ARCADIA NEWS

VOL. 29 NO. 9 ARCADIA • BILTMORE • CAMELBACK CORRIDOR DECEMBER 2021



PUBLISHER OF THE YEAR

Arcadia News' owner and Publisher Greg Bruns was honored with the Publisher of the Year award.

PAGE 12

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

'Tis the season for the man in red, coming soon to a chimney near you.

BE KIND, ALWAYS

AHS student Ella Crowson followed in her sister's footsteps and created a club with one purpose: be kind.

PAGE 21



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acp Association of Community Publishers MEMBER PUBLICATION

Proud Member



DECEMBER

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The annual Tavan Twinkles boutique event is back this year, with student and adult vendors showcasing their handmade creations to keep the holiday spirit strong.

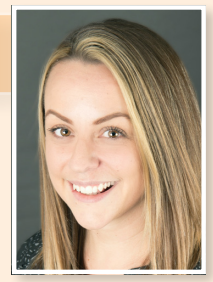
54 Fall sports round-up
Arcadia High, Brophy, Xavier and Veritas Prep each finished their fall sports seasons with a multitude of recognitions to be proud of, and now they are gearing up for next year!



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SCOTTSDALE FAIRMONT PRINCESS



EDITOR'S NOTE



I want to start this month's note off with massive congratulations to our fearless leader, Greg Bruns, for winning 2021 Publisher of the Year from the Association of Community Publishers, the largest association of freely distributed papers in the country.

Greg started at *Arcadia News* in 1997 as a humor columnist and worked his way through the business. When the previous owners decided to sell the paper in 2001, they offered it to Greg. Since then, it's grown to include the Teachers We Love program, the Arcadia Scholarship, and all of the other awesome news our favorite people (the readers!) can learn about every month.

The December edition – sprinkled with lots of holiday happenings – is also all about the people. We've highlighted the National Merit semifinalists at some area schools and are showing off all the recognitions from high school sports. Students at Tavan Elementary, along with a few local businesses, are gearing up for their annual Tavan Twinkles shopping boutique.

Also close to my heart is the Arizona Humane Society's Papago Park campus, which broke ground last month and will include various new programs along with continued adoptions.

2021 is coming to an end, and I'm excited to see what the new year will bring. Thank you, readers, for your continued support, and for reading *Arcadia News*. Happy holidays!

Mallory

– Mallory Gleich

UPCOMING THEMES:

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Fitness/Health	*History*	*Spring & Arcadia Home + Design*

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"You can tell a lot about a person by the way they handle three things: a rainy day, lost luggage and tangled Christmas tree lights."

–Maya Angelou



THIS MONTH'S WINNER:

Michelle Lutz, preschool teacher at The Hills School

Nominated by Breanna Chanson

ARCADIA NEWS TEACHERS we love

Ms. Michelle is so passionate about play-based and child-led education that she went on a pilgrimage in Italy to learn more about it. So, unlike me in the beginning, she doesn't see a room full of little children, but rather a classroom full of students who have their own ways of communicating and just need someone who speaks their language. I've become a student of hers as well, and it's changed my relationship with my daughter. Ms. Michelle fosters an atmosphere of curiosity, critical thinking, and a long-term love of learning that has changed our family forever.



Michelle Lutz

How long have you been teaching at The Hills School?

Some of my training was in Reggio Emilia, Italy, home to a beautiful philosophy of learning. The Hills School is a Reggio Emilia-inspired school so when the opportunity arose three years ago, I happily joined this community.

Have you taught anywhere else?

I've been a preschool teacher for nearly 20 years at Valley schools. Even when several schools weren't Reggio-inspired, my classrooms reflected the philosophy.

What is your favorite part of being a teacher?

The "spark". When children understand something new, it creates a rush of excitement to learn more. That feeds a teacher's soul. I set to work to provide provocations that scaffold new curiosities. I ask questions and really listen to their answers.

Why did you want to become a teacher?

When my children were young, I struggled to find a good preschool. My mother encouraged me to become a teacher, to be the change I wanted to see. I started in Michigan as a paraprofessional and continued my college education in Arizona.

How do you connect your lessons to the real world?

We make connections in everything we do. We avoid rote learning because children often can't understand the "why" of what they are learning. Children need to construct knowledge, not passively receive it. They learn physics by catapulting a pumpkin (yes, it was marvelous) or using playground pulleys. Our emergent curriculum starts with the interests of the child, yet we also cover the standards important for kindergarten. It's a beautiful thing when children know that their curiosities are important and their voices are heard!

What are some of your unique techniques you use for teaching?

Children can safely do big things. We paint with electric drills, use sewing machines to make pillows in favorite shapes (even dinosaurs and firetrucks). In our woodshop, children use hammers and nails to make their names out of wood or a triple-layer doll bunk bed. My guidance is always there, they feel it. Our classroom dialogue is rich. I want to hear what they have to say.

What is your teaching philosophy?

I like the theories of Vygotsky and Piaget regarding how children must construct knowledge. Additionally, everything I do is under a social-emotional umbrella to help children be happy and healthy. "Nothing Without Joy" is a Reggio-inspired goal that I share.

When did you move to Arizona?

Nearly 20 years ago my husband and I came to Phoenix in two cars with two young children, two dogs, one tadpole, and a babysitter. It took our menagerie six days to get to Phoenix from my home state of Michigan.

What is your favorite part of the Arcadia area?

The Hills School children and the peaceful Shepherd of the Hills campus. Also my former students that have grown; I never forget them.

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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602.625.6020

Arcadia Real Estate Stats

2021 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/01/2021-10/31/2021)

Active Homes -	83 homes
Homes Sold -	291 homes
Average Sale Price -	$2,084,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$536
Average Days On Market -	60 days

There is currently 3 months of home inventory. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 home sales have decreased 3% 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 19%. (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

(1/01/2021-10/31/2021)

Active Homes -	46 Homes
Homes Sold -	186 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$982,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$400
Average Days On Market -	36 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 19%. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 $ Per Square Foot prices have increased 19%. (based on 2020 sales results)
2021 Homes are taking 39% less time to sell. (based on 2020 sales results)

TOMMY ATKINSON

Free MLS Access: visit
TommyAtkinson.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*



Holiday Pops *at the Phoenix Symphony.*



Christmas at the Princess *at the Scottsdale Fairmont Princess.*



Merchantile Outdoor Market *in Tempe.*

THURSDAY 12/2

Santa's Circus

7 p.m. at Madison Center for the Arts, 5601 N. 16th St., Phoenix. The inaugural Santa Circus acrobatic performance is happening this month at Madison. Guests can meet their favorite Christmas characters and write letters to Santa with the help of Mrs. Claus while enjoying the wonder and music of the holidays. Make sure to wait around after the show to get a photo. Tickets are $35-$65.

