this May with her AA and AGS (general studies) degrees.

She also won the Hispanic Heritage Foundation's Gold Youth Award in the technology category and will compete nationally later this year.

Herrera is still choosing her college, but her top four choices are UCLA, Harvey Mudd, Kenyon and UofA.

Phoenix Water Services appoints new director

Troy Hayes

Troy Hayes, who has been with the city of Phoenix for over 20 years, was appointed director of the city's Water Division in April.

Hayes previously served as Phoenix's assistant water services director, deputy water services director, water quality manager and water treatment program manager. Prior to working for the city, Hayes worked in the private sector for six years.

Under Hayes leadership, the city's water division has received recognitions such as Arizona Water Association's Large System of the Year award for the Phoenix Distribution system in 2020 and 2021 and Water System Project of the Year for the Highline Booster Pump Station project.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to lead the department of over 1,400 employees who never stop working hard to provide one of our essential lifelines," said Hayes. "I grew up in Phoenix and have spent my entire life dedicated to water. It's an honor to continue the great work of this department as director."

Hayes is a second-generation Phoenix Water Services employee who loved spending time with his late father at the city's water treatment plants as a kid.

Phoenix Water Services provides more than 1.7 million customers with drinking water and more than 2.9 million people in the metro Phoenix area with wastewater collection and treatment services.

Xavier's Signing Day

High school athletics have faced some challenges for the past year and a half, but that didn't stop our local athletes from competing to the best of their ability. At Signing Day, athletes confirm their post-graduation plans by signing their national letters of intent, securing their spots at the collegiate level. Six talented athletes from Xavier Prep took the next step in their educational careers:

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SOCCER

BENEDICTINE

JAMIE STELNIK

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EMMIE PAULSON

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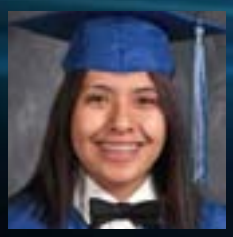
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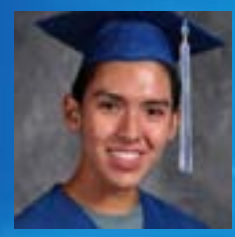
Saif Ahmed

Erick Alvarez

Sbeydi Alvarez Soriano

Christian Armenta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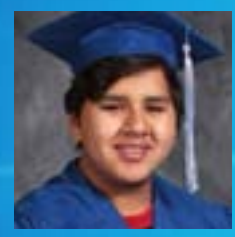
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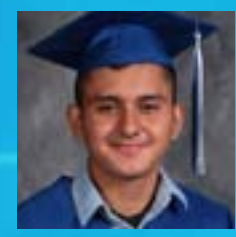
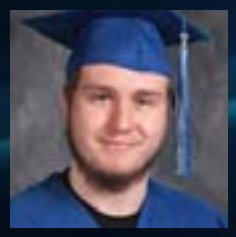

