Arcadia News

VOL. 29 NO. 7 — ARCADIA • BILTMORE • CAMELBACK CORRIDOR — OCTOBER 2021



OPEN UP THE VAULT

Former Hopi educators took their dream and made it a reality with a new place for students to study and play.

PAGE 22

MAKE SOME MUSIC

On a corner in downtown Phoenix is Roberto-Venn School of Luthiery, where students do one thing: build guitars.

PAGE 30

TEEING OFF

AHS boys' golf is off to a productive start as the team perfected their craft to become number five in the state.

PAGE 55



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OCTOBER

The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess's Pumpkin Festival kicks off this month. See page 6.

Departments

4 Editor's Note
6 What's Happening?
8 Worth the Drive
12 On the Lowe Road
16 In the Kitchen
36 Meet Mr.
38 Robin's Adventures
44 Ask the Appraisers
52 Did You Know?
54 Career Advice

Articles

18 **For survivors, exercise is key**
Pink Ribbon 360 is a business dedicated to breast cancer survivors. It's Teri Friedland's passion project and her way to give back to that community.

21 **The Titans have spirit**
The ninth annual homecoming parade is back at Arcadia High and the students all have one thing in common: they're happy to be back together.

28 **We're hungry, chef**
Common Ground Culinary and its creator, Chef Christopher Collins, will open two new concepts this fall. The eateries will focus on some of Collins' favorite foods.

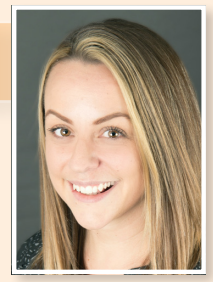
56 **Academics are a hit**
The Xavier Prep volleyball team is celebrating their ninth win of the coveted U.S. Marine Corps and American Volleyball Coaches Association's Team Academic Award.

ON THE COVER:
William Eaton spent more than 600 hours and several years completing his double neck harp guitar. Learn more about Eaton and his work at the Roberto-Venn School of Luthiery on page 30.
PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM EATON





EDITOR'S NOTE



If you were to ask me what the best month of the year in Arizona is, you would receive an overdramatic yell of the word October. And October it is, dear readers!

One of the most important parts of this month comes in the form of breast cancer awareness, and we're highlighting one woman's mission to bring the healing journey to light.

After finding that there were no rehab or exercise programs available in the Valley for breast cancer survivors, Teri Friedland took it upon herself to create one. Pink Ribbon 360 opened two years ago and helps not only with exercise and mobility, but creates a new support system for survivors as well.

Chef Christopher Collins of Common Ground Culinary has exciting news as the group plans to open their eighth and ninth eateries in The Colony shopping center on 7th St. and Missouri this fall.

Neighbors will recognize the names of two former Hopi teachers who have started a specialized tutoring business. It's an after-school and weekend program that focuses on homework help, but it's not all about assignments. The hub also offers a gaming center where students can scratch their itch for gaming and technology.

Teachers We Love is back and our first recipient for the 2021-22 school year is next to this column.

The TWL program was born out of a missed opportunity. Our publisher never found a chance to thank a college professor that he says changed his life. This program is our way to make sure readers can say thank you to those who are in a profession that is vastly under-appreciated. Don't forget, you can nominate your favorite teachers on the *Arcadia News* website.

Have a fabulous October, and thank you for reading the Arcadia News!

Mallory

— Mallory Gleich

UPCOMING THEMES:

NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
Veterans/Heroes	*Holidays*	*Fitness/Health*

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"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."
– L. M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables



THIS MONTH'S WINNER:

Danielle Wright, kindergarten teacher at St. Theresa Catholic School
Nominated by Auggie and Beth Wand

ARCADIA NEWS TEACHERS we love

"Mrs. Wright does so much more than teach lessons. She goes above and beyond to know each of her students, teaches to them individually as well as in a group, and loves them through their emotional growth too. She works tirelessly to make her classroom not just a place of learning, but of fun, awe, inspiration, and encouragement."



Danielle Wright and Auggie Wand.

How long have you been teaching at St. Theresa's?

I am in my sixth year at St. Theresa and my 11th year in elementary education.

Before returning to the classroom after spending time with my son, I taught first grade at Anthem K-8 in Florence and first and second grades at Eduprize School in Queen Creek.

What is the best part about being a teacher?

My favorite is witnessing the growth of my students first-hand. These amazing little people can accomplish big things, and the growth that they experience in kindergarten highlights just how truly capable these young students are. I truly look forward to learning along with my students every day. In our classroom, we call ourselves a "family." We are a classroom that's learning, playing, and growing together on our kindergarten journey.

When did you know you wanted to become a teacher?

I have always enjoyed working with kids, whether through volunteering as a coach in youth sports or tutoring through the Salvation Army early in my undergrad career. I have always been drawn to help children realize their full potential. I became a teacher to help children foster a love of learning; to experience a small part of a child's journey as they develop and grow seemed natural.

How do you connect your lessons to the real world?

Children are naturally inquisitive, especially in kindergarten, and I have learned to "go with the flow" regarding their curiosity and questions. They ask the best questions! I have found that addressing these questions and encouraging them is the best way to make the content relevant for each student. Through the process of exploratory and hands-on learning, I present content in multiple modalities. It is incredibly important to reach all learners through their individual learning needs and to allow students to draw parallels to their real-world experiences by asking questions. Making connections to the real world makes learning real and exciting.

What's it like teaching in this "new" environment?

I operated a hybrid-learning environment last year and it was extremely challenging. I had my "roomers" and "zoomers" and learned how to attend to the needs of my students in the classroom and at home at the same time.

As a teacher, you pour your heart out and hope that every effort you give reaches the students to make their learning experience relevant and meaningful. This year we have been fortunate to be in person. However, different challenges arise as students in the early years learn while wearing masks. As one example, teaching phonemic awareness and reading skills has proven to be challenging in a masked environment.

How do you motivate your students?

Each child is expected to do their best while I offer support, tools, and encouragement along their learning journey. Each child is a life-long member of "Mrs. Wright's classroom family," and our class mantra is "we can do hard things!" All children know that they are unique and loved, and within the context of our classroom family, this sense of belonging and support provides all the motivation they need.

Did you grow up in Phoenix?

I am a native Arizonan and grew up in Tempe. I moved into the Arcadia area shortly after my son was born, and I love seeing how the area continues to grow. I enjoy how accessible everything is in Arcadia. We always find ourselves a quick bike ride or drive from a great restaurant or fun park day. I have heard it described that Arcadia is the "small-town feel" in the middle of Phoenix, which pretty well sums it up! My family enjoys spending time with neighbors and friends on our front patio, and we especially love the citrus blooms in the spring.

Winning teachers receive an award certificate and special prizes. Thank you to our sponsors: Postino Arcadia, The Joffe Group and The Phoenician Spa.

All winners are invited to an end-of- school year celebratory luncheon. Nominate a teacher you love at ***arcadianews.com****.*

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Arcadia Real Estate Stats

2021 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/01/2021-8/31/2021)

Active Homes -	76 homes
Homes Sold -	238 homes
Average Sale Price -	$2,061,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$523
Average Days On Market -	60 days

There is currently 3 months of home inventory. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 home sales have increased 0% this year. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 home prices have increased 16%. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 $ Per Square Foot prices have increased 17%. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 homes are taking 42% less time to sell. (based on 2020 sales results)

2021 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/01/2021-8/31/2021)

Active Homes -	35 Homes
Homes Sold -	148 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$957,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$391
Average Days On Market -	35 days

There is currently 2 months of home inventory. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 home sales have decreased 5% this year. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 home prices have increased 17%. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 $ Per Square Foot prices have increased 17%. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 Homes are taking 40% less time to sell. (based on 2020 sales results)

TOMMY ATKINSON

Free MLS Access: visit
TommyAtkinson.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*



Mark your calendars for the upcoming **Arcadia G.A.I.N. picnic** next month on November 6 at Hopi Elementary from 2-5 p.m. The Phoenix Police and Fire squads will be there, plus the Dino Crew, a balloon animal twister, an ice cream truck, and there might even be a lizard exhibit from Deb's Dragon's Wildlife Encounters. The Dusty Tuffet band will provide live music. Meet the neighbors, grab some snacks and have a good time!

acmna.org



The **Arcadia Food for Kidz Packathon** committee decided to postpone the November packing event until March 2022. No other details have been released as of publication, but Arcadia News will keep readers posted as we learn more.

A new yoga studio is coming soon. **Yoga Box**, located in the Arcadia Plaza on 28th St. and Indian School, has plans to open its 10th location (the first in Arizona) this fall. The studio's mission, "progress over perfection," is put into play with sculpting, restorative and power flow classes. Various packages are available, including an unlimited month for $120 or drop-in classes for $20.

theyogabox.com

On Tuesday mornings from 9-9:30 a.m., **Arizona Sunrays Gymnastics** (3923 E. Indian School Road) invites parents and babies up to 16 months old to a free Baby Gym class. These classes are designed to help kids learn motor skills and socialization. Class sizes are limited to 15. Registration is required. Masks are required for adults.

arizonasunrays.com



In September, a new Mexican kitchen opened in the Gaslight Square complex at 3623 E. Indian School Road called **Papi Gordo's Cocina + Tequileria**. Phoenix Chef Albert Hernandez brings traditional recipes to Gordo's, where guests can find beef barbacoa nachos, fajitas, carne asada, California burritos, and more. The restaurant is open from 11 a.m.-2 a.m.

papigordos.com



Arizona Athletics Basketball offers a **Sunday Basketball Skills** group for grades two through six on October 17, 24 and 31. Held at Veritas Prep Academy (3102 N. 56th St.), kids can learn how to improve their skills, gameplay, conditioning and have fun learning the game. There is a $25 drop-in fee.

arizonaathletics.org



Feeding Students USA is holding a **Thanksgiving Feast** donation drive starting November 15-18. The organization is looking for donations of turkeys and the fixings, like mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing and cranberry sauce. Those who wish to help can take their donations to the pantry at 3313 N. 40th St., Phoenix. Monetary donations can be made to the website or mailed to 5322 E. Mitchell Dr., Phoenix. Volunteers are also needed.

feedingstudentsusa.org



If escape games are your kind of thing, Old Town Scottsdale's **Puzzle Rides** might be the adventure you're looking for. Puzzle Rides combines a golf cart, an escape route and a scavenger hunt for up to 15 people. Players are taken on a guided path and use teamwork and elements of the route to solve a series of puzzles before time runs out. There are different themes (like Ghost Riders for Halloween!), and the games are safe for all ages. Registration is $100 per person.

puzzlerides.com



Nanaya Japanese Kitchen, an izakaya-style restaurant located at the Gaslight Square complex at 36th St. and Indian School, recently reopened its doors after months of renovations. The restaurant also added new menu items like baked mussels, grilled shrimp and a chicken sando, happy hour deals and special offers.

nanayajapanesekitchen.com



Throughout the month of October, The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess will be holding its annual **Pumpkin Festival**, complete with activities for the whole family. Guests can enjoy a pumpkin patch, a hay maze, fall foods, and carnival rides like swings and slides. There will also be a cider orchard, animatronics at the Mystic Passage and plenty of photo ops. Ticket prices vary. Hours are 4-9 p.m. on weekdays and 4-10 p.m. on weekends.

scottsdaleprincess.com



OsteoStrong, a physical therapy-type business that focuses on skeletal health, is opening a new location near 32nd St. and Indian School next to Beaut Burger and Bristlecone. OsteoStrong uses a process called osteogenic loading to promote skeletal strength and improve balance and energy. The practice works for people of all ages and levels of activity.

osteostrong.me



The Camelback Mountain chapter of the **National Charity League** is kicking off its membership drive on October 1. The NCL has 287 Chapters in 31 states, with 200,000 members and alumnae. The program is geared toward mothers and daughters from grades 7-12, and focuses on philanthropy, leadership and culture in the Valley.

nationalcharityleague.org

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WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

Send Arcadia area events or briefs for consideration to editor@arcadianews.com.

FRIDAY 10/1

Slow Flow & Gong Bath

6 p.m. at Mountain Shadows Resort, 5445 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley. Try something new to unwind from the workweek. Guests will head to the movement studio inside Mountain Shadows to experience a movement and stillness meditation. The event starts with 30 minutes of all-levels yoga. A guided meditation follows, and guests can enjoy a glass of prosecco to cap off the evening. Tickets are $29 per person.

mountainshadows.com



***The Great American Seed Up** at North Phoenix Baptist Church.*



***Sparkling Tea** at Shemer Art Center.*

FRIDAY 10/1 – SATURDAY 10/2

The Great American Seed Up

4-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday at North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. In the market for seeds? This is the event that has them. The 7th annual Seed Up will allow guests to scoop up as many seeds as they want. Guests can also partake in classes and workshops, plus a virtual Q&A session available with host Terra Rose Ganem of Brilliant Planet. Registration is $7.50 per person.

greatamericanseedup.org

SATURDAY 10/2 – SUNDAY 10/3

Railfair

10 a.m.-3 p.m. at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, 7301 E. Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale. This one is for the railroad enthusiasts. Guests will learn all about model trains with displays and exhibits from some of the Valley's railroad clubs, as well as a selection of the park's vintage railroad equipment that will be on display. Guided tours of the Roald Amundsen Pullman Car will be available, and after that, guests can stop by Hartley's General Store for a sweet treat. This event is free for all ages.

therailroadpark.com

MONDAY 10/4

Apertivo Event

6-9 p.m. at the Rise Uptown Hotel, 400 W. Camelback Road, Phoenix. This one-night event is focused on all things aperitif. Attendees can sample twists on classic poolside cocktails at Lylo Swim Club, enjoy cocktails on Don Wood's Say When rooftop lounge, or hang out at the pop-up garden party. Tickets are $20 and include samples and light bites, with proceeds donated to the Local First Arizona Foundation. Arizona Cocktail Weekend is planned for February 2022.

arizonacocktailweekend.com

FRIDAY 10/8 – SUNDAY10/10

Phoenix Greek Festival

Times vary, at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 1973 E. Maryland Ave., Phoenix. Celebrate Greek culture with the 60th annual Phoenix Greek Festival. There will be authentic Greek cuisine, dancing and live performances, music, a village market with groceries and jewelry, culture and history tours and activities for the kids. Admission is $5.

phoenixgreekfestival.org

FRIDAY 10/8

Halloween Spook-Track-ula

6-9:30 p.m. at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, 7301 E. Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale. The Paradise and Pacific Railroad is now transformed into a spooky spot with tricks and treats for the whole family. Guests can ride the train with scary (but not too scary) surprises and then head to the Halloween photo booths and a meet and greet with Bones the Engineer. Tickets are $15 per person.

therailroadpark.com

SATURDAY 10/9

Sparkling Tea at Shemer

1-3 p.m. at Shemer Art Center, 5005 E. Camelback Road. Colorful umbrellas will set the tone for this afternoon tea event held on the garden patio at Shemer. Guests can enjoy live music and a menu of scones, finger sandwiches and petite pastries. There will also be guest speakers, including Kathryn Petty, president of White Lion Tea. An award will also be presented during the tea for the most artistic garden hat. Tickets are $50 per person.

shemerartcenter.org

UnMASKed

6-10:30 at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, 7575 E. Princess Dr. A different kind of party is happening this evening at the Princess. Guests will head back in time to experience the speakeasy nightlife with surprises around every corner. There will be a dinner, dancing, entertainment, and silent and live auctions. Proceeds will go toward MASK to help give children tools to handle school-aged issues. We'll share one surprise: Montell Jordan is one of the entertainers. Individual tickets are $250.

maskmatters.org

MONDAY 10/11 – FRIDAY 10/15

AZ Science Center Fall Camp

9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Arizona Science Center, 600 E. Washington St., Phoenix. Camp Innovation is back for fall break, and this time, it's all about the sweets. Campers will become scientists and use STEM concepts to discover the chemistry of candy and learn how it's made. They will create their own candies, do science experiments and participate in hands-on activities. These camps are geared toward kids in first through sixth grade. Registration is $260 for members, $295 for non-members.

azscience.org

SATURDAY 10/16

2021 Western Wiffle Ball Classic

9 a.m.-6 p.m. at Scottsdale Stadium, 7408 E. Osborn Road. Head to the Giants Spring Training Stadium for a Wiffle ball game of epic proportions! Gather a team of up to five players, bring your bats, balls and gloves and get ready to play. Forty-two teams will compete in a four-inning tournament, but only 16 teams will head to the playoffs. First and second-place teams will receive a commemorative trophy. Registration is $100 for teams, but $5 if you're just watching.

blwwiffleball.com



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Please be well.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

Send Arcadia area events or briefs for consideration to editor@arcadianews.com.