themadison.org

FRIDAY 12/3

Eat See AZ

6 p.m. at WestWorld, 16601 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale. The Valley has perfect winter weather for an outdoor cinema experience. Tonight, guests can view *A Star is Born* while grabbing dinner from food trucks and listening to live music before the show. Make sure to bring blankets and pillows so you can cozy up when the sun goes down. Tickets are $12 per person.

eatseeaz.com

SATURDAY 12/4

Christmas Pudding

7 p.m. at the Celebrity Theatre, 440 N. 32nd St., Phoenix. Alice Cooper's 19th annual Christmas Pudding fundraising event is back. This year, guests will jam out with Tom Morello of Rage Against the Machine, Mark McGrath of Sugar Ray, Solid Rock Dancers and The Bucket Brigade. This event benefits Cooper's Solid Rock Teen Center. Tickets are $35-$400.

celebritytheatre.com

Arizona Fried Chicken and Wings Festival

12:30-5 p.m. at The Pressroom, 441 W. Madison St., Phoenix. Make sure to grab plenty of napkins, it's going to get messy at the second annual Fried Chicken and Wings Festival. Guests can enjoy classic, modern and fusion chicken recipes from over ten local vendors. There will also be an art market, lawn games, drinks and dessert. Tickets are $10 for adults, $6 for Happy Hour only.

Arizona Fried Chicken and Wings Festival Facebook page

SUNDAY 12/5

Holiday Pops

7:30 p.m. at the Phoenix Symphony, 1 N. 1st St., Phoenix. The holiday season is here, and what better way to celebrate than with all the festive music? The Phoenix Symphony presents the annual Holiday Pops concert, featuring hymns and carols from various traditions. Vocalists Andrea Ross and Ryan Vona, along with the Phoenix Symphony Chorus, will sing all the classics – it might be hard not to sing along. Tickets start at $34-$100.

phoenixsymphony.org

Sit Stay Brunch

10 a.m. at the Scottsdale Resort, 7700 E. McCormick Pkwy., Scottsdale. Benefiting the Lost Our Home Pet Rescue, the 12th annual holiday champagne brunch and auction is back. This event raises funds needed to support services and programs for pets and people in the community. Guests can enjoy drinks and brunch, take photos in the photo booth, hang out with adoptable pets, and participate in the silent auction. Tickets start at $125.

lostourhome.org

TUESDAY 12/7

Christmas at the Princess

5 p.m. at the Scottsdale Fairmont Princess, 7575 E. Princess Dr. The resort has been transformed into a holiday haven, with over six million twinkle lights and displays for families and friends to stroll through. Guests can go ice skating or slide down the ice mountain, plus take photos with Santa and his elves, sip cider or cocoa and send your Christmas wish off with Fairmont's special wish paper. Tickets are $18 per person; $72 for a family of four.

fairmontscottsdaleprincess.com



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WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*



Pueblo Grande Indian Market *at the Pueblo Grande Museum.*



Hot Chocolate 5K *at Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza.*



Holly Jolly Cork Crafting *at LDV Winery.*

SATURDAY 12/11

Merchantile Outdoor Market

9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 1500 N. McClintock Dr., Tempe. Shop local this holiday season with Merchantile Market's new outdoor pop-up shop. Guests will find dozens of local artisans and businesses showcasing their wares: art and paintings, jewelry, apparel and home décor. There will also be food trucks on-site in case you get hungry from all the shopping. Admission is free, and parking is $5.

merchantilemarket.com

SATURDAY 12/11 – SUNDAY 12/12

Phoenix Festival of the Arts

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Margaret T. Hance Park, 1202 N. 3rd St., Phoenix. The Phoenix Festival of the Arts is here with over 150 art and culture vendors and live entertainment (on two stages), interactive exhibits, a family fun zone, circus performances and spoken word poetry readings. There will be food trucks and drinks available for purchase, but the event is free, and you can also bring your pups.

phoenixfestivalofthearts.org

Pueblo Grande Indian Market

9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Pueblo Grande Museum, 4619 E. Washington St., Phoenix. The 44th annual Indian Art Market at Pueblo is here. This market features over 100 artisan booths, traditional Native American performances, demonstrations, and Native foods, as well as hands-on activities for the whole family to enjoy. The museum and park will also be open during this event. Admission is $5.

phoenix.gov

SUNDAY 12/12

A Fireside Christmas

3 p.m. at the Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Pkwy. Desert Overture and Desert City Jazz present A Fireside Christmas, where guests can be treated to a mix of traditional holiday classics and new music. A Fireside Christmas boasts both a wind symphony and a jazz big band, so there's a chance you'll be out of your seat and dancing in no time. Tickets are $15 for adults. Kids 12 and under are free.

desertoverture.org

Hot Chocolate 5K

7 a.m. at Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza, 1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix. Keep your eyes on the hot chocolate prize at this year's 5K race. Attendees can choose from a 5K or 15K race, and afterward, there will be a post-race party with an award ceremony, vendor market and Christmas tunes to keep you in the spirit. Registration starts at $55 for the 5K, $75 for the 15K.

hotchocolate15k.com

FRIDAY 12/17

Million Dollar Quartet Christmas

7:30 p.m. at the Phoenix Theatre Company, 1825 N. Central Ave. Ring in the holidays with Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley as the theatre company presents all the songs that made these 'gents a household name. Guests will experience music and storytime in hopes of keeping the holidays merry and bright. The show is available until January 2. Tickets start at $44 per person.

phoenixtheatre.com

SATURDAY 12/18

Toy Shoppe Tea Party Recital

1 p.m. at the Paradise Valley Country Club, 7101 N. Tatum Blvd., Paradise Valley. Dance Theater West is inviting all to see its winter recital. StoryBook Ballet Company and the dancers from the primary ballet classes will join together to celebrate the holiday season. Guests can also enjoy refreshments at a tea party after the performance. Admission is $25 for adults, $10 for kids.

dancetheaterwest.com

Holly Jolly Cork Crafting

10:30 a.m. at LDV Winery, 7134 E. Stetson Dr., Scottsdale. This event is part of Scottsdazzle's holiday happenings – head to LDV Winery for food and fun. Guests will create their own "cork" art while sipping on a glass of wine and enjoying some holiday snacks. Instructions and supplies are included. This class is $25 per person.

ldvwinery.com

Have an event or brief?

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Wishing everyone a very safe and Happy New Year.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

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



Jade & Clover



Far Away Wine & Provisions



Phoenix Rescue Mission's Hungry for Change

In November, a new skincare concept opened on the northwest corner of 40th St. and Indian School (next to Arcadia Meat Market) called **Face Foundrié**. Services include facials, waxing, lash lifts, lash extensions, brow tinting and dermaplaning. Various memberships are available.

facefoundrie.com

Kneaders Bakery and Café on Indian School Road closed its doors in early November. No word yet on what will replace the eatery.