Juan Beltran Caballero

Meseret Berhane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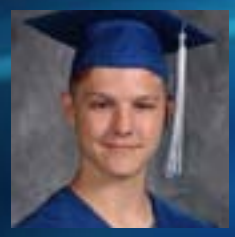
Dylan Biondi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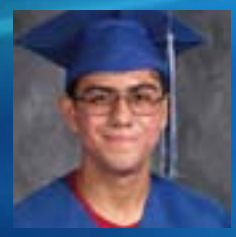
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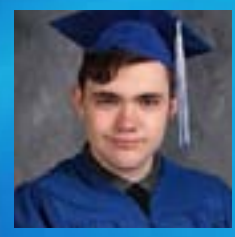
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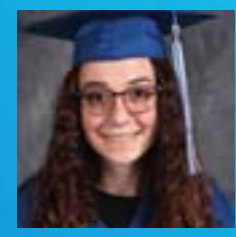
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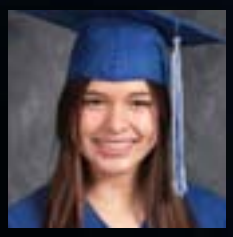
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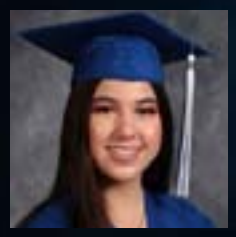
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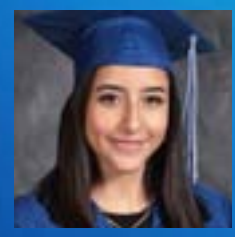
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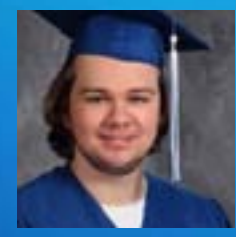
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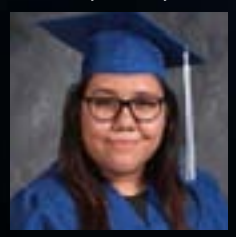
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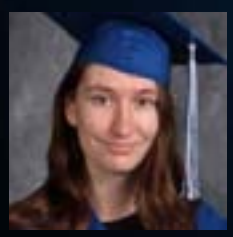
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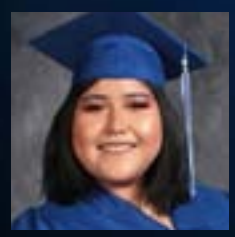
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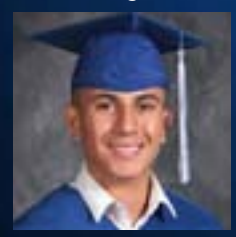
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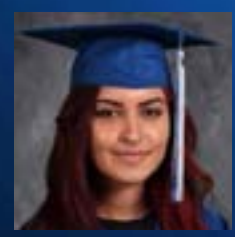
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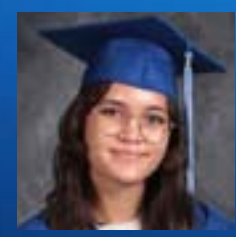
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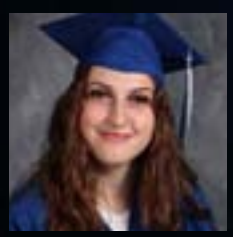
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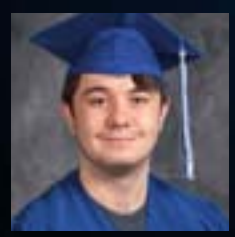
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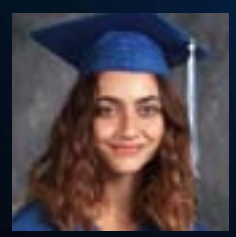
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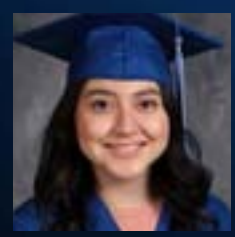
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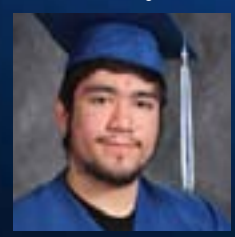
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Owen Garfield

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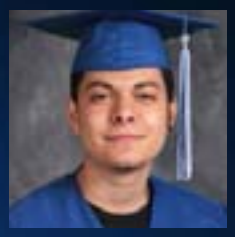
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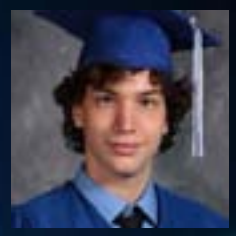
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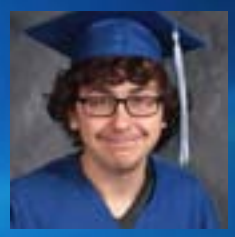
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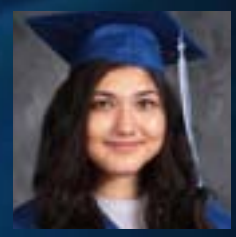
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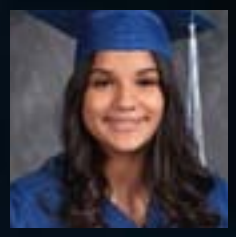
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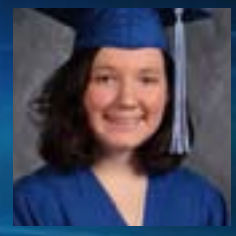
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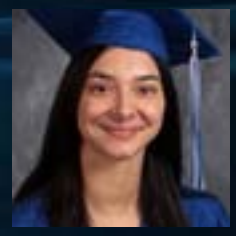
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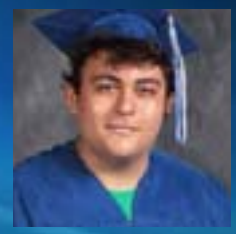
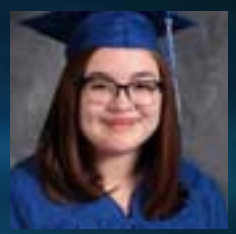
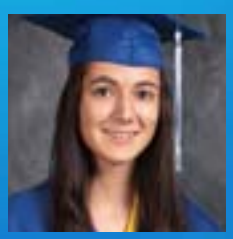