FRIDAY 10/22

Dogtoberfest

5-8 p.m. at The Brokery, 4546 N. 40th St., Phoenix. Head to The Brokery for an Oktoberfest that's gone to the dogs. Guests can enjoy free bratwurst, pretzels, and beer from Brathaus. Pet portraits by local photographer Claudia Johnstone, with portrait fees being donated to Almost There Rescue, will be available. There will also be a small vendor shop, and costumes for pets and humans are encouraged. Please bring dog food, toys or a monetary donation to go toward Almost There Pet Rescue. Registration is required.

thebrokery.com



Bentley Scottsdale Polo Championships *at WestWorld.*



Noche en Blanco *at Hance Park.*

SATURDAY 10/23

Bentley Scottsdale Polo Championships

10 a.m. at WestWorld, 16601 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale. This year's event is special as the championship games are celebrating ten years. This is the most attended polo event in the country. There will be live music and performances, human and canine fashion shows, a car show, DJs, food and an all-around good time. General admission starts at $30.

thepoloparty.com

SUNDAY 10/24

Trick or Trot Family Fun Run

7 a.m. at McCormick Ranch Golf Course, 7505 E. McCormick Pkwy., Scottsdale. Come out and help raise funds for Childhelp, a nonprofit that focuses on kids impacted by abuse and neglect. Attendees can dress up in costume to run or walk the one-mile or 2.8-mile course. At the finish line will be refreshments, snacks, music and a raffle to celebrate. Registration is $25 per person.

childhelp.org

SATURDAY 10/30

Noche en Blanco

5-10 p.m. at Hance Park, 116 E. Moreland St., Phoenix. This event was inspired by a "dinner in white" event in Paris 30 years ago. Now, guests can experience the 6th annual Night in White in Downtown Phoenix. Attendees should wear all-white cocktail attire and can enjoy an evening of dinner, dancing and live entertainment. Toward the end of the event, guests will get a chance to see the grand Carnivale parade. Tickets are $25 per person, and picnics-for-two are $50.

hanceparkconservancy.org

Halloween Hoedown Dance Class

12 p.m. at Bricks Studio, 4550 E. Indian School Road. Arcadia's kids aged 4 to 7 are invited to Bricks for a Halloween-themed dance class. Dress up in your favorite costume and get ready to dance and make a Halloween craft. Registration is $20 per person.

bricksstudio.com

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phoenixgreekfestival.org

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OUT OF THE AREA, *BUT WORTH THE DRIVE*

SATURDAY 10/2

Oktoberfest

11 a.m.-8 p.m. at Wheeler Park, 211 W. Aspen Ave., Flagstaff. Live music, food and drinks are the glue that holds Oktoberfest together. Still, there's much more going on. A costume contest, yodeling contest, and bratwurst-eating contest are just a few of the activities happening in Flagstaff on October 2. Proceeds from this event go toward The Flagstaff Alpine Ski and Snowboard Team's scholarship program. Tickets are $7.

flagstaffoktoberfest.com

Mariachi and Folklorico Festival

7 p.m. at the Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N. Arizona Ave. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, this festival is back for its 22nd year. It might be tough to stay in your seats without dancing to the music of Mariachi Tesoro de Tucson, Herencia Mexicana, AZ and ranchera and mariachi soloist Sandra Guevara, along with various Folklorico dancers from Ballet Folklorico Quetzalli-AZ. Tickets are $35-$75.

chandlercenter.org

Monster Jam

7 p.m. at State Farm Stadium, 1 Cardinals Dr., Glendale. Get ready for high-flying stunts and four-wheel awesomeness at this year's Monster Jam. Attendees will be able to check out battles between each Monster Jam athlete in their 12,000-pound trucks, going head-to-head for points in freestyle, skills challenges and racing competitions. Fans can vote for the winner or get involved in the pit party, which starts at 2:30. Bring headphones; it's going to be loud! Tickets start at $20-$60, plus $20 for the pit party.

monsterjam.com

SUNDAY 10/3

Arizona Wine Wagon

9 a.m. starting in north Scottsdale (location revealed at booking). A new way to experience Arizona's wine country! The AZ Wine Wagon offers guests a day of exploring Verde Valley's wineries without having to drive. The tour stops at three wineries in Cornville: Oak Creek Vineyards, Javelina Leap Winery and Page Springs Cellars. The tour takes about 10 hours. Single seats cost $119, or all 25 can be reserved for $2,500. Wine tastings at the vineyards are not included in the ticket price.

azwinewagon.com



Monster Jam *at State Farm Stadium in Glendale.*

Masquerade Concert

7 p.m. at the Fountain Hills Theater, 11445 N. Saguaro Blvd. The second performance in the "Series of One Night Stands" concerts, Masquerade features vocalists Elyssa Blonder, Renee Koher and Eddie Maldonado, accompanied by pianist Steve McCarvel. The group will perform music from the stage and silver screen from composers like Steven Sondheim and Andrew Lloyd Weber. Tickets are $35 for adults and $18 for 17 and under.

fhtaz.org

SATURDAY 10/9

Sedona Arts Festival

9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Sedona High School, 995 Upper Red Rock Loop Road. The 30th annual Sedona Arts Festival will showcase over 125 juried artists from across the country. Guests can also listen to live music and enjoy raffle prizes, food and the newly added beer and wine garden. Grab some eats, some drinks and some beautiful art to take home. Tickets are $15 per person.

sedonaartsfestival.org

Superhero Science

2-4 p.m. at the Cave Creek Museum, 6140 E. Skyline Dr. The Cave Creek Museum and Arizona Science Center will host this family-fun day that's all about superheroes. Kids will have a chance to learn how superheroes use their powers and the science behind popular superpowers like freeze rays, shrinking abilities and lighting discharge. There are two sessions, the first from 2-2:45 p.m. and the second from 3-3:45 p.m. This event is free and sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Carefree. Registration is required.

cavecreekmuseum.org

SUNDAY 10/10 – FRIDAY 10/15

Wyatt Earp's Vendetta Ride

Times vary. The starting point is 109 S. 4th St., Tombstone. If you ever pretended to be a cowboy when you were a kid, this event is for you. Take a five-day horseback riding trip into the Chiricahua, Dragoon and Whetstone Mountains to see the spots where Wyatt Earp and his posse had a shoot-out with the cowboys (and where some of them perished), Johnny Ringo's gravesite and more. The trip is all-inclusive, meaning horses, tack and food are provided. Registration is $2,400 per person.

great-american-adventures.com

SATURDAY 10/16

Prickly Pear Festival

8 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Holland Center, 34250 N. 60th St., Scottsdale. Family, friends and anyone interested in one of Arizona's staple flavors can head to this outdoor event. Guests will learn how to harvest, clean, juice and prepare prickly pear, turning fruits and pads into nutritious and healthy food. After lessons, guests will enjoy lemonade, salsa, pudding and more, all made with the prickly pear. This event is free for all ages.

hollandcenter.org

SATURDAY 10/16 – SUNDAY 10/17

Willcox Country Wine Festival

11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Willcox Winery, 157 N. Railroad Ave., Willcox. Guests will enjoy 16 of Arizona's best wineries – with samples – along with over 30 non-winery vendors, including fine arts, artisan foods, vintage vendors, and live entertainment along with two food trucks, plus a beer selection for those who don't do grapes. Guests can also participate in the Poker Run for $10 or tour the Rex Allen Museum. Tickets are $35 per person.

willcoxwinecountry.org

THURSDAY 10/21

Vertuccio Farms Fall Festival

3-9 p.m. at Vertuccio Farms, 4011 S. Power Road, Mesa. Ring in the fall with activities galore! The festival features various family activities like a corn maze, petting zoo, duck races, slides, pumpkin bowling and more. Guests can also pick a pumpkin to take home. Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase. Tickets are $12 per person.

vertucciofarms.com

SATURDAY 10/23

Día de Los Muertos

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mesa Arts Center, One E. Main St. Celebrate Día de Los Muertos with the annual event at Mesa Arts Center. Día de Los Muertos is a Latin American Art and culture related to the Day of the Dead holiday. There will be live music, various features and performances, plus activities for the whole family to enjoy. This event is free.

mesaartscenter.com

FRIDAY 10/22 – SUNDAY 10/24

2021 Burro Run and Apache Leap Mining Festival

7 a.m. on Main St. in Superior. This weekend is full of fun with the Superior Burro Run and the 33rd annual Apache Leap Mining Festival. The Burro Run is exactly what it sounds like. Teams of one human and one burro will race down Main, competing in a three, six or 12-mile race back to town. There will also be drinks and live entertainment. The Apache Festival kicks off with a carnival on Friday. Saturday and Sunday will have parades, music, food, vendors, Chihuahua races, mining competitions, and educational opportunities.

superiorarizonachamber.org

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Our G.A.I.N. (Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods) Picnic is an event designed to encourage neighbors from all over Arcadia to meet and get to know what our neighborhood is about. This event will showcase the importance of police community partnerships and citizen involvement. Come and see first responder demonstrations and other fun activities. This family event is neighborly, fun and free!

Bring the kids, bring your best friend, bring relatives, even bring your pets, or come alone to enjoy meeting City officials, your local police and fire fighters and your Arcadia neighbors. This is ACMNA's way to give back to the community and connect with our neighborhood. We look forward to meeting you!

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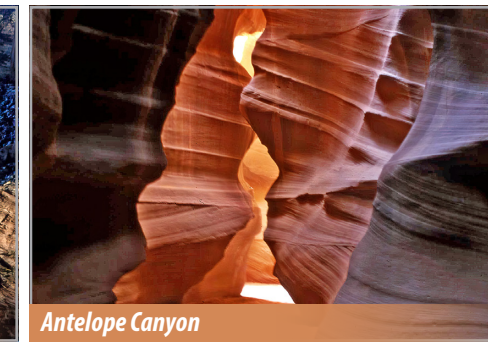
GETTING ARIZONA GAIN INVOLVED IN NEIGHBORHOODS

www.acmna.org

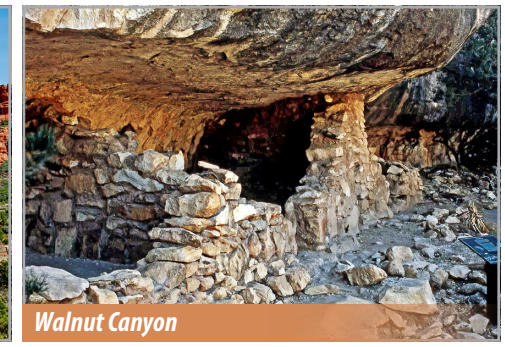
The Grand Canyon is grand, and so are some others


Coal Mine Canyon


Canyon de Chelly


Antelope Canyon


Boynton Canyon


Walnut Canyon


Chevelon Creek

The Grand Canyon is the grandest canyon. It is one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World and deserves every accolade heaped upon its magnificence. While it is undoubtedly Arizona's premier attraction, there are other canyons across the state worth exploration by those who take the time to wander just a bit off the well-beaten paths. Here are some personal favorites.

Canyon de Chelly is a yawning chasm located in northeastern Arizona on the Navajo Reservation near Chinle. It is the property of the Navajo Tribal Trust, which also operates it. Although designated as a National Monument by the National Park Service in 1931, none of the lands are federally owned.



The Lowe Road

BY SAM LOWE

A former Valley newspaperman who now writes about his travels across Arizona, the U.S. and the globe.

The canyon, featuring red sandstone walls that rise hundreds of feet, could be the longest continuously inhabited landscape in North America. Visitors may only enter the canyon under the accompaniment of a Navajo guide, but many of the natural sights are visible by driving along one of the rim roads. The most outstanding features are Spider Rock and Teller Rock, twin spires that stand 750 feet and 600 feet above the canyon floor.

Walnut Canyon, just east of Flagstaff near I-40, was settled by ancient Sinaguans who initially lived in pit houses and freestanding pueblos scattered along the canyon rim. The natives used limestone rocks cemented with clay to form walls around the eroded limestone caves as the community expanded.

The original Sinaguans lived in the alcoves for about 125 years before abandoning the area. The canyon is now a National Monument, and the cliff dwellings are the most visible ruins of the monument's 232 sites. Pothunters dynamited some of the cliff dwellings in the 1880s, but the surviving structures offer great insight into the Sinaguan lifestyle.

Coal Mine Canyon is located off State Highway 264, about 15 miles south of Tuba City, and the views are well worth the effort expended when taking the final stretch of dirt road that leads to the site. The flat land falls away suddenly, then drops down hundreds of feet to the canyon floor. At that point, the sides are composed of a dazzling display of intricately sculpted spires, hoodoos, cliffs and gullies in an unbelievable array of colors.

Red, white, gray, orange and black are the primary colors, and they come in quick succession over a vertical distance of just a few feet. The bright red layers result from colored shale caused by the partial burning of underlying coal seams. The eroded forms resemble others in the southwest, like Bryce Canyon in Utah, but none of them can match Coal Mine Canyon's brilliant colors.

There are two Antelope Canyons near Page, but the Upper Canyon is the most popular because it is easily accessible. Although visitors must pay a Navajo guide to take them to the site, they are relatively free to roam around in the slot canyon after their arrival. The scenery is spectacular, with swirls of red rock forming striated patterns that resemble waves. They're caused primarily by water erosion because the canyon narrows at that point, and the rains sculpt the soft sandstone as they rush through the opening.

The best time to visit is around noon, when the sun is high above the site, sending rays through some of the openings above the canyon floor. That causes an almost cathedral-like setting, enhanced by drops of ever-present dew in the atmosphere.

Boynton Canyon near Sedona is accessed by a trail that begins near the world-renowned Enchantment Resort. Canyon walls of red and orange rise above the surrounding greenery as the trail starts, but the scenery becomes desert-like toward the end of the hike. Cliffs peer down on visitors as they climb across the barren landscape where the foliage lessens.

Most will stop there, having seen as much splendor as can be taken in during one day. Others will continue on a 2.4-mile trail to the top of the canyon. Those who make it that far might see some ancient ruins; those who choose to turn back will already have been amply rewarded for their efforts.

Chevelon Canyon near Winslow contains some of the oldest ancient petroglyphs in the southwest, some of them dated to be more than 5,000 years old. More than 4,000 of the drawings were scratched and carved into the lava rock walls of the canyon, many of them on the Rock Art Ranch, a 5,000-acre privately owned spread that requires an admission fee.

The Anasazi culture initially inhabited the canyon from about 1200 B.C. to 1300 A.D., and portions are accessible for public viewing. Chevelon Creek, a small stream, ripples under a photogenic old bridge that has crossed the creek since 1913 and is currently on the National Register of Historic Places.