Prince of Peace Preschool will open a center at **Hospice of the Valley's Dementia Care and Education Campus** in the near future. The preschool will partner with the Adult Day Club to provide meaningful intergenerational enrichment. Programming includes supervised, age-appropriate, engaging activities for the children and adults, with music, movement, storytime, gardening, arts and crafts and creative play.

dementiacampus.org

Jade & Clover, a Texas-based gift and plant shop, has opened their first Arizona location at the intersection of 40th St. and Campbell, in the corner next to Postino WineCafe. The shop offers gifts, home décor, accessories and house plants, and the Plant Bar, where guests can build their own planters and terrariums to take home. They also offer plant parties for celebrations.

jadeandclover.com

Phoenix food and beverage professionals Chris French and Pat Jasmin recently opened **Far Away Wine & Provisions**. Part shop, part lounge and part café, the business is located on 32nd St. and Indian School (3031 E. Indian School Road) and offers more than 25 wines to sip and more than 200 to browse and take home. Guests can grab a glass and a snack and hang out in the lounge.

farawaywineaz.com

After some structural updates, **Freshly Laid** has finally broken ground in the Gaslight Square complex on 36th St. and Indian School Road. The eatery will serve breakfast sandwiches and plans on opening in early 2022.

getfreshlylaid.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

Biltmore Fashion Park knows where Santa is – right here in Phoenix! Guests can schedule their family photos with the man in red throughout December at Biltmore; there are options to socially distance or sit next to him. Visits are free, and photo packages are available for purchase. Also, on select Saturdays, guests can enjoy complimentary live music shows on the center lawn. Coming up is Ri and Ry, TEMPO and Adam Simons.

shopbiltmore.com

Phoenix high school sophomores and juniors are invited to sign up as **Phoenix Youth Ambassadors** and become part of Phoenix's ten sister cities. Applicants will have the opportunity to learn about different cultures and make friends around the world. Applications are due January 9, 2022.

phoenixsistercities.org/youth-ambassador

TOY DRIVES/VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Nourish Phoenix is holding a holiday toy drive until December 10. Their goal is to provide new toys and gifts to at least 300 children. Ways to participate this season include "adopting" a child, donating gift cards or volunteering at the gift distribution event. The organization is looking for gift wrap/bags, toys, kids clothing (new), makeup, jewelry and sports equipment. Donations can be made online or dropped off at 501 S. 9th Ave., Phoenix.

nourishphx.org

Phoenix Rescue Mission's **Hungry for Change** holiday campaign is ongoing until December 31. The campaign relies on public support and offers volunteer options and online or food/item donation options directly to Phoenix Rescue Mission. The campaign has several events, including community markets, a Christmas parade and a Winter Wonderland collection event.

phoenixrescuemission.org

The **Foundation for Senior Living** nonprofit needs non-perishable foods, cleaning, and personal hygiene items for its pantries throughout Arizona. FSL operates more than 20 food pantries in Wickenburg, Peoria, Phoenix and several housing communities around the state. Donations can be made through their Amazon wish list or at the corporate office, 1201 E. Thomas Road, Phoenix, Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

fsl.org

Ingleside Animal Hospital (4855 E. Thomas Road) is offering visits with Santa on Saturday, December 11 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Those who bring in a donation for Toys for Tots or a donation of blankets/food for pets can get a free picture with Santa – don't forget to bring your furry friends with, too!

ingleside.com

Sun Devil Auto and Wilhelm Automotive (5211 E. Thomas Road, Phoenix) launched their 15th annual **Toys for Tots** donation drive. The companies set a goal of collecting 4,000 toys this year, and the drive will include a matching donation of up to $2,000. All Phoenix-area locations are collecting new, unwrapped gifts through Monday, December 13.

wilhelmautomotive.com

Childhelp's Holiday Toy and Clothing Drive is open until December 31. Every year, Childhelp provides clothing and toys to children in Arizona, California, Tennessee and Virginia. In high demand this year are undergarments in all sizes, fidget spinners, makeup kits, adult-size shoes, superhero-themed items, Legos and multicultural dolls. Folks can drop off new or unused items at Childhelp's headquarters at 6730 N. Scottsdale Road or at participating Grimaldi's Pizzeria locations, donate online or make a purchase through Amazon with Childhelp as the designated charity.

childhelp.org

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OUT OF THE AREA, *BUT WORTH THE DRIVE*



***Fuelfest** at WIld Horse Pass in Chandler.*



***Winter Wonderland** at Schnepf Farms in Queen Creek.*

FRIDAY 12/3

Rawhide Snowy Christmas

5-10 p.m. at Rawhide Western Town, 5700 W. North Loop Road, Chandler. Even though it doesn't snow in our part of Arizona, we can still pretend with Rawhide's holiday event. Guests can check out millions of twinkle lights, holiday décor and nightly festivities, plus a bounce castle and themed treats for the family to enjoy. Admission is free, but certain events require tickets ($6) or wristbands ($18).

rawhide.com

SATURDAY 12/4

Winter Artisan Market

9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Holland Center, 34250 N. 60th St., Scottsdale. This holiday market will showcase local artists and their handmade wares, perfect for holiday gift-giving. The Winter Artisan Market also doubles as a juried art show and meet and greet where guests can learn more about the 75 regional artists and their creations. Admission is free.

hollandcenter.org

Kids Day at the Market

9 a.m. in downtown Chandler, 100 W. Boston St. In partnership with the Downtown Chandler Farmer's Market, this day is all about the kids! Youngsters can enjoy life-size board games, activities and Stories at the Market, presented by the public library. They'll even go home with some swag. This event is free.

downtownchandler.org

Fuelfest

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Wild Horse Pass, 20000 S. Maricopa Road, Chandler. Fuelfest boasts all things auto, with more than 600 custom, exotic, rare, and exclusive cars and trucks. There will also be car exhibitions, drag racing, drift exhibitions, food, drinks and live music. A portion of proceeds benefits Reach Out Worldwide, the nonprofit charity founded by Paul Walker. Tickets start at $25 for general admission, with VIP packages available.

fuelfest.com

THURSDAY 12/9

Thoughtful Thursday Creations

6:30 p.m. at Pinspiration, 5410 E. High St., Phoenix. Get your creativity flowing at Pinspiration craft shop with a candle-making class. Guests will receive a glass vessel and all the trimmings needed to decorate a candle: jewels, ribbons and more. Instructors will provide instructions as guests create their own scented candles. The Thoughtful Thursday package includes one candle and a glass of wine or non-alcoholic beverage. Registration is $29 per person.

pinspiration.com

FRIDAY 12/10

13 Days of Christmas

7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Hills Theater, 11445 N. Saguaro Blvd., Fountain Hills. It's not the 12 days of Christmas – it's 13! Guests can witness various holiday stories – from cutting down the Christmas tree to finding the perfect gift to spying on Santa – all in one show. And what's a holiday tale without classical music to go along with it? Tickets are $35 for adults, $18 for kids.