Christian Smith

Avery Socia


Jade Sosa


Mckenzie Steele

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Arjun Thakur

Jaedyn Thomas

Elizabeth Veimeris

MADISON
HIGHLAND PREP

100% 4-Year College and University Acceptance

Area schools shine in winter sports

By Rachael Bouley

It was a busy winter for area schools as they made the most of the limited winter sports season. Arcadia High School, Veritas Prep, Xavier and Brophy College Prep each put a cap on successful basketball, soccer and wrestling sessions with various accomplishments.

ARCADIA HIGH SCHOOL

The girls varsity soccer squad finished 8-6 overall, with six of their wins at home. A 3-1 loss to Millennium in the first round of playoffs closed out the season.

The varsity boys were 5-8 as both the boys and girls teams ranked 4th in the 5A Northeast Valley conference.

The varsity boys basketball team also fell in the first round of playoffs, losing 60-58 to Desert Mountain after going 9-8 overall.

Looking to the future, Coach Stephen Danford said they want to improve their rebounds and build on this season's accomplishments with their sights set on a state championship. AHS had several standout players, including senior Kieran Carr, who was named the Region Offensive Player of the Year, and Max Majerle who made the All-Region First Team. Sophomore Nate Parras was voted by his teammates as the most improved player.

The girls basketball team bounced back from an 0-5 start to win five of their next 11 games. Four of the losses came down to just one or two possessions. They finished 5-13 overall and 1-7 in the region.

Coach Ives Machiz is proud of how the Titans stepped it up throughout the winter. "We had a challenging season, with a lot of players in new roles or getting their first significant time on varsity," Machiz said. "Our team improved greatly as the season went on. We developed good chemistry and were much more competitive. Like every team, we had to work through restrictions and schedule changes, but we adapted."

After graduating six seniors in 2020 and missing a regular season of off-season training, the team came together to figure out their weaknesses and start moving in the right direction.

Point guard Kasey Stauffacher was named to the All-Region First Team, while forward-center Katherine Ducharme and guard/forward Dallas Ligon were honorable mentions.

"Last season was marked by resilience and growth in the face of challenges," Machiz said. "Next season, we will use the lessons we learned to continue that progress, strengthen our chemistry, return to the playoffs and have fun."

VERITAS PREP

The Falcons varsity boys soccer team made it to the state semifinals, but their postseason run came to an end there with a 6-4 loss to American Leadership Academy Gilbert. Veritas won 3-0 over Chandler Prep in the first round and 4-2 over Gilbert Christian in the quarterfinals. They were 12-4 overall and 7-1 in 3A Central as they finished second.

The varsity girls soccer team went 9-2-2 and finished first in the 3A conference with five wins and two draws. Their season came to an end with a loss to Arizona College Prep in the first playoff round.

The varsity boys basketball team had five wins and nine losses, and the varsity girls team had five wins and 12 losses. The girls went 2-3 in their conference and ended 4th in the 2A Metro conference.

XAVIER PREP

The Gators had a lot to celebrate this year as they won their 11th soccer state championship in school history. The varsity girls team secured a 10-2-1 record and the championship with a 2-0 win over Chaparral.

"Team chemistry and talent were our strengths this season," Coach Barb Chura said.

The varsity basketball team also had a great season run, finishing with a 13-4 record and the only losses were against the top two teams.