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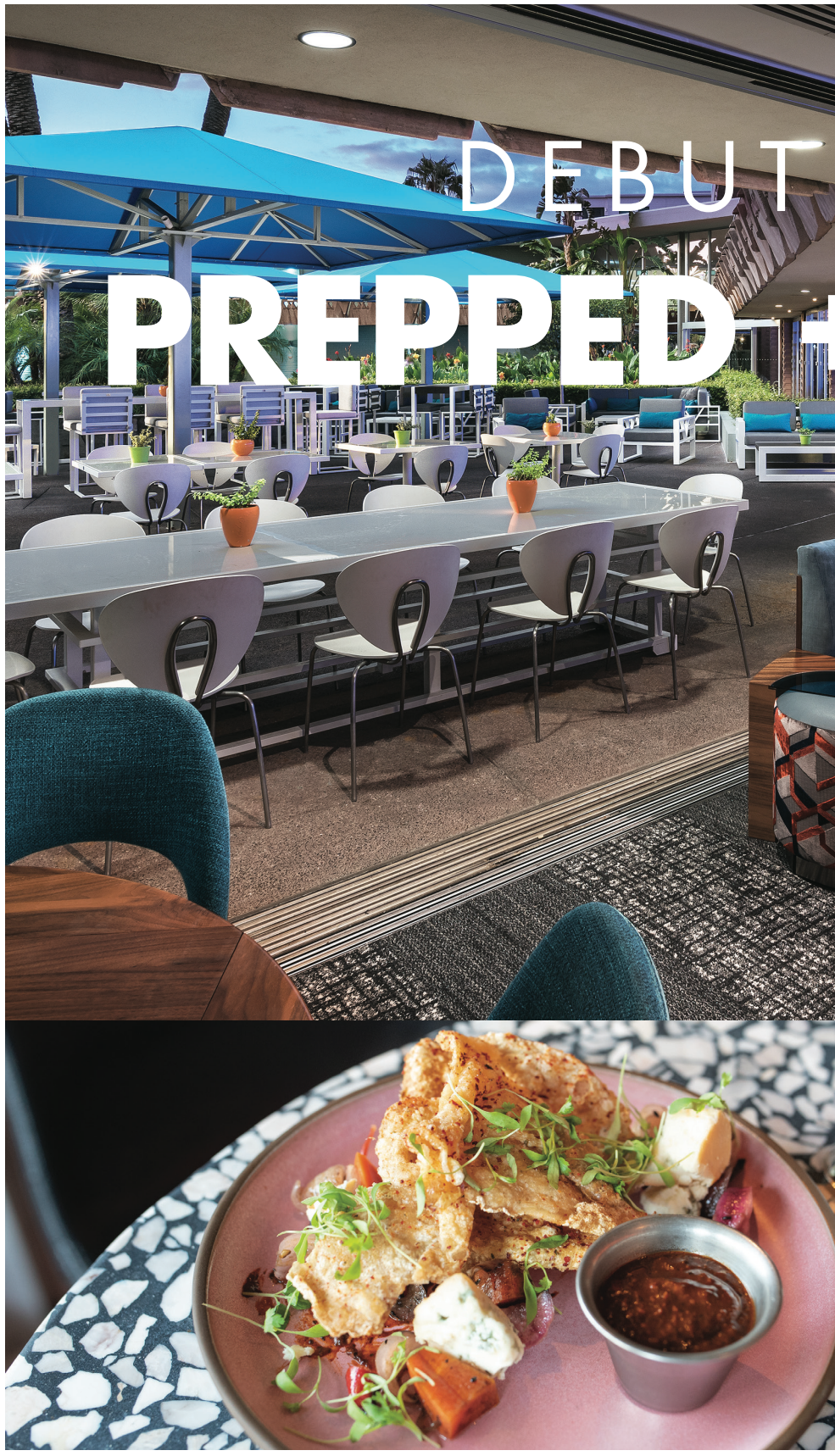
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In the Kitchen

with Chef Chuck Wiley of Hearth '61



Mountain Shadows Resort • 5445 E. Lincoln Dr. • mountainshadows.com

By Mallory Gleich

For over 40 years, Chuck Wiley has made a name for himself not only as an award-winning chef but as a teacher, mentor and culinary mastermind. He's worked with many other well-known chefs in the Valley and has continued to leave his mark wherever he goes.

Where did you grow up?

I was born in the Bronx, and when I was nine, my dad moved my family to Jersey because he thought that was the right thing to do. Jersey was worse than the Bronx. When I turned 18, I moved to Laguna Beach and got my first restaurant job as a busser at a restaurant in Dana Point. The first day I worked, I fell in love with the business. I couldn't imagine doing anything else for the rest of my life – and I haven't! I've been in Arizona for 31 years. I moved here from San Francisco back in 1989 to take the executive chef position at Boulders in Carefree.

Did you always know you wanted to be a chef?

No. When I worked in Dana Point, I was a busser, and a couple of bartenders drove around in Porsches. They worked at night and surfed all day, and I thought that sounded pretty good. So I wanted to be a bartender, and it wasn't until I moved to Alaska [for a stint in their culinary program] that I decided I wanted to be a chef.

Where did your cooking skills come from?

I have to say I'm pretty much self-taught. My first cooking job was at a Hungarian restaurant in Lake Tahoe, and the owner taught me the menu there. It was an old house converted to a restaurant – the building is still there, but it's not the same anymore – but she taught me the basics. I worked at the Sahara Tahoe for a couple of years and learned from the Swiss and German chefs. Other than that, it was all me.

Do you have a favorite chef that you've worked with?

As far as pure joy from cooking – the four years I worked with Beau MacMillan were some of the most fun and rewarding. Beau and I opened Elements restaurant in March 2001 and committed to change the menu once a month. April 1, we changed 30 percent of the menu, but Beau wanted to change 80 percent. I had to reel him in, but he was so excited and so creative. He's one of the most prolific chefs I've ever met.

A close second would be Tom Freimuth, the executive chef at Talking Stick. He and I worked together at Deer Valley Ski Resort in Park City, Utah. I lured him out [to Arizona] to be my executive sous chef in 1989. We've had a blast. We had a great career working together. It's a toss-up between those two.

Chefs that you've worked with have gone on to have incredible careers. Out of your teachings, what do you think stuck with them the most?

I've seen a few quotes that people have thrown around that I say – and I say a lot – but organization is number one. You can't operate without being organized. Another thing I say is, "How does it eat?" You could take different ingredients and taste them separately, but when you put them together, put them on a plate, drag it through the sauce; how does it eat? That's a big one.

I think I've always focused on freshness, making things from scratch and never taking the path of least resistance.

What awards and accolades have you garnered thus far?

The biggest one was Best New Chef by *Food and Wine Magazine* in 1994. The James Beard Foundation nominated me a few times – I haven't won, but I was awarded as one of the best hotel chefs in America. It was rewarding to receive the Culinary Award from the Scottsdale Center for the Arts. The Best New Chef one, I think, really kicked off my career.

How do you come up with dishes?

New dishes are always rooted in the past. I take that and run with it. I look to different cuisines and what are the three components of a dish that go together.

At the Boulders, with the southwest food in the 80s and 90s, I would stay true to the indigenous ingredients and seasonings. I told Beau, 'let's take our American notions and pepper them up with soy, sesame, ginger, miso…' and we did, and I think he's still doing that. At Zuzu [at Hotel Valley Ho], it was very much American comfort food. I imagined it like a 50s Los Angeles diner that maybe Quentin Tarantino would find or where Marilyn Monroe was discovered. We made everything from scratch; everything was as good as it could be.

When we opened Hearth, it was so quiet and zen-like. I mean, this property was boarded up when we discovered it ten years ago. I imagined it as a resort in a neighborhood, so we looked at what defines a sense of place. We focused on Hearth being a neighborhood eatery that people could walk or ride their bikes to and looked at what cuisine people embraced. We are ingredient-driven.

What is the most challenging part of being a chef?

I can tell you the most rewarding part is seeing young people excited and passionate and wanting to go and make their mark on the world. I'm thrilled to be part of that. Maybe they'll look back and say, 'that Chuck Wiley guy I worked with keeps whispering in my ear to keep it clean, fold my towels, have a sense of urgency, make sure things are nice.'

So, in that sense, the most frustrating thing is working with people who don't have that passion or drive. What turns me on is making people feel good and making their night memorable by serving them beautiful food in a gracious environment. So working with people or serving people that don't get it – some people don't belong in the hospitality business.

What about a challenging dish that you've had to cook?

Well, that's the opposite of a simple dish: one you can cook in one pan or prepare ahead of time and put together quickly. During quarantine, we had an arugula salad on the menu. First, you had to section the grapefruit and oranges, get the arugula nice and crisp.

There was avocado, tangerine oil, salt and pepper, toasted and chopped cashews and a honey vinaigrette. That is a challenging dish. Our chef de cuisine Alfred Muro developed it, but I had to execute it, and I was proud every time I put one together. Everything was separate but composing it was challenging, the time it takes to put each part together.

Do you have a signature dish?

At Deer Valley Ski Resort back in the 80s, I developed a salmon dish with a soy/sesame/ginger garlic sauce and a ginger butter sauce. I remember we were out of jasmine rice one day, so I used some Japanese somen noodles and shitake mushrooms, peppers, baby bok choy. I sautéed the veggies, added sesame oil, put the salmon on top with the sauces, and I have to say – if [celebrity chef] Tom Colicchio asked me to make my signature dish, that's what I would make.

What are some memorable moments?

Helping my mother make stuffing on Thanksgiving. I could hardly chop parsley without thinking of her. She might get arrested nowadays, but back in the 50s, she gave me a stool to stand on and a sharp knife to chop parsley. Not a very good idea, mom! But it created a memory that I'll never forget.

Also, getting my award for Best New Chef from *Food and Wine* – I was presented the award in Aspen by Julia Child. I cooked for her that night and that is an amazing memory. I also cooked dinner for Elvis in 1974 at the Sahara Tahoe. I was fielding room service orders, and Elvis ordered dinner.

I was working in San Francisco at a dinner for over 100 people. I had hired a new banquet chef, and in the first week, I asked him to cook the chicken. I didn't check it – I don't know why. But we started to dish it out, and probably 15 orders in, they began to come back. The chicken was still raw. So that one, I almost had a nervous breakdown.

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

Well, I hate to be cliché, but salt and freshly ground black pepper. It's the most underrated spice there is! I carry a pepper grinder in my toolbox, and every time I can, I use it. A balsamic vinegar, or apple cider vinegar – the Bragg's one you get from the store is so good. I love staple items.

What's in store for the future?

We're in the process of building a new restaurant on the corner of 56th St. and Lincoln, called Lincoln Tavern.

I want to make this resort the very best it can be. It's not coming up with new dishes. It's taking my experience and inspiring my staff to carry this on so when I fade off into the sunset, it'll be as good as it can be and keep getting better.



Allison Bosworth (left) and Livia Rice with Andrew Nelson in the gaming center.



Vault also features a library for kids that want to unplug.

Former Hopi teachers open 'edutainment' business for kids

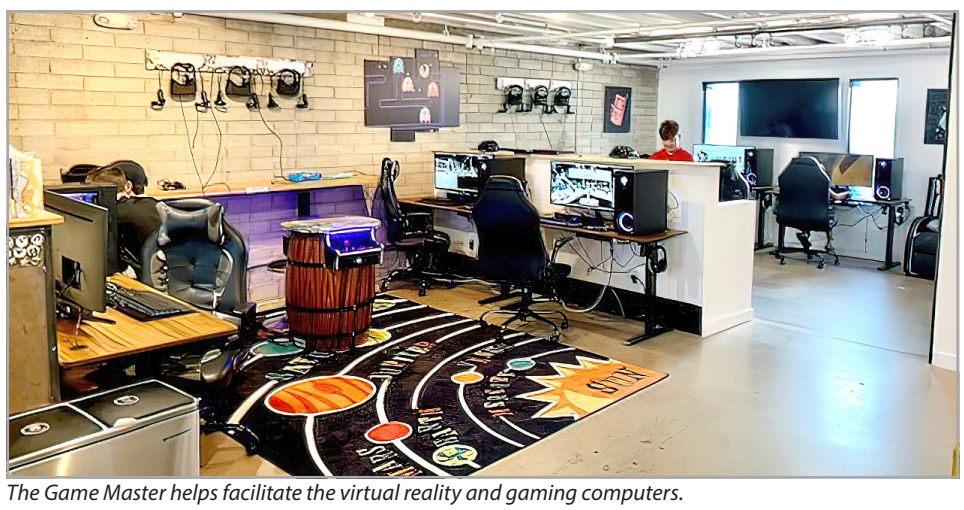
By Jennifer Marshall

After almost 50 years of combined teaching in the Hopi classroom, Livia Rice and Allison Bosworth know how to help students succeed. This is one backbone for their venture, called Vault Edutainment, in Old Town Scottsdale. By offering homework help, tutoring and supervised gaming, they're ensuring that kids receive an equal measure of work and play.

"This entire endeavor was the consequence of one tough day last year at work," Rice said. "Actually, there were many difficult days. I went to my friend Allison's classroom at Hopi, where we talked about how much we loved teaching and how cool it would be if we could have our own school or tutor together on a smaller scale."



Complimentary snacks and drinks are available in the kitchen.



The Game Master helps facilitate the virtual reality and gaming computers.

"Both of us had tutored after school for years," Bosworth said, "and we enjoyed having the opportunity to work in smaller ratios. We loved working one on one with kids while getting to know them and their families. We wanted to be creative in how we addressed students' needs, including tutoring and helping with homework."

The mom of one of Rice's former students suggested that, in addition to homework help and tutoring, they include a safe and supervised environment for kids to play video games.

"That's where the name Edutainment originated, by combining education with homework help and tutoring, plus entertainment, with the gaming component," Rice said.

Monday through Thursday, Vault Edutainment offers kindergarten through 5th grade students study time through their Homework Huddle Program. They have certified teachers on board to help.

"Our Homework Huddle has a small ratio of one teacher to no more than four students," Bosworth said. "Then, after homework is done, parents can choose to reward their kids with an hour of monitored gaming. We have virtual reality goggles and a Game Master on the property."

Epic Gaming is available on Fridays from 4-8 p.m. On Saturdays, they expand their gaming sessions to 6th, 7th and 8th graders.

"We serve snacks and drinks, and we also have board games and classic games," Bosworth said. "Since our official opening on August 9, we've been focusing on the age groups we know best, but in the future, we'd love to have teachers here for every grade level."

Vault Edutainment offers various packages that parents can purchase. They also offer sibling discounts.

"Buying packages and scheduling times can all be done online," Rice said, "and we also have an app that makes booking times easy and accessible." In the future, this educational duo would like to expand Vault to include offering birthday parties and starting a pre-school program.

thevaultedutainment.com



Fitness instructor starts company to aid in breast cancer recovery

By Cliff Summerhill

Pink Ribbon 360, founded by east coast native Teri Friedland, addresses one of the most important aspects of a breast cancer survivor's recovery – exercise.

"Everyone's physical goals are different; however, in the short-term, the hope is to increase the survivor's abilities to move their body safely, become stronger with less pain, and feel more confident," Friedland said. "Our program is the bridge between treatments and independence. Exercise must become a part of every survivor's life, and they deserve the support needed to achieve this."

According to studies from the American Cancer Society and other medical entities, incorporating exercise can help decrease mortality and cancer recurrence by almost 40 percent.

But exercise is only one part of Pink Ribbon 360's mission. They specialize in emotional healing as well.

"Oftentimes, the many side effects of surgeries, treatments, and hormone therapy aren't explained to breast cancer survivors, which makes them less prepared to cope," Friedland explained.

She also said that after the treatments are complete, family and friends want their loved one to 'be healed' and that they're unaware that the journey is not over.

"This is a common time survivors feel anxiety and depression due to the emotional trauma of their journey. Pink Ribbon 360 is a safe place for survivors to express their feelings without fear of overloading on friends and family," Friedland said.

At first, most clients come to Pink Ribbon 360 for physical help but later find the emotional support they didn't know they needed, according to Friedland.

"They're more confident, feel empowered with less anxiety about the future," she said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERI FRIEDLAND

Teri Friedland used her experience as an occupational therapist to open Pink Ribbon 360.

Friedland opened Pink Ribbon 360 about two and a half years ago, after trying to help a friend find an exercise program after she completed her breast cancer treatments.

"She still had pain and limited shoulder mobility," Friedland explained. "My friend searched for an exercise program for breast cancer survivors and couldn't find any in the Valley. I couldn't believe it! This was when I became committed to making Pink Ribbon 360 a reality."

Friedland already had over 20 years of experience as an occupational therapist and fitness instructor, so she took the next step and became a certified breast cancer exercise specialist. After being mentored by experts in the breast cancer field, Pink Ribbon 360 became a reality.

Over the last few years, her clients have experienced countless success stories. Recently, a client informed Friedland that she gained more mobility in her arm in one session than a lack of progress with 16 previous sessions.

Although that doesn't happen with every client, Pink Ribbon 360 has a track record of helping survivors feel less pain and increase their strength and mobility.

"The more I learn and work with these amazing survivors, the more passionate I feel about this work," Friedland said. "Helping them through this difficult journey and seeing them thrive, not just survive, is what keeps me going."