fhtaz.org

SATURDAY 12/11

Santa Hustle 5K

7 a.m. at Westgate, 6751 N. Sunset Blvd., Glendale. Now's the time to run off all those calories from Thanksgiving to make room for Christmas dinner! The Santa Hustle race offers a half-marathon, 5K and 1K run for the kids. Dress in your best Santa-themed outfits, enjoy the race and then head to the post-race party for the awards show – there's even an award for best costume. Registration is $45 for the 5K and $65 for the half-marathon.

santahustle.com

SUNDAY 12/12

Family Fun Holiday Fair

10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Arizona Boardwalk, 9500 E. Vía de Ventura, Scottsdale. Guests can experience live holiday entertainment and games on center stage while kids visit Santa, bounce in the bounce houses and conquer the obstacle courses. There will also be a face painting station and a local vendor market. This event is free.

azboardwalk.com

WEDNESDAY 12/15

Sunsets and Sips

5-7 p.m. at Taliesin West, 12621 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., Scottsdale. Enjoy the beauty of the Arizona sunset within the beauty of Taliesin West at Sunsets and Sips. Guests can grab a cocktail, tour the campus and discover the history behind one of Wright's most renowned architectures. Tickets are $35 per person, with the first drink included.

franklloydwright.org

Winter Wonderland

5:30 p.m. at Schnepf Farms, 24610 E. Rittenhouse Road, Queen Creek. If you're trying to fit Christmas fun into one outing, this is the place to do so. Winter Wonderland events include the Illumination Express train ride, hayrides, Santa's workshop, Christmas obstacle course, snow globe mini-golf, a letter to Santa station, cookie decorating, holiday movies, and more! Tickets are $15 for general admission.

schnepfchristmas.com

SATURDAY 12/18

Lights at the Farm

5:30 at Vertuccio Farms, 4011 S. Power Road, Mesa. There are so many options for fun; it'll be hard to decide what to do first. Guests will find over two million twinkle lights and holiday displays, plus a synthetic ice skating rink, visits with Santa, a petting zoo, lawn games, a sweets shop (cocoa and kettle corn!), fire pits with s'mores and a craft area. Tickets are $15 per person.

lightsatthefarm.com

TUES. 12/21 – THURS. 12/23

Main Street Harvest Market

8 a.m.-6 p.m. at 121 W. Main St., downtown Mesa. There are only a few days left to get your holiday shopping done, and the Harvest Market is here to help. Guests will find baked goods, handmade gifts, homemade art pieces, a photo backdrop, activities for kids, giveaways and raffles. All the good stuff in one spot – and admission is free.

mainstharvest.com

Have an event or brief

that you'd like us to consider for Out of the Area, but Worth the Drive? Send it to editor@arcadianews.com.





The Phoenix Symphony

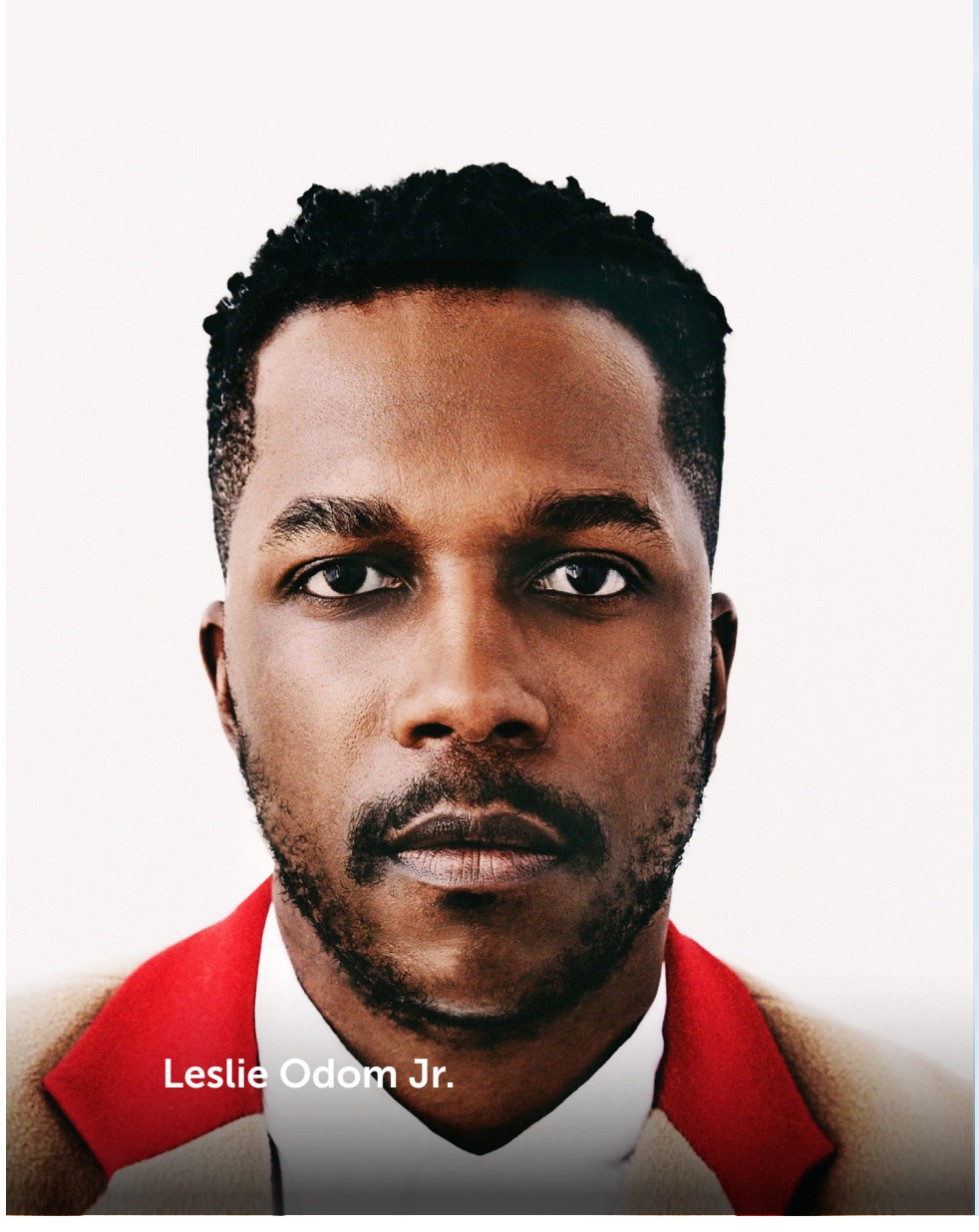
75 years

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2021/2022 SEASON

Join us for the triumphant return of The Phoenix Symphony as we celebrate our 75th anniversary season and the return of live performances. We're celebrating this incredible milestone with a season that focuses on our world-class musicians and features a wide variety of performances.

Tickets available at **www.PhoenixSymphony.org** or call our box office at **602.495.1999**.



Leslie Odom Jr.