"I thought it was a good season especially given all the unprecedented challenges," Coach Jennifer Gillom said. "I don't think anyone believed that we would finish in the final four of the 6A division with such a young team. They showed a lot of resilience and perseverance."

Moving forward, the Gators will look to build on their work ethic, court awareness and teamwork. Gillom is excited to see where the team can go from here.

"We must improve on the defensive end and execute consistently. This is a very young team, and some of that is to be expected and should correct itself with time," Gillom said. "Our goal is to win a state championship. I truly believe as these players continue to develop, they are closer than they think."

BROPHY PREP

Under the direction of Coach Paul Allen, Brophy soccer won the 6A boys state championship for the third consecutive year – Brophy's 10th state title in program history.

The Broncos entered the playoffs with just one regular-season loss. They went up against the San Luis Sidewinders in the title game. With a 1-1 stalemate after 30 minutes of overtime, the game went to penalty kicks to determine the winner. Senior goalkeeper Bryan Figueroa blocked the Sidewinder's final try and victory went to the Broncos, 3-2.

Brophy basketball headed into the playoffs seeded in the top eight for the fifth year in a row. The Broncos made it to the semifinals and ultimately lost to Sunnyslope, who went on to win the Division 6A title.

Brophy wrestling put two Broncos on the podium at the state meet – sophomore David Sweetman, undefeated in regular-season matches, finished in third place. Freshman Ty Trickle finished fourth at state.

Arcadia News Camp DIRECTORY OF LISTINGS 2021

CAMP DAISY & HARRY STEIN

Camp Daisy and Harry Stein is Arizona's premier Jewish overnight summer camp located in Prescott, AZ. Camp Stein infuses Jewish living and learning with the fun and excitement of overnight camp. Activities include horseback riding, zip line, rock wall, archery, overnight trips, sports, drama, music, ceramics, arts & crafts and much more! One week, two week, four week and eight week session offerings for kids grades 2-10. Call 480-951-0323, email camp@cbiaz.org or visit our website.

campstein.org

PHOENIX COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Our 6-week program runs June 14-July 23 in two-week sessions for grades K-12. Through grade 8, students create their own half-day or full-day schedule with academic classes and enrichment options in technology, music, sports, theater and art. High school students register per class. Facilities include swimming pools, tennis courts, art studios and computer labs. Full-service lunch and extended day available. View the full schedule and register online at pcds.org/summer. For more information, call 602-955-8200.

pcds.org/summer

CAMP HUBBARD

Camp Hubbard offers Summer Day Camp for kids ages 4.5-14. Each day we focus on fun, sports, games, and building life skills and confidence through PLAY. We offer small group ratios and different themes each week! Engaged and well-trained staff ensure every day is safe and fun. All skill levels welcome. Locations: Scottsdale, Saint Bernadette, 60th St. south of Bell; Griffith Elementary, 44th St. south of Thomas; Sunnyslope High School, Central & Dunlap. Weeks run May 24-Aug. 6. Full day and half-day options, weekly and single-day options available.

camphubbardaz.com

PERFORM TO LEARN™ - SCOTTSDALE

Join us for Perform to Learn™ - Performing Arts Summer Program, ages 2-8. Weekly Science and Home Economics Activities, Art Masterpieces, Camp Shirt and Fun Fridays, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Weekly cost $250. We also offer Pre-K Kinder for ages 12 months-6 with classes in Art, Dance, Theater Music Language & Culture, STEM and Home Economics. Our award-winning program supports individual learning through engagement, connection and mastery. For more information call 480-656-2333 or email scottsdale@performtolearn.com.

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friendlypines.com

POWER PAWS UNLEASHED

If your child loves dogs, wants to learn how dogs help people with disabilities and is looking for a fun way to spend the summer, sign up for "Bring Your Dog to Camp!" Power Paws works with campers and their dogs in a fast paced, interactive class that will teach your child basics skills to train their dogs. Ages 9-12, Tues-Fri 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and in-person or virtual sessions run: June 1-11, June 15-25, and June 29-July 9. Call 480-970-1322 or visit our website.