Pink Ribbon 360 offers both in-person and virtual sessions to ensure any survivor can participate safely.

pinkribbon360.com

SAMPLE MOBILITY EXERCISES

Patients should consult a doctor before starting a new exercise program.

SHOULDER ROLLS

Back rolls: Gently and slowly roll the shoulders up, back, and down.
**This doesn't have to be a significant movement to be effective. Feel your shoulder blades and chest muscles moving.*

Forward rolls: Gently and slowly roll the shoulders up, forward, and around.

SEATED SHOULDER SLIDES

Out/in:

1. Reach your arms in front of you with your arms slightly lower than shoulder height.
2. Inhale and draw your shoulder blades together without arching your back while moving your arms to the sides.
3. Exhale and return to center.

Forward/back: Reach your arms in front of you again, inhale and slide your shoulder blades apart as you feel your fingertips being pulled away from you. Exhale and return to center.



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11-97862 07/21

Arcadia Titan spirit comes full force at the homecoming parade

By Mallory Gleich

As schools adapt and work around the latest changes happening in our corner of the world, the homecoming festivities will hopefully still happen – and that includes the homecoming parade.

Arcadia High School began holding classes in 1959, and back then, the Titans celebrated homecoming with vigor: there was royalty, a homecoming dance and school spirit week.

In those days, AHS classes would build floats and display them at the dance.

In 1970, the floats were moved outside and exhibited at that year's football game during halftime.

That tradition continued until 2011, when several teachers decided to switch up the festivities and include a parade showing off their school spirit to the whole community.

Former PTO member Kris DeWulf is credited with founding the parade after she went to the homecoming football game and saw the floats "just sitting there." She enlisted the help of a few other PTO members, teachers and student government members, and a parade took shape.

In previous years, kids from Hopi, Ingleside and Tavan have joined in on the fun.

Each year, the junior class comes up with the theme for the floats, and each grade builds their own. The theme is kept secret until homecoming week. Past years' themes have included movies, Olympics, music festivals and countries around the world.



Parade floats from 2019.



Arcadia alumna Risa Moran with her horse in 2012.

The parade starts at 4 p.m. on October 29. The floats will start their journey at Shemer Art Center (5005 E. Camelback Road), continue down Exeter, take a right on Rubicon and end at Hopi Elementary.

Student Government students Sage Morganstern, Henry Ord, Mackenzie Bream and Avery Amico are busy getting ready for the parade. All echo the same thought for this year: they're happy to be together.



Liv Richardson

"I can't wait to see everyone at the parade, especially after being apart for so long," Sage said.

The students usually spend around a month coming up with a theme and building their class floats.

The homecoming royalty and Arcadia spiritline will join in the festivities, as well as the grand marshal, who will lead the parade. The first year, one teacher's pet iguana was the GM; another year, the homecoming queen from 1965 joined in on the fun. This year, senior Liv Richardson will hold the title.

The parade and football game are on October 29, 2021, when the Titans will take on Tempe High School. The game was chosen as Game of the Week by AZPreps365. Covering all of Arizona's high school sports, they will be filming this year's athletics. Highlights and details for all of the games are posted on their website.

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Arcadia Five: Local businesses navigate the new world

By Mallory Gleich

On a quiet block near 44th Street and Indian School Road, five families have spent years balancing their businesses and everyday lives.

Anne and Clinton Trauter, Julie Robinson, Aaron Reynolds and Elizabeth Oviedo live on the same block in Arcadia and have formed a sort of support group as a way to escape, provide an outlet from being cooped up at home, and continue to thrive.

Anne Trauter was born in Ohio and grew up in the Midwest before moving to Phoenix in 1988. She and her family have lived in Arcadia since 2014.

"My dad wanted to stop shoveling snow, and as much as we loved the Midwest, we love the Arizona weather," Anne said.

She runs two businesses: Amalgamated Food Brokerage (AFB) and Nourish Kitchen. AFB is a marketing agency that represents food clients for restaurants, hotels and casinos, and Nourish makes grab-and-go salads and snack foods for AJ's and other grocery outlets.

Anne opened AFB in 2006. Nourish, however, opened five days before the pandemic shutdown in March 2020.

AFB continued to stay open and running for the duration of the shutdown, but Anne found, along with many others, that revenue was low compared to what it usually was. Nourish was also able to stay open, as they were considered a vital service by providing food for stores.

"What my partners, employees and I learned is that we needed to be flexible and work hard even when it's difficult," she said. "We didn't give up – make sure to count your blessings and then come back the next day and work hard again. In the future, we're focused on growth."

Anne said that it was both comforting and scary to navigate the changes and not let anyone down.

"We had to make it work, so we band together and supported each other and took turns having bad days or days where we lifted each other up," she said.

Innovative Contractor Solutions (ICS) focuses on various aspects of commercial construction. Clinton Trauter started the business with his father in 1989 in Washington.

"I grew up around the construction business and worked in the warehouse, delivering materials, on job sites and eventually accounting," Clinton said. "I tried hard not to be a part of it as a career, but the opportunity arose in 2012 to run this company." ICS did not have to close during the shutdown.

"I feel very fortunate that we have developed a solid commercial customer base that has been booming. Since December 2020, we have seen the effects of growing," Clinton said, explaining that the inability to acquire the quantities of material, delays in the supply chain to receive material and steady price increases are some of those effects.

"I think everyone has had a different experience with Covid and how it has affected how they pursue sales or operate their business," he said.



Anne and Clinton Trauter


Elizabeth Oviedo


Julie Robinson

Hearing friend's ideas on how to do more with fewer people, time or face-to-face interaction and incorporate/test ideas to keep his own company progressing have helped Clinton and his team succeed. ICS plans to build and open a new office in South Mountain in the future.

■■■

Julie Robinson is the owner of Juliet Le Fleur, a luxury wedding and corporate event florist. She is a fifth-generation florist and has been designing her creations for almost 40 years.

Robinson has called Arizona home since moving here from Michigan in 1988. She's lived in Arcadia since 2005.

"The move was purely impulsive," Robinson said. Like Anne, Robinson was tired of the Michigan winters.

When the pandemic made its way to Arizona, Robinson closed down her business and is in the fourth wave of postponing events.

"We are booking weddings again, but the effect on the flower industry was catastrophic. Prices have quadrupled, and the supply can't meet the demand," Robinson said. Despite that, she and her team are keeping a positive mindset.

Robinson said that each issue within her business taught her to stay flexible and become extra-creative with solution-finding.

"Things will always work out," she said. "We will continue to work with the vast changes in our industry and keep creating gorgeous weddings and events."

■■■

Aaron Reynolds is the third-generation owner of Pylam Products, a supplier of dyes, pigments and colorants used in a multitude of products. Pylam has been in business since the end of WWI – over 100 years.

Originally, they were located in New York City in Manhattan. Twenty-five years ago, Pylam moved to Tempe. Reynolds has lived in Arcadia for the past four years and said that, thankfully, his business did not have to shut down during quarantine.

"Pylam fell under the umbrella of being an 'essential business' so we continued to work and serve our customers," Reynolds said. "Amidst all of the craziness, shortages of goods and services, and nebulous scientific guidelines that constantly changed, we always stayed open. We quickly adopted many protocols to help maintain both worker and workplace safety."

Reynolds explained that he reaches out to friends to get their views on the economy and day-to-day life.

"Communicating with everyone was integral to getting through the early stages and dealing with the incredible lack of clarity that was seemingly coming from all angles," he said. The business remained flexible while maintaining a safe environment.

"Various aspects of running a business that have always been an afterthought are now common hurdles that have yet to resume their pre-pandemic elements," Reynolds said, "but after 101 years, I feel as though Pylam is just hitting its stride. I like to think we have no less than another 100 or 200 years left to tackle."

■■■

Tom Reahard started Symmetry Software in 1984, and his daughter, Elizabeth Oviedo, runs the company these days. Symmetry provides payroll tax technology for software and payroll platforms.

"My dad spent months creating his first system. He teamed up with a company that had a small business accounting software product, and together they were the first small business payroll and accounting software for personal computers," Oviedo said. The office is located in Scottsdale Airpark.

Oviedo and her family have lived in the Arcadia neighborhood for six years – she and her husband, Nick, attended schools in the area when they were younger.

"I love the strong sense of community that Arcadia offers. The first time I took dry cleaning to Kachina Cleaners, the owner recognized my last name and recalled that my husband's grandfather had been a regular customer, dropping off his Phoenix police uniforms to be cleaned over 30 years ago."

Even before the shutdown, Symmetry moved to a virtual format and had systems in place to accommodate remote work.

"This has made me a much more caring and empathetic leader. Understanding the unnerving weight of the pandemic and how it has impacted all of our employees differently has caused me to double down on our efforts to care for our employees as people before focusing on business results," Oviedo said.

She also said that the neighbors on their block have always been encouraging.

"As business owners with small children, we often are on the same schedule leaving for work in the morning and coming home. Just waving to one another, knowing that we are walking similar paths encourages me to continue the hard work of leading a business while caring for my family," Oviedo said.

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Fred Ross Celebrates 100 Years

By Mallory Gleich

In April 2020, *Arcadia News* wrote a piece about Fred and Nita Ross. Part of what made their story interesting was their ages – 99 and 95, respectively – and the fact that they've been together for almost 70 years.

Fred has made the headlines again this year as he recently celebrated his 100th birthday. The celebration was seen and heard throughout their neighborhood (and beyond), with family members and neighbors joining the commotion in the form of a birthday parade worthy of a king.

Aside from his family and friends, guests included the Phoenix Police Department, a United States Naval officer, the Phoenix SWAT team in full tactical gear with their vehicle, and an ice cream truck. A Phoenix PD helicopter flew overhead and wished Fred a happy birthday through their PA system.

"I was speechless, which never happens," Fred laughed. "I was overwhelmed with graciousness for everyone who came out. I don't know what it feels like to be 100, but right now, I feel great."

The police department's executive team presented Fred with a plaque celebrating his 100th birthday and thanked him for his Naval service.

There were balloons, ice cream, well wishes and even a few tears. It's safe to say this is a birthday Fred will continue to hold near and dear to his heart.



Fred's family, members of the Phoenix Police Department and a Naval officer helped him celebrate his 100th birthday, where he was awarded a plaque honoring his service.



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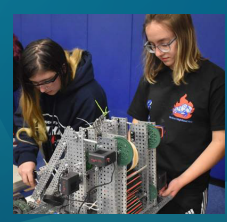
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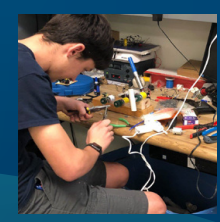
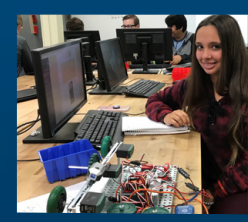
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DRIFTING ONTO THE SCENE



Valley resident making a name for himself

By Cliff Summerhill

Competitive drift driver Matt Haugen said that he was born to drift. Though he was into wakeboarding, snowboarding, and other extreme action sports while growing up, it wasn't until he turned 20 that he went to a two-day racing experience, where he first got the taste of racing and drifting.

"I didn't grow up around racing or any motorsports, but I was always attracted to cars, even when I was in a stroller," the 26-year-old said. "I had tons of Hot Wheels and went to car shows with my dad when I was young."

So, what exactly is drift-driving or "drifting"? According to Haugen, it's basically "controlled chaos."

Starting in Japan and popularized by movies like *The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift*, drift-driving has slowly made its way from a niche sport to a mainstream action (or extreme) sport.

Haugen explained that drifting is a form of motorsport where drivers slide the car around corners rather than maintaining traction. It's a big burnout but at high speed, all done on purpose.

"There's something about going 90 mph and intentionally flicking the car sideways around a turn that's just so exhilarating and wild," Haugen said.



Haugen drifting at Road Atlanta, one of the most famous tracks in the Formula Drift Pro-Drifting Championship.

"I find it to be a bigger adrenaline rush than wakeboarding or snowboarding."

In addition to the rush, Haugen loves the ability to turn any car into a race car, which drivers can't do with more traditional vehicles found within NASCAR or Formula 1.

"Most motorsports are very homologated and the only creativity is in the paint job," Haugen explained. "Drifting is unique in that we can turn any RWD [rear wheel drive] passenger vehicle into our race car. This means they all look and sound different than each other, and it allows for limitless car customization and design for the car, which is another huge passion of mine."

Haugen started competing worldwide in 2019 after completing racing school earlier that year. Formula Drift was Haugen's debut into the pro-drifting competition sports, and he said it wasn't the best start to his drifting career.

"It was a terrible debut into pro-competition, and the worst part is I did everything I could. It was just out of my hands," Haugen said.

He made up for it at competitions such as Just Drift and Vegas Drift. In 2022, Haugen will travel to Japan for the Formula Drift Japan championship. His strategy this time is to build everything himself to make sure everything is just right for the high-profile competition.

"I built a racing simulator to practice drifting virtually at home," Haugen said. "That's been massive to practicing and developing my skills. I'm mostly looking forward to the whole adventure."

Although drifting is becoming more popular in Arizona, Haugen's ultimate goal is to continue competing in Japan and eventually move there. He traveled there often to practice and fell in love with their culture around cars.

In addition to his pilgrimage, Haugen hopes to advance his career with more significant partners and expand his audience on YouTube to do bigger and better things within the drifting sport.

"My favorite part is entertaining people," Haugen shared. "Drifting is unique in that it's entertaining to watch even if you don't understand it."

haugenracing.com



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Two new eateries head to Central Phoenix this fall

By Mallory Gleich

Well-known for Arcadia area eateries like The Collins and Wally's, Chef Christopher Collins and his restaurant group, Common Ground Culinary, are adding a couple more restaurants to the roster.

Located on 7th St. just north of Missouri Ave. is The Colony, a collection of restaurants and retail shops. Neighborly Public House and St. Urban will be the newest residents – one building and two restaurants, as the duo sit one on top of the other.

> ***We want this place to be where people go to have fun, have cocktails and big-boy bottles of wine. It's going to be amazing.***

Neighborly will take over the bottom, and St. Urban will rest on top.

According to Chef Collins, the focus of Neighborly will be fan-fare American food like prime rib, baby-back ribs, salmon and fun appetizers like oysters Rockefeller, plus one of Collins' family recipes for homemade cornbread.

"My dad owned Marie Callender's, so cornbread was a staple of my childhood," Collins said. "I've always wanted to have a restaurant that had it, and I just never went for it. Since Neighborly is going to be dinner-only, this is a perfect time."

Collins said that he hopes Neighborly gives off two vibes – the restaurant you go to three days a week to sit at the bar and have a burger and a glass of wine, and also the place where couples go for an anniversary or date night.

"We want this place to be where people go to have fun, have cocktails and big-boy bottles of wine. It's going to be amazing," he said.

Previously, St. Urban's location housed a speakeasy – dim lighting, dark booths and not one window in the whole space. But that's about to change.

"I'm looking at the view, and I know Camelback and Piestewa Peak are there. This is the only second-story bar in the neighborhood, so I said, 'blow open the windows and get some glass doors, let's open this place up,'" Collins said.

St. Urban will be a small, intimate dining area with an "approachable" wine list. As St. Urban is the patron saint of wine, there will be an extensive list of beverages to go along with the Common Ground cocktail program.

"Since it's a Collins restaurant, we knew the food had to be the shining star. So this one is everything I want to eat, all the time," Collins said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACK GRIFFIN

Chef Christopher Collins.

The inspiration behind the dishes is that of a French brasserie, with shucked oysters, peel-and-eat shrimp, deviled eggs, charcuterie plates and bigger eats like flatbreads (insider tip: duck confit is on the menu!) and paninis.

The newly-constructed space will have floor-to-ceiling windows, glass sliding doors and all-new seating and décor.

"People are going to drive down 7th Street and look up and see this glowing restaurant with little bodies walking around and go 'what is that, I want to go see that,'" Collins said.

St. Urban will open for lunch, dinner and "a little" late-night.

Collins explained that he always knew there would be another opportunity for Common Ground, that his brain never stops thinking about restaurants and what the next step could be. He carries around a notebook called "The Name Game," where he writes down ideas, as well as names that he can trademark for future concepts.