The Phoenix Symphony's
2021/2022 Season Includes:

- **Holiday Pops**
  December 3-5
- **Handel's *Messiah***
  December 16-17 (Pinnacle Presbyterian Church, Scottsdale)
- **New Year's Eve Celebration with Leslie Odom, Jr. and The Phoenix Symphony**
  December 31
- **Hot Latin Nights**
  January 7-9
- **Beethoven and Rachmaninoff**
  January 14-16
- **Elgar and Mendelssohn**
  January 21-23

Arcadia News publisher takes home national award

By Mallory Gleich



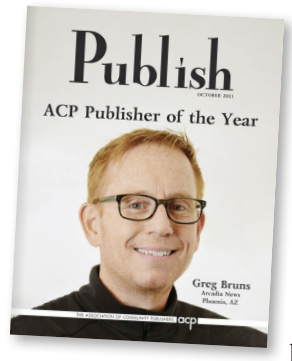
Greg Bruns, 2021 ACP Publisher of the Year.

The long-time owner and publisher of this fine publication, Greg Bruns, won the 2021 Publisher of the Year from the Association of Community Publishers (ACP).

ACP is a trade association of community publications located throughout North America.

According to ACP Executive Director Douglas Fry, the association started in 1953 when like-minded publishers with similar circulation, demographics, and formats got together to share ideas and support each other. The association grew in popularity and has since become the largest association of freely distributed papers in the country.

"Some people might tell you that print is not as relevant as before. The reality is that print and digital offerings provide much-needed connections between buyers and sellers, readers and communities," Fry said. "The purpose of ACP is to provide the tools and support for community publishers to thrive in a competitive environment."



ACP's membership nominates the awardee; the Executive Board tallies nominations, and Publisher of the Year is awarded to the publisher with the largest number of nominations and final approval.

Bruns started working for Arcadia News in 1997 as a humor columnist. From there, he worked in every position – delivery, ad sales and graphic design. When the husband-and-wife owners decided to sell the paper in 2001, they offered it to Bruns.

Shortly after, he established two programs: the Arcadia News Scholarship and the Teachers We Love award. The scholarship is geared toward students who pursue degrees in journalism. A few of the winners even got their start as writers for the paper.

"It's always fun presenting the scholarships at the annual ceremony at Arcadia High – many of the names for awards, scholarships and accolades have appeared in Arcadia News, which gives me the feeling that we're doing the right thing as the neighborhood paper," Bruns said.

The Teachers We Love program was created out of a missed opportunity. Bruns had a teacher who helped him through a difficult time and he never had a chance to thank that teacher properly.

"We all know the strife and thanklessness that many teachers endure. I wanted to give people a way to publicly thank a special teacher now before it's too late," he said. "With this program, we've awarded 78 teachers in Arcadia and the surrounding area."

Funnily enough, "Teachers We Love" was the clue that revealed the winner at the 2021 ACP award ceremony in Iowa. ACP presents the Publisher of the Year award in front of over 200 members, reading a statement about the winner, who is kept anonymous until the very end.

"While making their way through the tributes and good things that a publisher has done, everyone listens for a clue or keyword to figure out who it is. When Teachers We Love was mentioned, I was stunned." Bruns said.

The award is presented each year at the annual conference. Winners receive a trophy and a write-up in the industry magazine Publish (and of course, we had to give our leader a shout-out in his paper!).

"Greg worked for four years as conference chair to make the 2021 Des Moines conference a huge success," Fry said. "He was tireless and unflappable. ACP is proud to have Greg Bruns as a member and esteem him as one of the bright lights in the industry," Fry said.

Outside of the office, Bruns spends time with his wife Jenn and sons Carter and Noah. He's also a leader in Arcadia's Scout Troop 6, which Carter and Noah are a part of.

"We are an active Troop, and we have a lot of adventures around the state of Arizona and beyond. We also give back to our community through service and volunteer projects," he said.

In the future, Bruns would like to spend more time enjoying his passion: photography – and dreams of becoming an "empty-nester."

"We tease our teenage boys that once they go off to college, we are selling the house and buying a mobile home so they can't move back in. It's mostly fantasy, though. We love this neighborhood too much to leave forever."

We don't want you to leave, either! Congratulations, Greg!

Your paper wins big again at Best of the Best contest

Recently, more than 100 community newspapers from around the country gathered together in Des Moines for the annual Association of Community Publishers (ACP) industry conference and "Best of the Best" Awards Show.

The *Arcadia News* came home with a whopping 26 awards, including Second Place in General Excellence, which is the top honor a community publication can receive. The *Arcadia News* has won, placed or showed in the General Excellence category in nine out of the last ten years.

Since the paper received its first recognition in 2009, *Arcadia News* has won more than 180 awards from industry organizations such as the Arizona Press Club, Independent Free Papers of America and ACP. Some of the categories that the paper repeatedly excels in include: Best Front Page, Best Original Writing, Best Photography and Best Layout/Design.

Below are a few of the honors your community paper received:

2021 ACP "BEST OF THE BEST" AWARDS



★ **General Excellence Overall** - Second place ★

(Monthly newspaper with minimum 26% editorial)

FIRST PLACE:

Best ad series
Best front page - newsprint
Best original writing - column - to inform/educate
Best original writing - column - sports
Best single ad - agency design - color
Best single ad - color - newsprint
Best single ad - color - newsprint
Community service
Special Section - separate





SECOND PLACE:

Best single ad - color
Medical, Health & Wellness ad
Best front page - newsprint
Contests

THIRD PLACE:

Best digital or web innovation - Arcadia Podcast
Fitness, fashion or beauty - single ad
Best original writing - column - sports
Best original writing - column - sports
Best rate card or media kit
Best single ad - color - newsprint



HONORABLE MENTION:

Best front page - newsprint
Best original writing - column - to entertain
Best original writing - column - to educate
Best original writing - column - sports
Best original writing - column - sports
Best single ad - b&w - newsprint
Feature article layout, magazine format


The Clotherie
watch video

The Best In Arcadia Real Estate



$15,595,000 5315 North Wilkinson
6 bedrooms, 12 baths, 16,556 square feet
5315wilkinson.com



$3,599,000 5217 East Calle Redonda
5 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,469 square feet
5217calleredonda.com



4145 North Jokake
CALL FOR PRICING AND INFORMATION



$2,825,000 4216 East Hazelwood
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 3,900 square feet
4216hazelwood.com



$1,899,000 4801 East Calle Redonda
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2,631 square feet



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



$8,650 per month 4150 North 49th Street
5 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,205 square feet



$5,495,000 6738 East Kasba Circle
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 6,546 square feet



$610,000 4235 North 26th Street #14
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 1,806 square feet
4235north26thstreet.com



$8,650 per month 3022 North 47th Place
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,110 square feet
3022north47thplace.com



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



$1,100,000 3344 North 62nd Street
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,108 feet
3344north62ndstreet.com



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



$3,095,000 5502 East Calle Del Paisano
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 5,091 square feet



$4,695,000 5301 East Roadrunner
5 bedrooms, 5 baths, 6,210 square feet
5301roadrunner.com