azpowerpaws.org/programs/just-for-kids

STEAM CAMPS-ENGINEERING FOR KIDS-PHX METRO

When school is out, camp is IN at Engineering for Kids of Phoenix Metro! We offer an extensive list of in-person and virtual STEM curriculum for kids 4-14. Camps are at the coolest kid-friendly locations like Octane Raceway, Mavrix, Sky Zone & other venues so kids can learn & enjoy physical play. In our camps students design, build, test and improve upon their projects while building the teamwork and collaboration skills needed to succeed in the 21st century. Options are half-day, full-day, daily, weekly, all summer long with no-hassle refunds and payment plans.

engineeringforkids.com/phoenix

SCOTTSDALE ARTISTS' SCHOOL

Join us for our week-long Fine Art Summer Camps, June 1-July 30. Programs are taught by professional artists and are designed for all skill levels from ages 6 to 18. Projects include: painting, 3D sculpting, designing, studio art, drawing, Anime, recycle art and much more. SAS has enhanced safety protocols with masks required, temperature checks and an enhanced cleaning and disinfecting schedule. Our studios has been set up so each student has a personalized space equipped with individual supplies for a fun and creative fine art experience. Camps run daily Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Before and After Art is available for students who need an extended day.

scottsdaleartschool.org

MADISON HIGHLAND PREP

Join us this summer for our 9th–12th grade Football, Men's Soccer, Women's Volleyball, Cheer, Pep Band and Robotics camps. The Highland Heat staff will teach you the fundamentals or help you fine tune your game. No equipment is needed. Camp schedules include: Football 7/19-7/29, Soccer 7/19–7/29, Volleyball 7/19-7/22, Cheer 7/26-7/29, Pep Band 7/26-7/29, VEX Robotics 7/19-7/29 and Zero Robotics 7/26-7/29. Our camps are open to all incoming and current MHP students. Camp registration forms are available at the school office or on our website. For more information, call 602-745-3800 or visit MadisonHighlandPrep.org.

MadisonHighlandPrep.org

SUNSHINE SUNFLOWER ART CAMPS

Join Laurie, a certified K-12 art teacher, this summer for Kids Art Camp for ages 5-10. Kids create projects such as clay sculptures, painting on canvas, paint your own pottery, drawing and other weekly themes. Camp 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Early bird registration discount through 5/1: $200. After 5/1: $235. We also offer a 5-week Teen Wheel Throwing Camp for ages 13-17. Early bird until 5/1: $225. After 5/1: $255. Class sizes are limited to observe social distancing and masks required. Register on our website.

sunshinesunflower.com

DID YOU KNOW? CINCO DE MAYO

ORIGINS

Cinco de Mayo, (Spanish: "Fifth of May") also called the Anniversary of the Battle of Puebla, is a holiday celebrated in parts of Mexico and the United States in honor of a military victory in 1862 over the French forces of Napoleon III.

This win staved off French aid to the Confederacy and effectively helped the Union during The Civil War.

The holiday became popular in the 1950s and 60s when Mexican-Americans began to use the day to celebrate their bi-nationality. Forgotten was The Battle of Puebla, and Cinco de Mayo became about the Mexican people and their heritage. *– britannica.com*

HOW HEAVY?

1,654 lbs

The largest flour taco in the world weighed 1,654 lbs and was made in Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico, on March 8, 2003. The super-sized taco measured 35.9 feet long and 33.8 inches wide and was made up of 1,182.5 pounds of grilled steak, 186 pounds of dough, 179 pounds of onion and 106.3 pounds of coriander.

– guinessbookofrecords.com

Compared to one side of a tennis court.

HOW MANY?

5M+

Los Angeles' Fiesta Broadway is the largest Cinco de Mayo celebration globally, and during the 1990s, it attracted crowds of over 500,000 people. *– tripsavvy.com*

HOW TALL?

47 Feet

The tallest piñata measured 47 feet high, 68 feet 7 inches long, and 37 feet 9 inches wide. It was created by M&M'S® in honor of M&M'S® Pretzel Chocolate Candies' first birthday at the 69th Regiment Armory in New York, New York, U.S.A., on August 4, 2011. *–guinessbookofrecords.com*

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DID YOU KNOW? CINCO DE MAYO

CINCO DE MAYO FACTS

Chandler, AZ celebrates Cinco de Mayo with chihuahua races.