"Neighborly and St. Urban are mine, in the whole country, forever and ever," he laughed. "The name came about because when something happens at the restaurant, I ask my staff, 'were you neighborly'? And they tease me about it. But that name was a slam dunk."

As far as location goes, Collins knew that he wanted to stay in Central Phoenix. He explained that even though restaurants are opening up and doing well in the west and east valley, this is where he grew up, where his friends and family are, and where he wants to stay.

The goal is for Neighborly to open first, in mid-October, for dinner only. St. Urban plans to open a week after.

This makes nine restaurants for Common Ground, which started in 2011.

Grassroots Kitchen and Tap, Wally's American Gastropub, Twisted Grove Parlor and Bar, The Collins Small Batch Kitchen, The Macintosh, Sweet Provisions, Neighborly Public House, St. Urban and Arcadia Catering Company make up the group.

"I feel like these restaurants wrap up Common Ground Culinary. Macintosh and Collins are doing so great. We have so much momentum, and these last two concepts will pull everything together so we can settle for a minute and focus on what we've got," Collins said.

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Nicolas Uzcategui, M.D.

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In his spare time, Dr. Uzcategui enjoys sports, traveling, time with his family and the Arizona outdoors.

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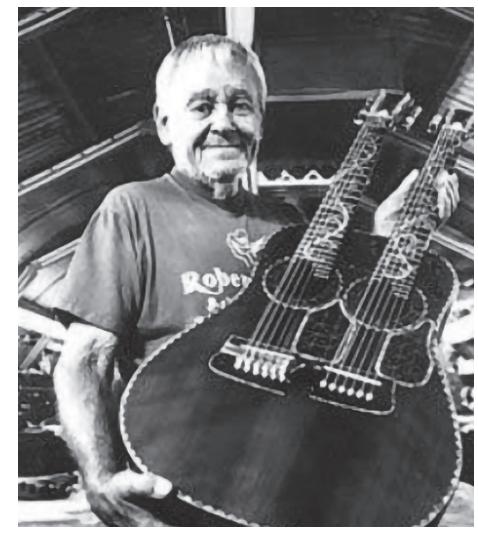
By Mallory Gleich

Did you know that there is a guitar-making school in downtown Phoenix? Neither did I, until *Arcadia News* did a podcast with Marshall Shore, and he mentioned the Roberto-Venn Luthiery School. I didn't know what luthiery meant, either, until I enlisted trusty Google to help me out.

That piqued my interest, so I headed down the construction-laden roads to the corner of Fillmore Road and 10th Ave. There, in a non-descriptive brick building on the corner, stands Roberto-Venn. Inside, there are multiple classrooms – though not the regular classrooms you might be thinking of. There are no desks. There are workstations and tools, most of which I'd never seen before. Outside, piles of wood shipped from Nicaragua are stacked against the wall.

It's here that I met William Eaton; founder, owner, guitar-maker extraordinaire. His name probably sounds familiar if you have experience in the instrument or music world. He's recorded over 16 albums and played in many musical acts.

The story of how he started at Roberto Venn – and how the school itself started – takes us back to a different time altogether.



JOHN ROBERTS

John Roberts was an airline mechanic in the U.S. Air Force in the early 1940s. After his service, he worked for Robinson Lumber Company in Nicaragua as an executive pilot. While there, Roberts met a boat builder and decided to build a yacht out of rosewood and mahogany.

Robinson Lumber was cutting in the area where those trees are found – above the stump for the straight grain wood – and would leave the stumps and other pieces that don't go to the mill laying around. Knowing the pieces were left behind, Roberts enlisted the help of indigenous people in the region and asked them to reclaim the stumps so he could use them to build his boat.

Eaton said Roberts amassed enough wood to fill up his backyard and then found out that the boat builder had left town.

"Now he's got all this wood, but it was kind of serendipitous when you think about starting a school," Eaton said.

Roberts and his wife decided to head back to Arizona, so he shipped the wood (with an actual ship and the help of three train cars) from Nicaragua to downtown Phoenix. He tried his hand at an import hardwood business. It didn't work, so he switched it up and started building guitars.

"Someone said to him, 'you know, there are a lot of young kids who are getting into crafting,' so he decided to start a school: Juan Roberto Guitar Works," Eaton said.

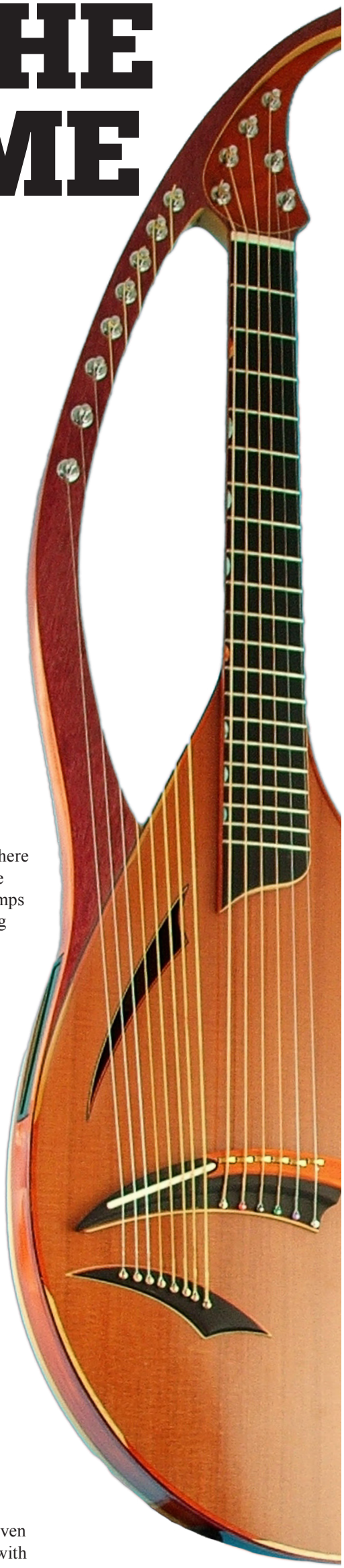
Roberts said that all the best guitar makers come from Spain, hence the creative moniker, Juan Roberto.

WILLIAM EATON

Eaton started playing guitar when he was seven years old. Growing up, he spent time playing with



One neck of this instrument connects to solid wood and uses two electro-magnetic pickups to amplify the sound of the strings, while the other neck connects to a hollow cavity to produce a semi-acoustic sound. The synthesizer translates sound elements and applies it to manufactured sounds to make the guitar sound like a piano, banjo, sitar, saxophone or any other instrument or sampled sound selected. The attached strings to the 'bow' shape are the harp strings that are plucked or strummed to accompany the sound of the guitar strings.







PHOTOS COURTESY OF WILLIAM EATON

A selection of instruments crafted at Roberto-Venn.

folk groups and rock and roll bands in Nebraska before earning a scholarship to ASU.

"I left all my guitars behind and decided it was time to be a grown-up," Eaton said. Everyone in his family was in the banking industry, so he thought he should follow suit.

The guitars eventually started calling to him once more, so he searched for the perfect one. Months went by until one day, a knock on the door revealed a gentleman trying to sell the guitar he made at Juan Roberto.

"I thought, 'wow, this is a cool guitar, maybe I should check this place out,'" Eaton said. "You walk in and see all the parts, smell the rosewood smell, and John Roberts comes out. I told him I wanted to buy a guitar, and he said, 'well, you should just build your own.'"

A few days later, Eaton enrolled at Juan Roberto. Four months later, he had his guitar. He said that building the instrument felt like meditation because you have to pay such great attention to detail.

Eaton still thought he was destined for business, however, so he headed to Stanford. One of his assignments was to come up with a business plan. Another serendipitous moment: a few days before getting the assignment, Eaton had a dream about building a second guitar and called Roberts to let him know that he would be coming down to Arizona soon. Enter the business plan.

"I had the idea of taking John's business and turning it into a full-fledged guitar school," Eaton said.

It was around this time that Roberts took on a partner at Guitar Works. The new guy's name? Bob Venn, from Bakersfield, California.

Venn's specialty was electric guitars. He was friends with – and made guitars for – well-known artists like Merle Haggard, Norm Hamlet and Tiny Moore. So, Venn does the electric, Roberts does the acoustic – this is the foundation for Roberto-Venn.

Eaton built his second guitar in three weeks while also putting together the business plan.

"A friend said, 'when will you ever have the chance to do this again' and he was right, so I took the chance," Eaton said.

He sent Roberts and Venn the plan, and they were in. It was 1975 when Roberto-Venn Luthiery became an official school.

Eaton drove his Ford Econoline van from Stanford to Arizona – and the van became his home for almost two years.

"I used that time to experience and explore the desert. I did a lot of hiking. In those days, everything was farm and desert. I was homeless, but I never felt like that," Eaton said. He used the time to learn everything he could about living with less.

He eventually found his way to Arcadia and the Rancho Joaquina House that was originally built by J.E. Thompson. J.E. was the brother of Boyce Thompson, who built the famous arboretum in Phoenix. (The house is still there – it's on Cheery Lynn Road in Arcadia). Eaton helped fix the bathhouse and added a recording studio on the property, where he lived for three years. These days, Eaton's home is in downtown Phoenix.



Bob Venn

ROBERTO-VENN LUTHIERY

Eaton, Roberts and Venn completed all permits and accreditations in 1979. Since then, they've earned over nine School of Excellence and School of Distinction awards from the Accrediting Commission of Careers, Schools and Colleges.

Students learn how to make acoustic and electric guitars from scratch and, in that, also learn about repairing and auxiliary information, like why guitars are braced a certain way and the geometry of a guitar. There are 10-week and five-month programs available, along with specialty courses like amp design and construction and a fretwork class. Eaton said classes held up to 40 students back in the day, but now there are about 15 people per class.

Director of Training John Reuter was instrumental in revising the curriculum that students learn today. Assistant Director Bart Applewhite "pretty much runs the school," Eaton said. Applewhite worked with Roberts and graduated from Roberto-Venn in 1993. Steve Davis teaches the electric program, and Jim Prater is on the acoustics.

Graduates from Roberto-Venn work for some of the largest guitar manufacturers – Fender, Taylor, Gibson, Paul Reed Smith – to medium companies like Collings Guitars, to small companies like Santa Cruz Guitars. Graduates have also excelled at becoming custom builders, starting their own guitar companies, or going into management positions.

"We're probably one or two degrees separated from any guitar that you can find in the world," Eaton said. "Our goal is to create a new lifestyle for these guys."

Individuals and groups are welcome to tour the school and attend a Q&A with the instructors. For more information, call 602-243-1179 or visit roberto-venn.com.

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Digital billboard denied for the fourth time

By Mallory Gleich

For the past four years, a battle has been fought in the Arcadia area – and it all centers on the northeast corner of 42nd Pl. and Indian School Road. The proposition for a digital billboard, which has been strongly opposed by residents and businesses alike, continues to persist. Arcadia News spoke with Tristahn Schaub of the Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association and Neal Haddad of the Arcadia Osborn Neighborhood Association to learn more about the most recent verdict and what will happen in the future for that corner.

When did Becker Boards apply to put a digital billboard on Indian School Road?

Becker first applied to rebuild and relocate the existing non-digital sign on its property in August 2017. They told city planners and the neighbors that the sign at 4234 E. Indian School Road would not be digital. They were approved to reconstruct and relocate the static sign. A hearing officer granted them the right to raise the sign seven feet (from 33 to 40), 'butterfly' the angle and move it to 10 feet from the street, instead of 25.

These were significant changes that the hearing officer admitted he would have felt differently about if it were a digital request. Still, Becker Boards had committed at the hearing that they would keep the sign as a static billboard. Three weeks later, Becker applied to make the sign digital. That was in November 2017, marking the first denial for Becker Board's digital conversion request.

How many times have they been denied?

There have been four applications by Becker to convert the static sign to digital. The first in 2017, the second in 2018; an appeal to the city's Board of Adjustment (BOA) followed in 2018 and the most recent application on September 9, 2021. Thus far, Becker has been turned down at this location four times by three different Zoning Hearing Officers (ZHOs) and once on appeal by the BOA. In all cases, the ZHO and BOA have shared the same concerns that the community has toward neighborhood deterioration and safety risks.

4234 E. Indian School Road is not only the location of this billboard, but the building below is also Becker's corporate headquarters. Little Woody's Bar is next door.

Why are residents opposed to the billboard?

More than 275 neighbors expressed what most people would characterize as vehement opposition to the proposed digital sign, citing incompatibility with the neighborhood, driver distraction, negative effects on traffic safety; and, negative effects on property values. The local businesses, Sacks Sandwiches and The Attic Ale House, would be immensely impacted by the beaming colors. The entire second floor would have had its mountain views spoiled by blinding color arrays changing every eight seconds. In addition, the reflective light would cause bedrooms to change color at night in neighboring homes.

Neighbors who opposed the application and argued before the hearing officer cited legal reasons why the digital billboard could not be approved, including a less than 500-foot separation from residential zoning, the billboard would downgrade property values, it would be a degradation of the area, and the sign would produce glare above ambient conditions. Chief among the legal reasons to deny is that Becker does not have and was never granted permission to rebuild a digital board, only the non-digital board. To do that, Becker would need to file for and be given the permission (a variance) to relocate and rebuild a digital sign.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ACMNA

A rendering of the proposed digital billboard on the northeast corner of 42nd Pl. and Indian School Road.

How many times can a company appeal the final decision?

There are three stages, the first is with the ZHO, the second is with the BOA, and the third is a costly legal appeal to Superior Court. Even if The Superior Court ruled against the applicant, they could still resubmit an application the very next year. For a billboard such as this, the $1,380 application fee pales in comparison to the potential revenue they would generate in a single month. We know of no other applicant like this where they apply continuously in such a manner. For neighbors, it's a costly, time-intensive battle at every stage. For the applicant, it's merely legal and filing fees that, once granted, pay for themselves.

What will be done if Becker decides to appeal?

Neighbors will challenge an appeal to the Board of Adjustment and provide examples to the board of the four previous denials. If the appeal is granted, we once again must build our case, enlist the support of our community and invest hours of our unreimbursed personal time. Why do we do it? Because we love Arcadia and we believe that its unique character is worth preserving.

Why don't they find another place for the billboard?

The 85018 zip code has some of the highest property values in Phoenix, which makes the limited commercial space and commercial advertising options a premium. Digital billboards generate three times the revenue of static billboards. The lower per-ad price makes ads more accessible, and they can sell a ton of them with a host of targeting options. The advertisers argue it's the wave of the future. Still, unlike invasive digital ads on our personal devices, there is no pop-up blocker or ad-blocking software option for motorists. We wonder why it's illegal to look at a 3x7 inch cell phone screen while driving, but we should allow a 14x48 foot screen to shine at us during rush hour.



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Tim Woods

Like father, like son: That's how Tim Woods ended up flying Black Hawk Assault Helicopters.

"As far back as I can remember, my dad was in an Air Force flight suit on weekends; coat and tie at his law office during the week," Woods recalled.

One of those roles stuck as Tim was intrigued with his father's service during the Vietnam War and in the Arizona Air National Guard after that. All told, an impressive 30-year military career culminating in the rank of Brigadier General.

> ***"I've had the privilege of wearing the uniform with some of the most patriotic, hard-working people in the world."***

"Though I knew I didn't want to be an attorney, military service seemed an inescapable strand in my DNA, so I joined the National Guard on a delayed enlistment as a senior in college," Woods said.

He chose to enlist rather than pursuing an officer commissioning source. "I wanted to learn and become proficient in our prescribed warrior tasks and ultimately be able to relate to the soldiers I one day hoped to lead," he explained.

Twenty-three years later, the Arizona native still serves in the Arizona Army National Guard as Deputy Brigade Commander for the 98th Aviation Troop Command consisting of numerous aircraft, wheeled vehicles and 1,200 aviators and soldiers.

Lt. Colonel Woods' resume includes two tours in Iraq as Company Commander and Task Force Operations Officer with 850 combat hours across more than 250 missions.

"Few people understand the sacrifice that military people make," Woods said, "and I've had the privilege of wearing the uniform with some of the most patriotic, hard-working people in the world."

He says his service has taught him firsthand about human hardship and oppression. Those indelible lessons provide perspective and shape how he conducts himself as a husband, father and professional.