$1,000,000 2935 East Mulberry
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,343 square feet



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



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



CALL FOR PRICING 3442 North 40th Place
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,531 square feet



$579,500 7161 East Rancho Vista #2004
2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,336 feet



$2,295,000 6097 North Paradise View
3 bedrooms, 4 baths, 4,751 square feet
6097paradiseview.com



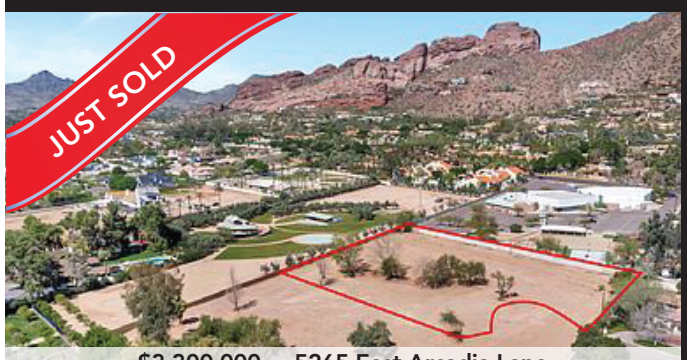
$3,795,000 8035 North Ironwood Drive
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 7,249 square feet
8035ironwood.com



$2,500,000 6140 East Calle Del Sud
5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,745 square feet



5115 East Exeter
CALL FOR PRICING AND INFORMATION



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1.3 acre lot



$3,095,000 6109 East Exeter
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6109exeter.com



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In the Kitchen

with Beau MacMillan – Executive Chef at elements

SANCTUARY AT CAMELBACK MOUNTAIN
5700 E. McDonald Dr. • sanctuaryoncamelback.com

By Mallory Gleich

Since this column started two years ago, one name seemed to pop up when chefs were asked whom they loved working with: Beau MacMillan. After meeting him, it's easy to see why, as MacMillan's passion and creativity shine through not only in his food but the relationships he's gained through more than 20 years in the industry.

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Portland, Maine but raised in a commonwealth in Massachusetts. I'm a New Englander at heart, and I have strong ties to Canada, as well. I moved to Phoenix in 1998.

After graduation, I knew I had to get out there and work under some chefs. Someone once told me, "If you want to be somebody, work for somebody." So I moved to Boca Raton, Florida and started my career there with Jacky Pluton – a hardcore French guy. He taught me a lot, scared me, screamed at me – but it was all excellent lessons in toughness, discipline.

I worked in upstate New York for a year and L.A. for three years. I was offered an interview for this position [at *elements*] in October 1998, and I've been here for 23 years.

Which culinary school did you attend?

I went to Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island. I didn't have the academic prowess that most people have. I was more of a class clown, but I was passionate about cooking. I took a vocational class my last year of high school, and I guess some chefs saw potential in me. They told me to get it together, and I was able to get in front of the right person at the school and was accepted on probation. I knocked it out of the park with a 4.0 average my first year there.

Did you always know you wanted to be a chef?

I think I knew pretty early. My first aspirations were more sports-orientated. I remember standing in center field, looking at the pitcher and anticipating the fastball. Around the age of 14, I started seeing how much there was in food and how powerful cooking was, the ability to be hospitable and what that did for people.

Giving, preparation, timing – I was fascinated by it. At 16, I worked as a short-order cook in Massachusetts; there was something about getting an order, preparing it, giving it back and watching someone enjoy it. I knew that's what I wanted to do.

How did you first learn to cook?

My grandmother was one of my first inspirations, especially in the realm of hospitality. Beyond cooking and being a chef, there's authentic hospitality and the act of kindness, and it's created organically. I learned how it made me feel when my grandmother was constantly trying to please, cooking for others, nourishing and feeding; I loved it.

Growing up, one of my best friend's moms was a stay-at-home mom fresh off the boat from Italy. She cooked with a wooden spoon, and every time I was at Mark's house, I hoped to get invited for dinner. She was an inspiration as far as cooking. But honestly, it was never about ingredients or the dishes themselves. For me, it was bringing people together and that sense of family.

At 17, I started working for someone I consider one of the greatest chefs I've worked for in my life, François De Mélogue, and that's when I really learned hospitality – it made me rethink everything regarding the power of food.

Tell us about your work in other industries.

If you look at my whole 35-year career, I've only done two other jobs outside of a kitchen. In college, I took a seasonal job at Ocean Spray harvesting cranberries. You got paid big, big money, and as an 18-year-old, I was all about it.

For the second job, I was a background extra in the movie industry in L.A. My sister was out there chasing her dream of being an actress, and I stayed with her for three months. I was in a film called *Thelma and Louise*, with Brad Pitt and Susan Sarandon – I don't know if those names ring a bell? I played a cop. It was a fun summer!

As far as kitchens go, I started as a dishwasher and busboy, but I wanted to learn how to make the clam chowder. The kitchen was calling me.

Since starting *In the Kitchen*, almost all of the chefs we've interviewed have mentioned you in some capacity. How does it feel knowing you've made such an impact on others?

First of all, that's huge. Wow. That means a lot to me because I've tried to live my life by the authentic principles of what people have taught me – as a kid, someone said, "if you got into this business to be rich and famous, you're in the wrong business." I got into this because I love food, cooking, and bringing people together.

If you love the Red Sox and I love the Yankees – which I will never love the Yankees, I'm a Red Sox fan, and I want that for the record – it's divided. But with food, it doesn't have to be that way.

Wine, cocktails, ambiance, art, those are the things that I think people have desensitized from and want to get back into. The one thing I always wanted was to remain egoless in this space. I've been lucky to have success in this industry; I'm so grateful and feel I have an obligation to help whoever wants to be part of this.

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

When I first got to Arizona, I looked up to Eddie Matney, Vincent, Chris Gross, Matt Carter, James Porter, Kevin Binkley, Chuck Wiley, etc. But here at *elements*, I have a banquet chef who is the complete opposite of me; organized, meticulous, he's the science and math while I'm the art and emotion of food. I have a massive amount of respect for him and my chef de cuisine Sammy Sanz. You learn more from the people who work for you; the reason I got here was because of the growth of my team.

What is your inspiration behind new menu items?

It's nice to see chefs like me who were brought up on high-quality protein and fish dishes say, "let's get some veggies in here," and how predominant they are on menus today.

How people feel after being nurtured and fed the right amount of something delicious; that too. I like food with a simplicity that can stand up on its own. I don't want to have a signature dish; I want people to say, "trust in Beau Mac's food."

What is the most challenging part of being a chef?

One of the biggest challenges is trying to get young people to commit to the long term. How do you truly get someone to feel the way you feel about cooking? I want to work a 13-hour day and have fun. It's a challenge, and I can do that, but it takes a lot. Being able to continue working as hard as you can and enjoy it is the real success.

Favorite part?