In 2013, the world's most expensive margarita was created at 230 FIFTH Rooftop Bar & Penthouse Lounge in NYC and cost $1,200.

Vancouver celebrates with a tradition called "skydiving boogie."

The Hard Rock Cafe in the Cayman Islands hosts an annual air guitar competition in addition to a 5k run to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

Cinco de Mayo is not a federal holiday in Mexico.

Mole Poblano is the official dish of the holiday.

In 2005, Congress declared Cinco de Mayo an official U.S. holiday.

In 2017, the Corona beer company lit up New York City's famous Times Square Ball to resemble a lime wedge and hosted a 'Lime Drop' to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

Over 87 million pounds of avocados are purchased for Cinco de Mayo celebrations.

In 2013, a world record was set for the largest serving of guacamole at 5,885.24 pounds.

In 2013, Americans spent more than $600 million on beer for Cinco de Mayo.

About 36.6 million people of Mexican origin lived in the U.S. in 2017.

Americans consume about 4.5 billion tacos per year.

Americans drink more tequila than any other country.

Cinco de Mayo celebrations came stateside thanks to F.D.R.

Americans spend about $2.9 billion on margaritas every year.

Many of the "Mexican" foods we eat in the U.S. aren't an authentic part of Mexican cuisine. Dishes like hard-shell tacos, nachos and burritos are considered "Tex-Mex" creations.

CINCO DE MAYO WORD SEARCH

K	V	P	K	L	I	Y	K	U	N	X	G	E	Q	C	F	D	R	W	M	A	C	R	Y	I
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G	P	Z	R	W	Y	D	X	M	F	V	Y	M	M	S	N	J	A	I	L	M	G	P	H	N

CINCO DE MAYO
BATTLE OF PUEBLA
MEXICO
FRENCH
NAPOLEON
CIVIL WAR

FIESTA
TACO
BAJA
MEXICALI
PIÑATA
M&M

MARGARITA
CHIHUAHUA
VANCOUVER
MOLE POBLANO
AVOCADO
ANNIVERSARY

SAY WHAT?

NOT MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mexican Independence is celebrated every year on September 16. That date commemorated when Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla called Mexico's people to rise against Spanish rule in 1810, 52 years before Cinco de Mayo's first celebration took place. *– tripsavvy.com*

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Arcadia girls softball team adapts to season's changes

By Jennifer Marshall

Arcadia High's girls softball resumed this spring and made the move to Division 5 – all welcome news for the team.

"After missing out last year, it felt great to be back on the field having a real season," Coach Jason Foster said.

Although the girls could not participate in their regular pre-season workouts and practices, they returned to the field in March to play in conference games.

This spring, the team played against more prominent schools like the highest-ranked school in Tucson, Mountain View, Canyon View in Waddell and Chaparral.

"The kids have been amazing through it all and are coming together as a team," Foster said. "We have players moving around and playing positions they don't normally play, and everyone is adapting well."

Mia Mavoides, who is generally an outfielder, has been playing third base and catcher this season. Foster credits the team's pitching talent as their greatest strength this year.

"We have junior Izzy Abalos, sophomore Avery Wahl and freshman Kailyn Montoya all throwing very well and giving us quality innings this year," Foster said.

"After missing our 2020 season, we have made a comeback by working hard and bonding with each other," Abalos said.

The team encountered some struggles this season with their defense, but the players will keep practicing and working hard to grow and improve.

On the offensive side, Foster credits senior Tolly Lockett and freshman Jenni Potter for leading the team in hitting and runs-batted-in. Juniors Charlotte Wylie and Jo Cariveau came on strong at the plate, and had great results in the second half of the season.