"When you experience the threat of flying projectiles and see firsthand the results of violence and destruction, you gain a whole new perspective on life," he said emphatically. "Patience, respect, discipline and good order are all things that have carried over in my personal and professional life."

Tim, his sister, and two brothers grew up in Phoenix. He attended St. Thomas and then Brophy before heading to the University of Arizona. His wife, Bianca, is also a native, and they have two children, Henry and Peter.

"Both boys have already come to understand the notion of discipline and respect, and I attribute that to my upbringing and influence from military service," the 46-year-old father said with pride.

Today, Woods is president and co-owner of Farmer Woods Group, a full-service insurance brokerage firm. Last year he was elected to the Arizona Young Presidents Organization and has previously served the Thunderbirds as president and chairman of their Phoenix Open.

Along with monthly and annual training, Tim flies out of the Papago Military Reservation once a week to maintain required military proficiencies. "I am a citizen-soldier until time of war, and then it's game-on and doing whatever it takes to carry out the mission successfully," he said.

Asked who, other than his father, he admires most among American patriots, he named his grandfathers (both WWII vets) and his mother – who is as proud to be an American as anyone he has ever known.

"Dad is my real hero and mentor, hands down," Woods said, "and there's just no better guy in the world."

Like father, quite clearly, is the son.



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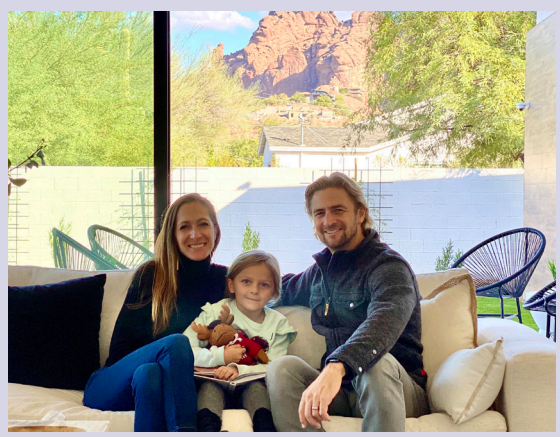


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Robin's Adventures

BY ROBIN SEWELL

Host and executive producer of Arizona Highways Television, *Saturdays and Sundays on CBS.*



Wrigley Mansion.



Christopher's restaurant.

There is a magical mansion on a mountain overlooking Phoenix that is full of glamour and mystique. The Wrigley Mansion was built in 1932 by William Wrigley Jr. – the chewing gum magnate – and has become a Phoenix landmark. It was designed as a 50th wedding anniversary gift for Wrigley's wife.

The mansion was quite the design feat and is still a work of art today. Wrigley's family sold the home in 1973, and it changed hands several times over the next two decades. When it was teetering on demolition and rumors of condominiums started, the late Geordie Hormel and his wife, Jamie, swooped in to save it and restored it to its former elegance.

Geordie and Jamie fell in love with the property, and their intention was always to share its inherent magic with everyone. First and foremost, from almost any vantage point, guests have the most dramatic views in Phoenix, both of the mountains and the city below. All around the mansion are original and ornate details, paintings and subtle nods to the mansion's first family. Black and white photos taken in 1973 hang throughout the rooms and the halls so guests can delve into the past and see how everything looked before the Wrigley family sold the home.

Guests can enjoy the mansion and take in the views in various ways – at Geordie's Restaurant and Lounge, Jamie's Wine Bar or Christopher's at the Wrigley Mansion.

Since his first restaurant opened in the Biltmore area, some may already know of James Beard award-winning chef Christopher Gross. He has received multiple accolades, including Food and Wine's Best New Chef, the Robert Mondavi Culinary Award and the coveted James Beard Award. He even cooked with Julia Child.

While classically trained, Christopher didn't learn his craft in a classroom. Instead, he's lived it with hands-on experiences that led him to where he is today. Christopher said that this is his dream restaurant, and after enjoying the eight-course tasting menu, guests might be dreaming of their next visit.

At Christopher's, the experience starts when you enter the room. There are ten tables of two, and those tables each have drawers where your silverware is waiting. Guests might be amazed by the glass windows, where the view goes on forever.

Guests are also greeted with a French cocktail and, shortly after, a glass of champagne and some hors d'oeuvres. Artisan touches are everywhere – from the charger plates adorned with Christopher's cartoons to commissioned bells from Arcosanti. Every guest leaves with a kitchen towel stamped C144. C, for chef or Christopher, and 144 equals 12 dozen or a "gross," Christopher's last name. A great meal and a great view equal out to a memory that guests can take home from the house the chewing gum built.



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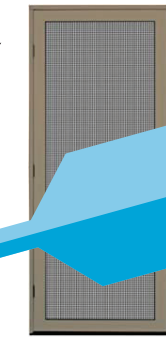
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EXPERIENCE WHAT YOU'VE EARNED >>

Phoenix Library presents an opportunity to flex reading muscles

By Hailey Pearson

This past year, Phoenix Public Library turned lemons into lemonade when challenged with turning in-person programming to online, all while maintaining and fostering an engaged community.

With all of the branches closed down, PPL was presented with the opportunity to reimagine its current programs and see how they could benefit community members at home.

"We're finding that online programs are popular, being that they are available to anyone throughout the city," said Geraldine Hills, Phoenix Public Library Communications Liaison.

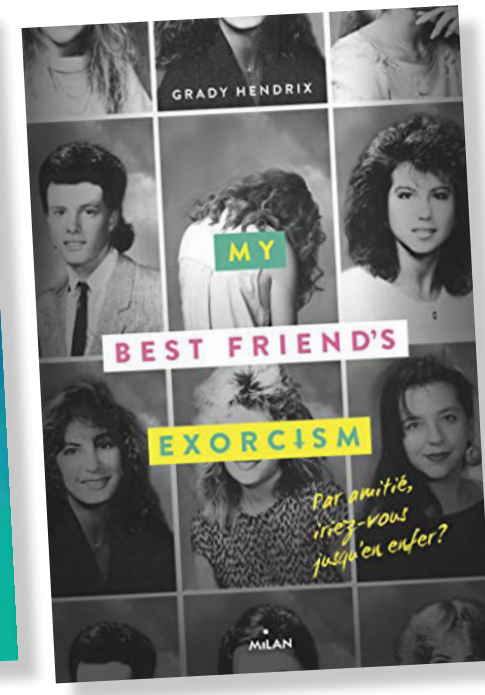
As a result of the growing popularity, PPL created free online book clubs that enable adults, tweens and teens to read along, participate in discussions, and join a community of like-minded readers, all from the comfort of their homes.

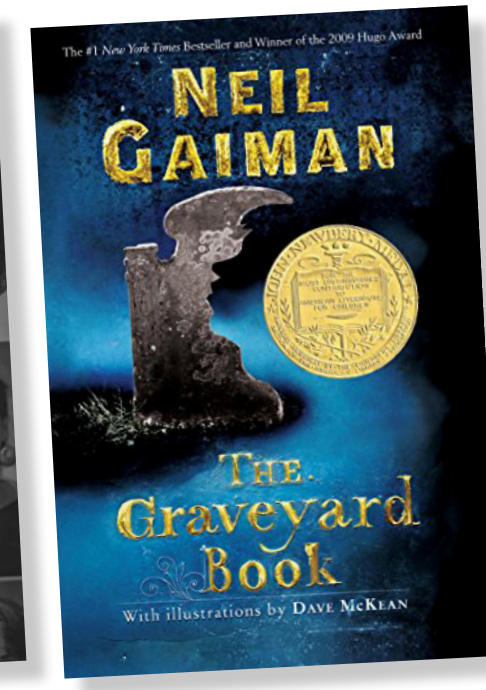
Before going online, each book club was branch-specific and didn't necessarily reach all age groups.

"This way, our book clubs are available to everyone, despite what their nearest branch may be offering," Hills said. PPL offers clubs for tweens, teens and adults who enjoy reading and discussing books.

The adult online book club, Book O'Clock, was the first to be created in 2020. The adult librarian staff runs this club, and they meet one Wednesday a month. Books are chosen based on popularity and availability in multiple formats, for example, audiobooks, e-books and print, ensuring that they appeal to a diverse audience. In October, they'll be reading *My Best Friend's Exorcism* by Grady Hendrix. The club will meet on Wednesday, October 20, from 6-7 p.m.







The tween and teen book clubs were started over the summer by the children's librarian staff. Hills said that the programs have proven to be successful and well attended.

The tween club, called Check' Em Out, appeals to ages 8-11. The club focuses on graphic and comic book novels. They'll be reading *The Okay Witch* by Emma Steinkellner and meeting on Tuesday, October 26, from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

"What is nice about this club is that, as we all know, kids have busy schedules. This is something that they can participate in without having to worry about rides," Hills said.

Our Weekend is Booked, the teen book club, is held on the last Saturday of each month. A group of teen volunteers is in charge of choosing the books. Their next meeting is on October 30 from 2-3 p.m., where they'll be discussing *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman.

"This program shows that no matter the format, people love being connected to books and talking about books, no matter what the genre is," Hills said.

All of the clubs are free but do require online registration to join.

phoenixpubliclibrary.org







How do you spell October? F-U-N

By Jennifer Marshall

Pumpkins, crisp air and football are all synonymous with the arrival of October. The tenth month gives us several notable days to commemorate and celebrate. So grab a handful of candy or a piece of pumpkin pie and check out these ideas on how you can get involved.

Remember that biology teacher who inspired you to become a doctor or the English professor who ignited a desire to pen the great American novel? Or, perhaps you were called to the teaching profession. In 1994, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) designated October 5 as **World Teacher's Day**, the perfect time to thank teachers for all they have done – especially these days!

Former students can show their appreciation by writing teachers a special note telling them the important role they have played in their success. For current students, one of the ways to show appreciation is presenting your teacher with a gift card to their favorite coffee shop or a collection of their favorite candies. A sincere and heartfelt "thank you" for their hard work will go a long way, as will treating teachers and classmates with respect.

en.unesco.org

October is **Breast Cancer Awareness Month**, and according to the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Arizona website, "every two minutes a new case of breast cancer is diagnosed in the U.S." Their signature fundraising event is vital to maintaining the organization's research and advocacy efforts.

The 2021 race will be virtual and held on Saturday, October 23. Entitled "Walk Where You Are," this race encourages participants to walk locally – in the yard, the neighborhood, around the park or on a treadmill. Invite friends, pop in your earbuds and make a day of it by going out to lunch or dinner afterward. Komen officials want everyone to participate at their own comfort level.

komen.org

All month long, witches, ghosts and goblins have been gathering, eager to usher in the most spooktacular day: **Halloween**. Meanwhile, families have been busy crafting, decorating and baking, hoping to give their spirited visitors a most spooky welcome.

As All Hallows' Eve draws near, families can celebrate the season at events like these:

The Epic Toy Show Halloween Bash

October 30 at the El Zaribah Shrine Auditorium, 552 N. 40th St., Phoenix. This family-friendly event features costume contests, trick-or-treating and plenty of toys and comic books for sale. Admission is $8 and children 12 and under are free.

Visit the Epic Toy Show Halloween Bash Facebook page for more information.

The Pumpkin Patch at Mother Nature's Farm

October 2 at 1663 E. Baseline Road, Gilbert. It's a bit of a drive, but for $10 per person, families can pick a pumpkin, go on a hayride, experience the Spider Web Crawl, pet and feed animals and find their way out of the Alexander's Adventure Maze.

mothernaturesfarm.com

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Determining the value of antique and vintage goods

The word "antique" is often used to describe anything that appears to be old, even if your grandmother purchased it in 1944. Age isn't the only defining factor when assessing any antique or vintage item.

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.

An item is antique if it is over 100 years old. If a business made it before 1921, it is an antique; after 1922, it is vintage. Congress adopted this definition in 1966.

Before that, an antique was defined as predating 1830 because the furniture was created by hand and not a machine. After 1830, furniture became increasingly mass-produced, transforming the industry by making goods available to the middle class.

Condition is the ruling factor when assessing antiques or vintage items. If a furniture item is damaged or poorly restored, the value plummets, especially if it is a commonplace item. A collector will not pay a premium price on an as-is piece.

Normal wear is expected. An 18th century Chippendale chair doesn't need to retain its original upholstery. Still, its original legs and feet should all be intact. The same applies to a vintage mid-century chair by Jens Risom or Charles Emes.

Fine glass, porcelain, and pottery chips, nicks, cracks, repairs and scratches on breakable pieces will mean a significant loss of value. Chips on rims of glasses and plates, spouts and porcelain figures are standard, which results in "no-value" for a collector. Even if professionally restored, it lowers the value by 75 percent or more.

Many mass-produced items from the early 20th century – through both world wars – still exist in large quantities today.

Though old, most of these items are not yet antique, nor are they rare. Such porcelain pieces as Haviland or Limoges tableware, dresser sets, depression glass, Nippon teaware, and colonial-style furniture (that many people have inherited from their grandparents) are not as collectible in the marketplace as they were twenty years ago.

Yet, they often have higher sentimental value than monetary worth. Check current and completed auction listings online to help determine how much it sold for, which will help determine what it might be worth.

The style of an antique or a vintage mid-century item has an impact on its desirability. Furniture styles go in and out of fashion in cycles, just like clothing. At one time, Rococo Louis XV style was in demand and fashionable but was later replaced with the more linear neoclassical style and replaced again with today's market for vintage mid-century modern.



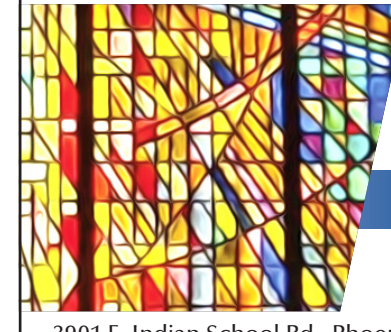
Vintage chippendale armchair

Furniture forms can lose their function, thus rendering them obsolete. Case in point, the armoire that was popular for storing entertainment systems has almost no value in today's market. Some charities will not accept them because they just don't sell.

Other factors contribute to the value of an item, including material, provenance, and the maker. The most crucial point is that the "antique" that you so admire has the value of importance to you, your home, and your family history and not to the buyer in today's crazed vintage mid-century décor demand.

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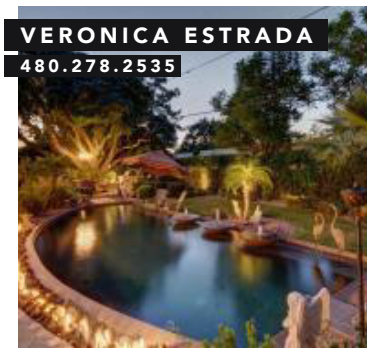
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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Teacher/student come full circle to introduce new poet laureate

By Mallory Gleich

A long, long time ago – 2012 – I took a Paradise Valley Community College class called Creative Writing. Little did I know that the assignments posted in that class would launch me into one of my favorite hobbies, and eventually, my career.

The professor of that class, Lois Roma-Deeley, had a hand in shaping and sharpening my writing skills, and I value these immensely. So, when Roma-Deeley's name popped up on Scottsdale's website with news that she had been selected as Scottsdale's new poet laureate, I knew I had to reach out to show that her teaching has stuck with me, all these years later.

Roma-Deeley is not an Arizona native – her New York accent is a dead giveaway – but she has called Scottsdale home for over four decades. She and her husband moved west from Long Island for work and school opportunities.

"My accent comes in handy, as my students and colleagues think I'm tough," she laughed.

Roma-Deeley is not only an educator; she has worn many hats throughout her career.

She published four poetry books and founded and directed the creative writing and women's studies programs at PVCC. She has served as a contest judge, publisher, public speaker and is currently the associate editor of *Presence*, an international poetry journal.

With these titles also comes a collection of accolades, including the winner of the Jacopone da Todi Book Prize, Paterson Poetry Prize Finalist, an Arizona Commission on the Arts grant and being a four-time recipient of Ragdale Residency Fellowships.

"My poems have been featured in numerous literary journals and anthologies, nationally and internationally. I've read my work at colleges, universities, museums, galleries, arts organizations and community centers around the country," Roma-Deeley said.

She was also named U.S. Professor of the Year, Community College, by the Carnegie Foundation in Advancement of Teaching and CASE in 2012-13.