There's a lot that I love about being a chef. I want to lead and inspire, but I love cooking more than I love the administrative part. I created a festival called Nirvana Food and Wine with 80 local chefs and nationally-ranked chefs. It started with a dream and an idea. If I can cook a beautiful meal or create a new menu, those are things I love.

I'm too old to go back and cook hot appetizers. My hot app chefs would be like, "What are you doing back here? Get out," but I remember being that young guy, so another part I love is the coaching. I take stock of the people here because they are incredibly hardworking. It's one thing to come in and pay someone, and it's another to give them coaching and counseling within the kitchen. I want to make sure they believe in themselves.

What's it like being a television personality?

I'm not going to lie; I have discomfort with the word "celebrity" being tied to a chef. It's one thing to be recognized for your craft, but I think all chefs are celebrities in their own right, they just haven't been on television.

I'm grateful for it – being on *Iron Chef* was one of the toughest days, but it changed my life. I showed up and did my best, and when I won that day, one of my mentors said, "You have no idea what you've just done, Beau," and I remember thinking, "Dude, it was just one battle." I knew it was going to change my life, but it was never going to change me.

Since that battle, I haven't watched the show – Bobby Flay helped make my career, but how do you put that into perspective? Suddenly, I had my show on Food Network, which allowed me to share my passion. It's been a crazy ride, and I've enjoyed every step.

What's one highlight from your time as a chef?

I have so many stories. I worked for François in Massachusetts and we lost touch for a while.

I always wanted to connect again to thank him, and I finally found him and got him back into my life. I invited him to cook at *elements*, and he was doing the same thing he did with me, with my cooks. They've heard me talk about him; I shared my stories about him with my team.

Anyway, one night we were working with a winery from northern California. After work, we were enjoying our night, having some wine, and we saw an almost 88-year-old winemaker dancing on the table, listening to music and having the time of his life. I have other stories, but they're probably not appropriate [*laughs*].

What do you do when you're not working?

I've always been a sports fan. I played hockey out here for ten years, but I'm getting too old and get tired when tying my skates! I love to travel; I'm a big movie buff; I like hanging out with people, but I also have five kids [from 18 to two-year-old twins] so hanging out and supporting them is huge, too. My house is busy and my wife is a superhero, I'll tell you that much.

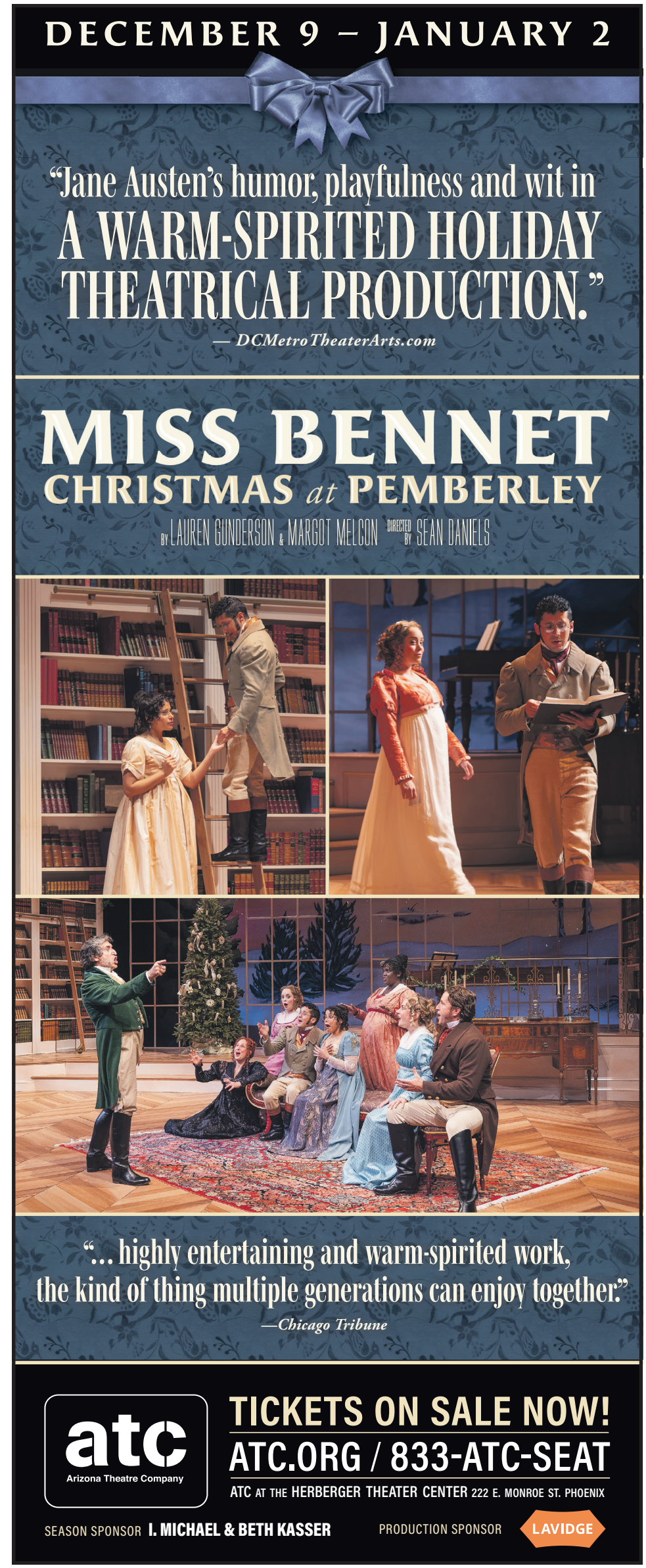
Advice for those who want to work in this industry?

Run away as fast as you can – no, I'm just kidding. The biggest thing to understand is that experience comes first, and money comes later. You can't be an amazing chef until you're an amazing cook. People want to jump too many steps these days, but you have to grow first. Be patient. Before going to culinary school, work in a kitchen for a year and decide if it's what you want to do.

What's next for Chef Beau Mac?

In this phase of my life, I've been able to work in development more. I opened a restaurant called Money, Baby in Vegas recently. I just got an opportunity to work with Home Shopping Network and sell my cookware and products and see how they do. I want to get a book out someday; I have 23 years of stories on this hill [*laughs*]; I'm just doing my thing, continuing to grow, learn, develop, keep my team happy and stay happy!





Arcadia NHS helps Tavan flex their reading skills

By Hailey Pearson

The Arcadia chapter of the National Honor Society has been available to high school students since 1960. Those involved in the organization have demonstrated excellence in the four pillars of NHS: scholarship, character, leadership and service throughout their time in the program.

Last year, members of Arcadia High School's NHS faced the challenge of finding new ways to give back to their community.

There are 50 active members, sponsored by AHS teachers Jennifer Dukelow and Erica McClurg.

"The purpose of NHS is to give back to our greater community with learning initiatives, volunteer opportunities and fundraising," Dukelow said.