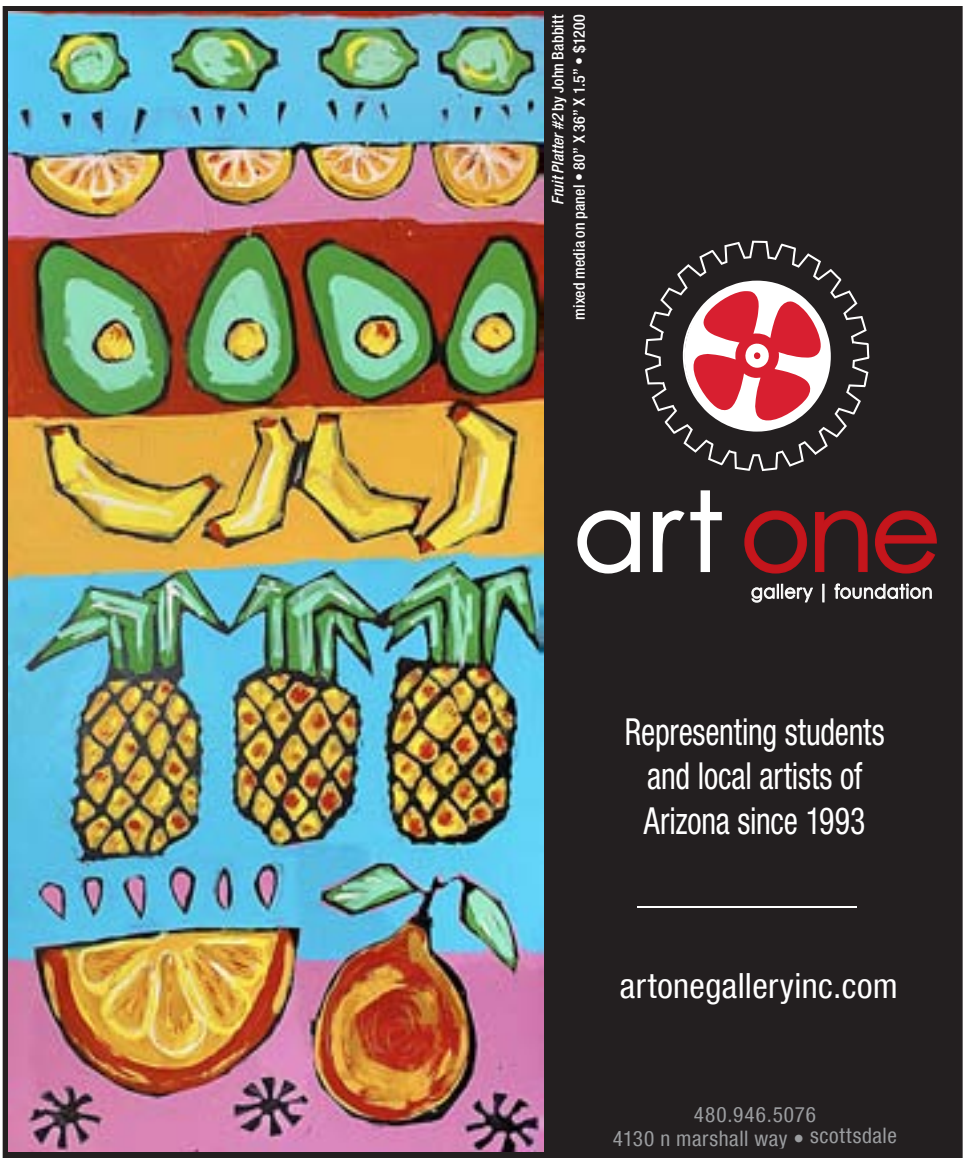
"I am grateful to be able to play with this amazing group of Titans my senior year," Lockett said. "Watching the younger players work hard and contribute to taking on our opponents has been great. I am looking forward to the rest of the season."

"Moving up to Division 5 this year toughened up our schedule," Foster said, "and I do like the tough schedule, knowing every game is going to be a challenge."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JASON FOSTER

Junior Charlotte Wylie.

Freshman Kailyn Montoya.