> ***"The position of poet laureate, which is a four-year term, has many opportunities for me to be an active literary arts advocate and engage the public in meaningful ways."***

But before all the glitz and glamour, she was a student at Arizona State. She graduated with a Master in Fine Arts in Poetry before heading to The Union Institute and University in Cincinnati, Ohio. She received her Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies with a primary emphasis on poetry.



Lois Roma-Deeley

She's taught at PVCC, where she is Professor Emerita, ASU and Northern Arizona University, and she had a residency at Bowling Green University in Ohio. With credentials like these, one can see that she'll fill the previous poet laureate's shoes just fine.

Roma-Deeley found out about the position through one of her former students, and it piqued her interest.

"It has always been a privilege to actively contribute to our literary community at local, state and national levels. The position of poet laureate, which is a four-year term, has many opportunities for me to be an active literary arts advocate and engage the public in meaningful ways," she said.

After an extensive application process, Roma-Deeley also had to submit a video recording of a poetry reading, a 1,000-word proposal of how she would engage with the public as the city's poet laureate, samples of workshops or projects, a 500-word description of her connection to Scottsdale and five of her poems. She was appointed poet laureate at a public ceremony in late September. Roma-Deeley's responsibilities include reading poems at ceremonial or literary events, such as building or public art unveilings, council meetings, and art or community events. Each year, she presents a commemorative poem at the annual State of the City event and works with Scottsdale Arts and the Scottsdale Public Library on various events.

"It has been my pleasure to call Scottsdale home for more than four decades and to represent the city in my professional and personal life. As poet laureate, I bring Scottsdale my experiences as a poet, editor, educator and will continue to contribute to our literary community at local, state and national levels," Roma-Deeley said.

After her poet laureate term is complete, Roma-Deeley plans to continue writing, editing and teaching. And with her shared knowledge, I plan to do the same (minus the teaching!).

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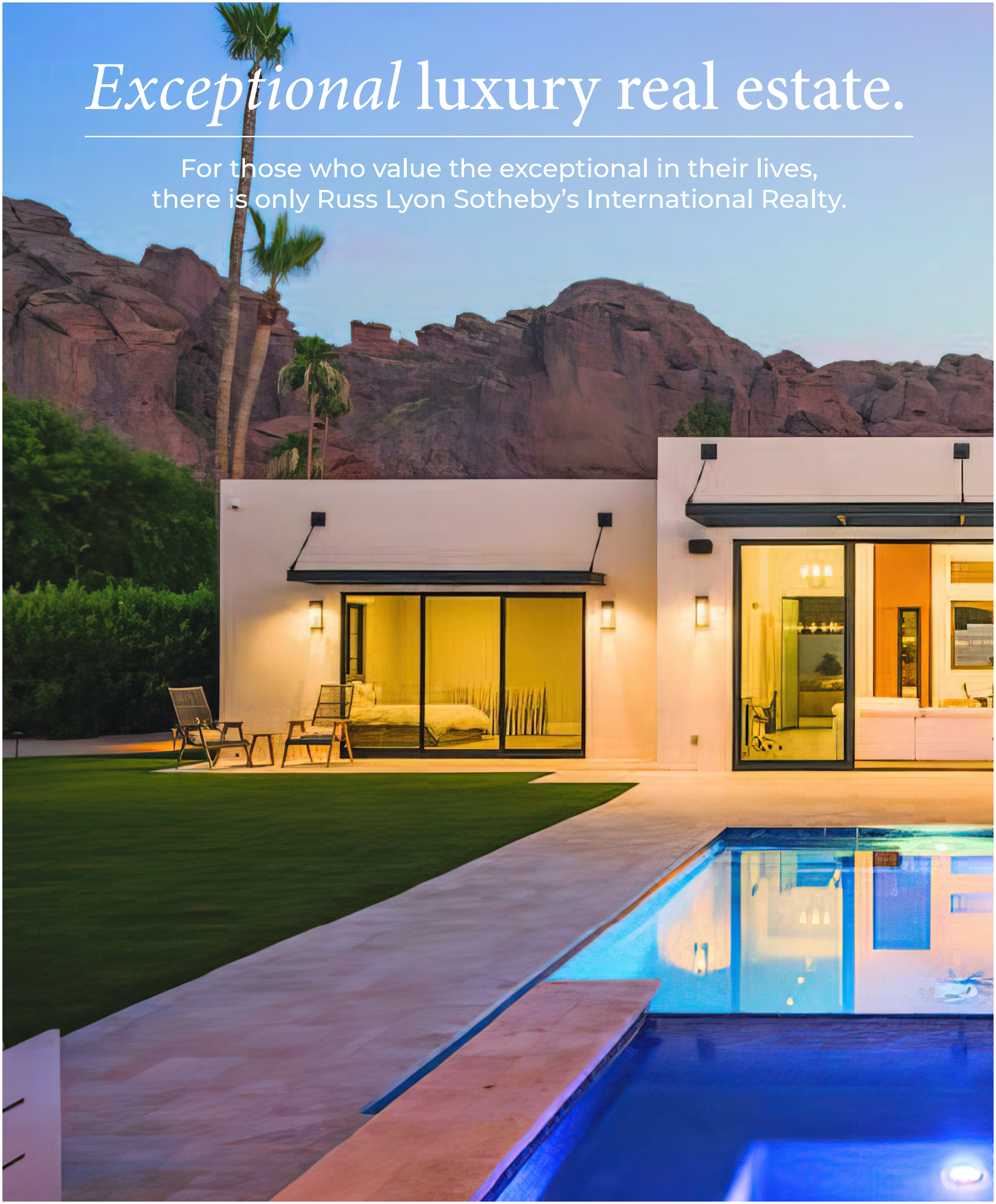
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Trees: A valuable resource that offers more than just shade

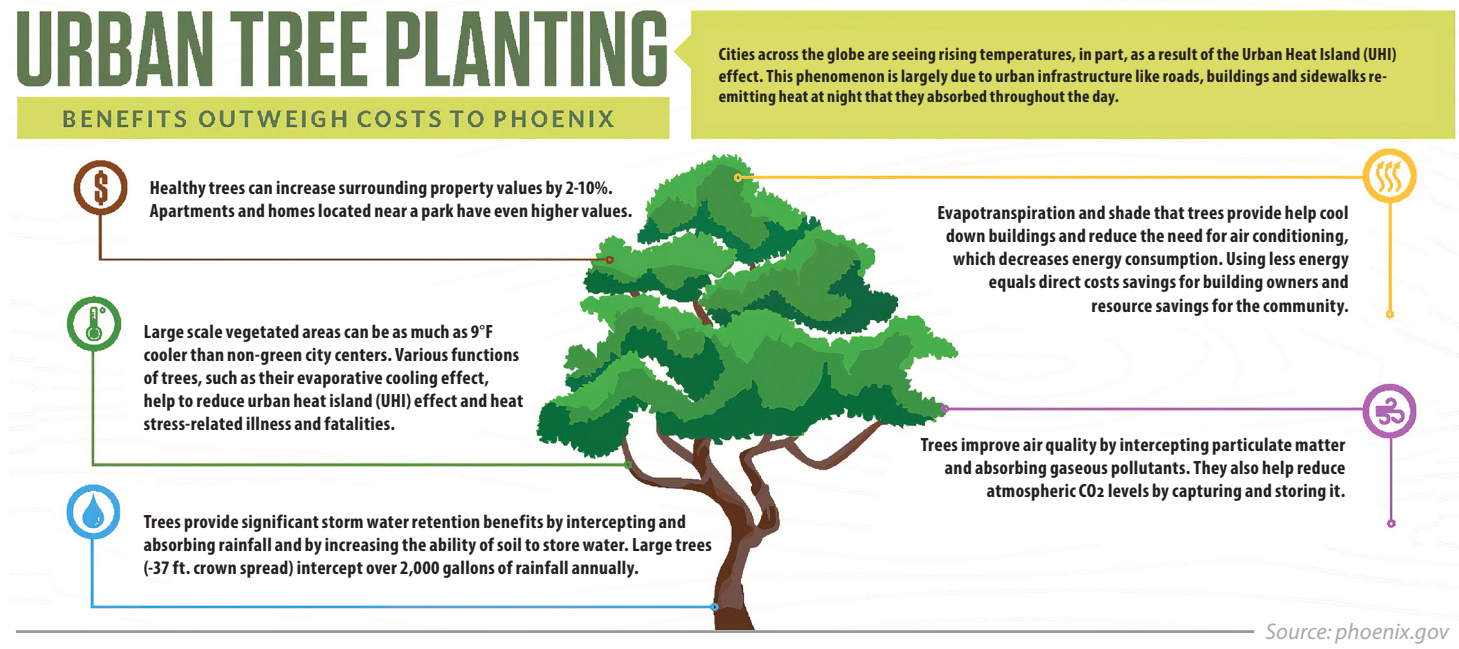
By Jennifer Marshall

June 2021 holds the unpleasant record as the hottest June in the history of Phoenix. According to the National Weather Service, the average temperature through the month was 95.3 degrees Fahrenheit, beating out the record of 94.8 F, set in 2013 and 2016.

Opinions differ on why our temperatures are hotter than ever. One thing we do agree on: it's hot out there for a good chunk of the year. Solutions to mitigate the heat and its dangerous effects are in the works. One positive solution in progress is the creation of healthier urban forests.

"An urban forest is a collection of woody vegetation in an urban environment," said Nicole Rodriguez, a certified arborist and community advocate who serves on the Urban Heat Island and Tree and Shade Subcommittee for the City of Phoenix. "While urban forests are infrastructure, they're a public health infrastructure that is necessary to combat urban heat island issues and make Phoenix a more livable city."

The concept behind healthy urban forests is simple. Freeways, cars, buildings, and roads, the tangible, modern items that make our city a city, radiate heat, and that heat creates an urban heat island. Urban forests, which are most often comprised of a collection of connected trees (as in natural forests), band together and provide shade, helping lower temperatures. While shrubs are also beneficial, a cluster of trees offers more shade.



"What makes a healthy urban forest is when there is connectivity among trees through public parks, homeowners and businesses having trees on their property and trees on our right-of-ways along the roadway," Rodriguez said. "When all these trees are connected, they help one another out by being more viable."

In addition to reducing extreme heat and keeping the area cooler, healthy and viable trees in urban forests also help maintain soil moisture content. For landscapes, that translates to a reduction in municipal water use for watering purposes, improving the community's environmental impact. In the same way houseplants help clean residential air, urban forests help remove pollutants from the environment.

While people may not think that forests and deserts go together, Rodriguez promises they can be quite compatible.

"Our surrounding desert is a natural environment," Rodriguez said, "while nothing about our city is natural. So, for Phoenix to be a healthy, comfortable place to live, we must implement ideas like urban forests. You can have an urban forest in a desert environment when you use desert-adapted trees."

She further explained that "desert-adapted" doesn't necessarily mean native trees. Trees can be sourced from anywhere in the world that has a similar dry climate. Phoenix has a diverse group of trees to choose from. Rodriguez suggests using appropriate trees from areas in China and Australia. Selecting varieties that won't disturb urban fixtures, like sidewalks, is another necessary consideration.

In 2010, Phoenix enacted the Tree and Shade Masterplan to increase the urban forest tree canopy to 25 percent city coverage by 2030. Unfortunately, the city is nowhere near meeting that goal. A 2014 study (the last study taken on the subject) estimated coverage at only nine percent.

"We're trying our best to keep Phoenix on track with those goals that are stipulated in the Tree and Shade Masterplan of 2010," Rodriguez said. "We're putting a lot of energy and focus into this to get it done and to make Phoenix a more habitable city now and for future generations."

In 2018, a study was conducted in Arcadia to develop a design concept for implementing bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements on 56th St. from Thomas to Camelback Road, encompassing about 1.5 miles.

The project introduced various changes to the area, including bicycle and pedestrian gaps along the corridor, fixing utility and storm drainage issues, and opportunities for green infrastructure and enhanced landscape features. The proposal also promoted safe routes to school connections.

According to Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association President Tristahn Schaub, the latest update was early this summer. The city of Phoenix has accepted DOT funds for the project, and Schaub said that the funds must be used by 2024.

"My concern is that to get moving, the project would require a year's worth of infrastructure plans and some additional community meetings, and COVID has stalled a lot of that," Schaub said.

The City of Phoenix website states that plans to start designing the project will happen in fall 2021.

phoenix.gov



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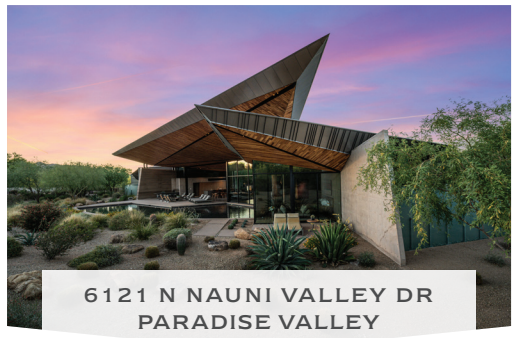


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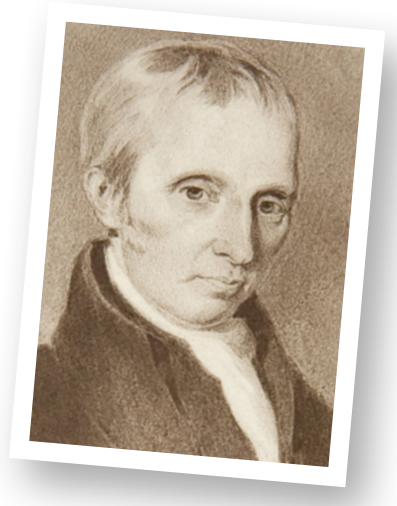
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DID YOU KNOW? CHOCOLATE

WHEN?

1847



The world's first chocolate bar dates back to 1847. Joseph Fry created it with the help of his son, and they made it with cocoa butter, cocoa powder and sugar.
– history.com

HOW BIG?

12K+ lbs



The record for the largest chocolate bar in the world was set by Thornton's PLC in the United Kingdom on September 7, 2011. It weighed 12,770 pounds.
– guinnessworldrecords.com

HOW MUCH?

$687



The most valuable chocolate bar in the world sold for $687. This Cadbury chocolate bar had a high price tag for a good reason. In 2001, when it was sold, this bar of chocolate was 100 years old and went on Captain Robert Scott's first discovery expedition to the Antarctic.
– guinnessworldrecords.com

HOW MANY?

500



According to Hershey's, it takes 500 cocoa beans to produce one pound of chocolate. To put that in perspective, that's about ten standard-sized Hershey's chocolate bars, which are 1.5 ounces. *– thehersheycompany.com*

600

Chocolate contains over 600 flavor compounds, which give off its distinct aroma. In comparison, red wine is reported only to have around 200 flavor compounds. *– acs.org*



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DID YOU KNOW? CHOCOLATE

CHOCOLATE FACTS

SOURCE: EATTHIS.COM/CHOCOLATE-FACTS

Chocolate was a form of currency in the Mayan times.

Europe accounts for more than half of the world's chocolate consumption.

The scientific name for chocolate is *theobroma cacao,* for the tree that it comes from. It translates to 'food of the gods.'

It takes about a year for a cocoa tree to produce enough beans to make 10 Hershey bars.

The word 'chocolate' comes from the Aztec word 'xocolatl.'

During the Revolutionary War, some soldiers received chocolate as payment.

Chocolate creates a greater mental high than kissing.



Hershey's makes 70 million kisses a day.

Hershey's kisses got their name from the sound the machine makes.

The inventor of the chocolate chip cookie sold the recipe to Nestlé in exchange for a lifetime supply of chocolate.

There are four different types of chocolate: dark, milk, white and red.

The chocolate industry is worth over $75 billion per year globally.

Chocolate milk was invented in Jamaica in the early 1700s.



Chocolate milk is an effective post-workout recovery drink.

German chocolate cake has nothing to do with Germany; it was named after its inventor Sam German.

The average milk chocolate bar has about 50 milligrams of caffeine.

Americans buy more than 58 million pounds of chocolate during Valentine's Day.

The Brussels Airport is the biggest chocolate seller in the world.

More than two-thirds of the world's cocoa is grown in Africa.

Benjamin Franklin sold chocolate in his print shop in Philadelphia.



It takes about one week to make a single-serve chocolate bar.

The French celebrate April Fool's Day with fish-shaped chocolate.

$1.4 billion worth of cocoa products are consumed each year in the U.S.

Snickers was named after a horse.

Nestlé was founded in 1866.

Dark chocolate contains heart-healthy antioxidants and eating it regularly may reduce the risk of heart disease.

The smell of chocolate triggers relaxation.

Milton Hershey got his start making caramels, not chocolate.

Swiss people eat the most chocolate per year.

SAY WHAT?



WHITE CHOCOLATE ISN'T CHOCOLATE?

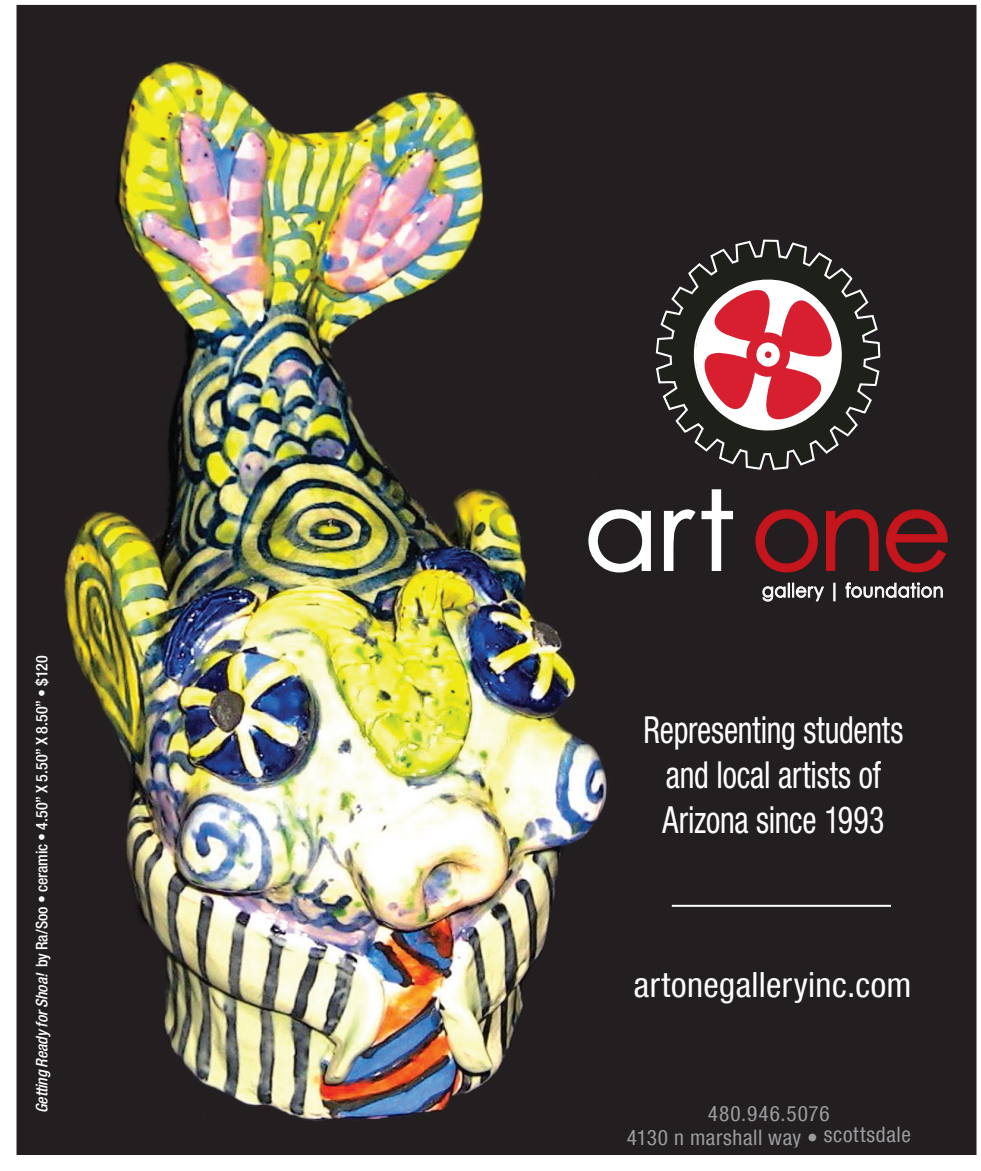
White chocolate contains cocoa butter but doesn't contain any cocoa powder or cocoa solids that give regular milk and dark chocolate color and flavor. Cocoa butter is mixed with milk fat, vanilla, and sugar for a sweeter flavor.

– *eatthis.com/chocolate-facts*

CHOCOLATE WORD SEARCH

V	F	I	T	K	Q	T	V	D	E	W	K	Z	E	I	R	D	W	V	K	R	X	I	C	T
O	H	O	S	Z	G	X	G	E	J	W	X	V	X	K	P	A	G	Y	D	O	Q	K	Q	O
U	Z	N	O	V	S	P	H	F	Z	Q	K	W	B	B	Q	P	F	I	A	O	L	A	B	K
A	Z	W	B	I	N	X	W	A	U	N	R	D	X	T	B	C	T	R	P	M	Q	V	I	B
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An ongoing pursuit

If the pandemic has given us nothing else, it's provided perspective both in home life and work life. In particular, it's been a huge reminder of what's most important. I've said that more than once lately, but the theme of pursuing happiness persists.

I recently made a new friend. This person is smart, accomplished and has a long career made up of jobs that would impress anyone. We're the same age. But there is one thing that's very different between us. This friend is dying of terminal cancer. He hasn't known about it for long, and he wasn't given much time.

We spend most of our lives waiting for the future. We're waiting until our work gets better. We're waiting for another time to travel. We're waiting to take risks. We're waiting for a promotion. We're unhappily trudging through life, waiting for something new.

And, unfortunately, that future we're patiently waiting for is not guaranteed.



Career Corner

BY ANGELA COPELAND

Career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching. copelandcoaching.com

Although my friend's story is sad, it's also inspirational. He is using his time to pursue the things he loves. He's traveling, surfing, and spending time with friends. He's living without fear, and he's no longer doing the things he hates. There's no more time for being unhappy with a job or living an unhappy life. He is pursuing his happiness.

If you don't love your work, perhaps it's time to reevaluate. Companies are being more flexible than ever. Many jobs are remote. And some companies are offering new perks to help their employees with work-life balance. If you've ever wanted to work for a company that's not located near your home (but you don't want to move), this is the time. If you've ever wanted to move (but haven't been able to because of your job), this is also the time.

Steve Jobs famously said, "For the past 33 years, I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself, 'If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?' And whenever the answer has been 'no' for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something."

That is a simple yet important concept. We're all going through a period that feels out of control with fewer choices available to us than we would like. We may feel stuck. But don't lose hope. In the same way that the pandemic has closed doors, it has opened new ones. Look for those new doors, and redesign your life so that you can pursue your own happiness.

From the Archives

ARCADIA NEWS

Vol. 22 No. 7 AWARD WINNING NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS SINCE 1993 October 2014

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Trick or Treat, Arcadia! Samantha Bruning, Madison Peak, Carlie Peak and Serenity Bruning know a thing or two about making their own Halloween costumes. Find inspiration to create your own after reading our feature on homemade costumes in Arcadia on page 15.

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Prost! - ein Toast! Oktoberfest is here and we raise our glass to the line-up of festivities Phoenix has to offer.

Page 32

Arcadia News Book Club prepares to welcome author for Q&A at upcoming book club event.

Page 66

Trick or Treat, Arcadia! Samantha Bruning, Madison Peak, Carlie Peak and Serenity Bruning know a thing or two about making their own Halloween costumes. Find inspiration to create your own after reading our feature on homemade costumes in Arcadia.

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Academics play a role in success of volleyball team

By Rachael Bouley

The Xavier Prep volleyball team has a nearly decade-long streak of winning, and not just in athletics. The team recently earned the U.S. Marine Corps and American Volleyball Coaches Association's Team Academic Award for the 2020-2021 season.

The award, which began back in 1992-93, recognizes volleyball teams that maintain a year-long grade-point average of 3.30 on a 4.0 scale.

As the head volleyball coach, Lamar-Renee Bryant acknowledges the importance of balancing sports and schoolwork, allowing the Gators to earn well-deserved recognition for their efforts. She said her student-athletes worked hard to make this award a reality for the ninth year in a row.

"We go to an academically rigorous school, so these girls have to put the same amount of work into the classroom as they do in sports. This award furthers the school's mission: women of faith pursuing excellence," Bryant said.

Bryant explained that time management is a crucial skill for student-athletes, and the volleyball coaching staff constantly reiterates the need to do academics first.

"We encourage athletes to meet with teachers and be on top of their assignments because if they are stressed in the classroom, they are stressed on the court," Bryant said. "We want them to be aware and ask for support when needed."



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAMAR-RENEE BRYANT

Elle McCreery, Kate Tax, Emma Caruso, Ava Larkin, Tiffany Tellez, Alexa Shiner, Kristy Tom, Hannah Ulisch, Mia Accomazzo, Olivia Lenz, Maddie MacDonald, Emma Soderstrom, Theresa Romero, Finley Workman and Isabella Sinacori.

Bryant recognizes that the team's achievements mean a lot to the school and that it's essential to show their talent not only on the court but also in the classroom. It is something the Gators will keep striving for in the season ahead.

"We are still living in this crazy world, so the goals for us are to maintain both mental and physical health throughout the season," Bryant said. "We want to be able to complete the season and play. We want volleyball to be an outlet for our girls to grow as they experience the stress of living in this unchartered territory."

The team advanced to the quarterfinals of the 6A State Championships last year. Now, the 6A champs are ready to get back to the game they love. Tournaments start in early November, with the state championship set for November 13.

The team comprises 15 talented athletes, including six seniors, five juniors, two sophomores, and two freshmen.

"Our seniors set the tone and work hard to carry on the legacy and teach the younger girls," Bryant said. "I applaud our seniors for their efforts and how they reach back to continue traditions.

Bryant said the support of the school community and administration also helps Xavier volleyball succeed.

"We are so grateful for our Athletic Director Sister Lynn Winsor, Principal Sister Joan Nuckols, and President Sister Joan Fitzgerald, who all provide strong guidance for girls in the classroom and competitive arena of sports."

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PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHEN DANFORD

Jackson Pieratt, Drew Stauffacher, Oliver Smith, John Dadam, Jack Peters, Blue Guidinger and Daniel Olguin. Not pictured: Ian Christoffersen, Parker Bond, Greysen Tass and Cameron Kaye.

New season + new coach = championship goals in sight

By Mallory Gleich

Arcadia High's boys' golf team has some new leaders of the pack this year, and with their clubs in hand and new coach Stephen Danford on deck, they were ready to hit the green at the start of the season and continue to show the golf community what they've got.

Danford's name probably sounds familiar to those who attend or have a child who attends AHS. He's been a special education teacher and the basketball coach at Arcadia for a little over a decade.

When the golf coach position opened up, Danford decided he would try his hand at the sport as a change of pace from the bouncing, orange ball he's used to.

"It's been a lot of fun. The kids are great, and I love coaching," he said. Danford said he will continue teaching and coaching basketball as well as being the golf coach this year.

Golf started in early August, with 18 matches and three tournaments scheduled throughout the season that ends in October. Danford said that the focus this year is to build on the culture that previous teams have made.

"I brought some of my philosophies and tools from basketball to the golf game, but they are really talented kids. It's different from coaching on a court," he said.

According to Danford, getting the players organized and ensuring they're doing the right thing in the classroom and the community are two crucial facets of being a coach.

To gain a spot on the boys' team, students had to play an 18-hole qualifier game, and the coaches made cuts based on performance. Twenty-two students tried out, and 10 made the team: two freshmen, two sophomores, three juniors and three seniors. Danford said that at the start of this year, the boys needed to gain more experience on the green.

"For the last three years, AHS had some really great golfers – sophomores, juniors and seniors – so this group is learning how to lead, how to be the top dog," he said.

A strength is that each player brings to the team this year is a high golf IQ; they know how to spot good and bad shots and when to take risks. Practices include working on hitting, putting, chipping, driving and range work. Players practice at Arizona Country Club and try to get in at least 18 holes a week to work on their form and range.

"Our goal as coaches is to make them better men first. If you're good fundamentally, then the wins will take care of themselves – and these kids are really solid fundamentally," Danford said.

In their first two matches in mid-August, AHS took first against Mountain Pointe and Saguaro and second place against Chaparral and Pinnacle. These matches help the boys get into a rhythm of playing each week and are part of Danford's "getting work done" philosophy.

In each match, five players take on the other five from each school. Player one takes on player one from the opposing team, player two against player two, and so on. They play nine holes and whoever scores lowest wins the individual portion of the match. The lowest team score will win the match.

Danford had high praise for all team members, but shared some names to watch out for this season.

Juniors Parker Bond and Jack Peters and seniors John Dadam and Cameron Kaye are the glue that keeps the team together, according to Danford.

"These kids are excited to play and excited to be the leaders of this program," Danford said.

The team has continued to try and rack up their best scores this season, hoping to make it to the state championship in late October in Tucson. The best seven scores from 18 matches will determine where schools are placed in the championship seed. Arcadia is currently ranked fifth in the state.

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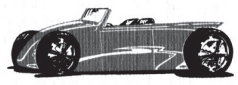
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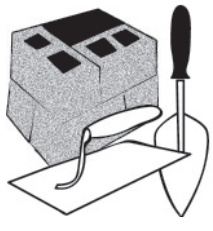
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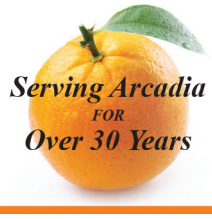
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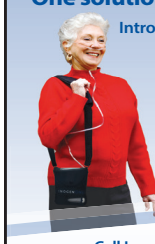




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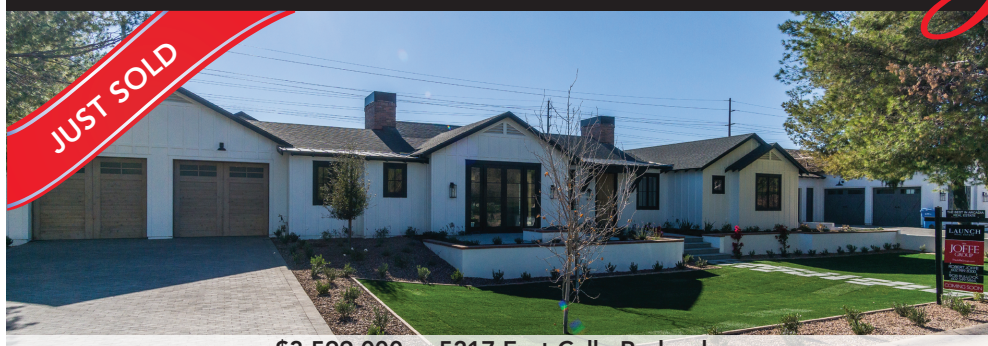


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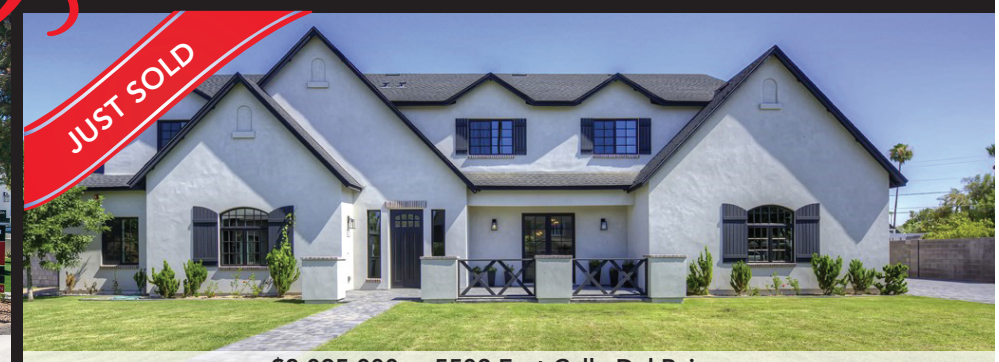


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