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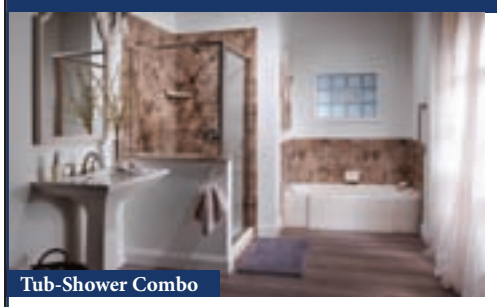
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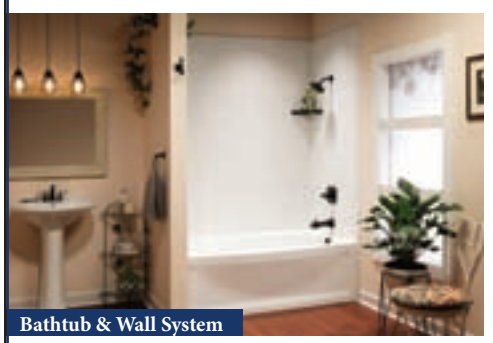
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PHOTO COURTESY OF SARA MATIN

Sara Matin and Anthony Procopio.

Local duo creates original musical production

By Jennifer Marshall

For many artists, it can take years to complete a work of art. For Arcadia native Sara Matin and her friend Anthony James Procopio, it has taken only a year to write, produce and direct their first original musical, titled *Leading Ladies: A New Musical*.

The duo met while attending ASU. At the time, Matin was a senior majoring in theater, and Procopio was a sophomore studying music composition and music education.

"Anthony and I discovered that we both wanted to write for musical theater," Matin said, "and it's so rare to find someone wanting to do the other half of this profession."

"I'd already written an original show my senior year of high school," Procopio said. "And now, by the random odds of the universe, we found we are two halves of the same whole, and we realized we could write and complete something like this."

It took several months for the pair to brainstorm ideas for the show.

"We were torn between whether we wanted to adopt an already written story, which is pretty traditional for people starting out, or if we wanted to do an original story," Matin said.

By January 2020, Matin and Procopio decided on an idea, and *Leading Ladies: A New Musical* was born.

The setting is in 1957 Hollywood at the height of the movie musical legacy. A studio is faced with producing its first musical movie with a leading lady who can't sing and can't be fired. The studio decides to hire another girl to dub the music. They hire Ella Lark, who slowly becomes friends with the leading lady, Charlotte Finley, but she can't tell her she's dubbing the songs.

"The whole show explores the consequences of actions, the complications that come from risking everything to pursue your dreams and poses the question: Is it worth risking everything that you have?" Matin said.

When Matin and Procopio began writing, they thought their first production would be held in a theater, in-person, but that wasn't to be. Over the summer, they got the idea to do a filmed reading. By October 2020, they'd finished writing, and production was underway.

"We began virtual casting right away," Matin said. "We reached out to local artists and posted audition information. Actors and singers auditioned by submitting videos, and we had callbacks over Zoom. That's how we created the cast to do our virtual production."

"Sara was our librettist, lyricist and director," Procopio said, "while I was the composer and music director."

Throughout the fall, they rehearsed with videographers, sound designers, stage managers and audio engineers.

When they were unable to find a suitable indoor location for filming, Matin's parents cleared out three rooms in their home, and they went to work converting the space into a studio, complete with floor rugs to provide some sound dampening.

Filming wrapped in November, and Matin and Procopio entered postproduction.

Tickets sold – some even to people in different states and countries – and the virtual production debuted earlier this year. An original cast recording is available on Apple Music and Spotify.

"This isn't the final product," Procopio said. "Our hope is to eventually do an in-person production complete with full scale costuming, staging, set design and a 32-piece orchestra."

Dates for the in-person show will be announced via Instagram, @procopio_matin.

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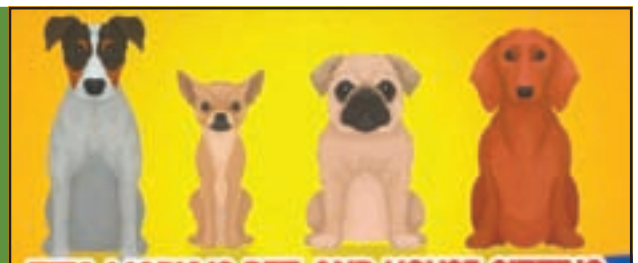

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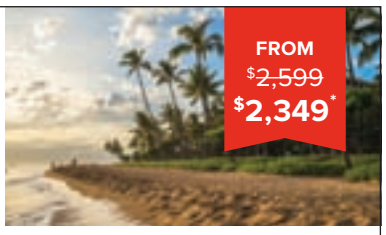

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