> ***"Our first fundraiser will benefit the Welcome to America Project that helps refugees coming to America feel more welcome."***

The group recently wrapped up their second annual book drive for Tavan Elementary second-graders. The drive originated last school year to replace the in-person Tavan community service event.

"The book drive was a huge success last year, so our members decided to continue it this year," Dukelow said.

The drive's goal was for each Tavan second-grader to receive multiple books to enjoy and practice reading at home.

The NHS collected 473 books in two weeks, which allowed all 82 second-graders to get a bundle that fits their specific reading level.

"Our members were ecstatic at the idea of sending the kids home with books to love and learn. Some were willing to donate their favorites in hopes that another child would treasure them as much as they did," Dukelow said.

In addition to the drive, they created a pen pal program enabling them to write letters back and forth with their second-grade buddies. Their goal is to write one letter each month.

"Tavan teachers use this as a great opportunity to practice handwriting and letter writing skills," Dukelow said.

NHS members plan to bring back the in-person holiday event this year that will take place on the Arcadia football field. There, they will have the opportunity to meet their second-grade buddy face-to-face, give them a gift from their special wish list, make arts and crafts and decorate cookies.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEJANDRA RAMIREZ

Seniors Awa Diop, Alejandra Ramirez, Sofia Sills, and Sara McCartan delivered 473 books to Tavan.

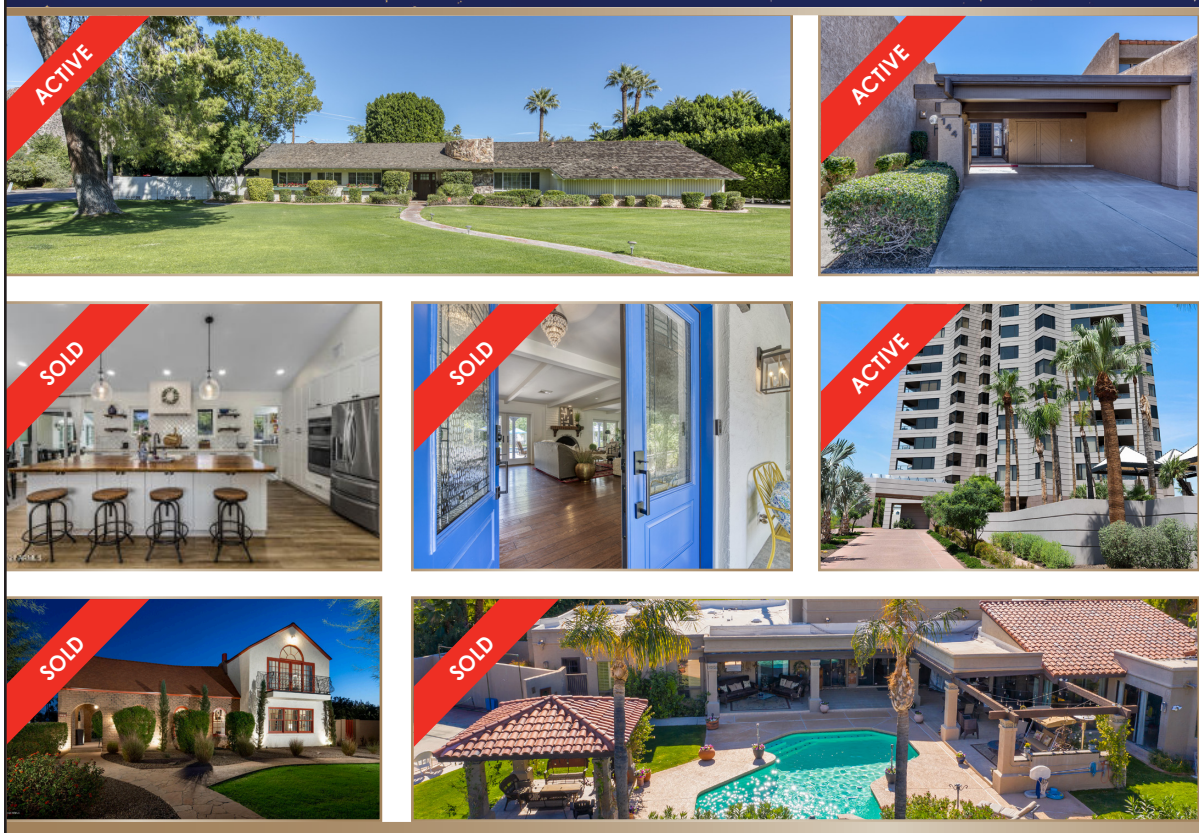
As for the second half of the school year, members voted on two fundraisers that they're excited to execute.

"Our first fundraiser will benefit the Welcome to America Project, helping refugees coming to America feel more welcome. Volunteers will help them move into their new residences," Dukelow said. Next, they will host a Wish Week benefitting the Make-A-Wish foundation. During this event, $1 stars will be sold to aid in granting the wishes of the children they sponsor.

"It's such an amazing group this year, with kind hearts that want to make a difference," Dukelow said.

Happy Holidays!

Debbie Frazelle
REAL ESTATE



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Angel Ureta
520.351.2457



6426 E Calle Camelia Ave
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$2,336,000 **SOLD**

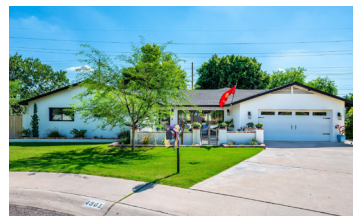
Amy Kelly & **Melissa Massey**
480.274.4335



4021 N 59th St
Phoenix, AZ 85018

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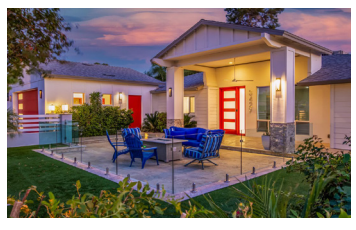
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PHOTO: KAREN REA

Ella Vitti, Ella Crowson, Sophia Alba and Kate Heglie.

Spreading kindness at AHS

By Melissa Hirschl

Practicing random acts of kindness is more than just a bumper sticker platitude for Arcadia High School senior Ella Crowson – it's a philosophy she hopes will take wings at her school.

Her vision of spreading kindness started to take shape in the form of a school club during the pandemic.

Before graduating, her sister Charlotte started a Happiness Club while attending Arcadia. The idea resonated with Ella. She decided to create a club with a similar ethos to spread joy, uplift spirits, and make the world a better place. With that, the Kindness Club came to life.

The club consists of Ella as president and members Kate Heglie, Sophia Alba and Ella Vitti. The group opted for an informal structure with no membership or meetings. Instead, the group reaches out to students via Instagram and daily school videos to pick and choose activities that appeal to them.

"The Kindness Club has come at a significant time on our campus," Erica McClurg, the club's faculty sponsor, said. "With all the struggles of a new school environment, it's important that we focus on the mental health of our students. This club focuses on those that need a bit more happiness in their lives."

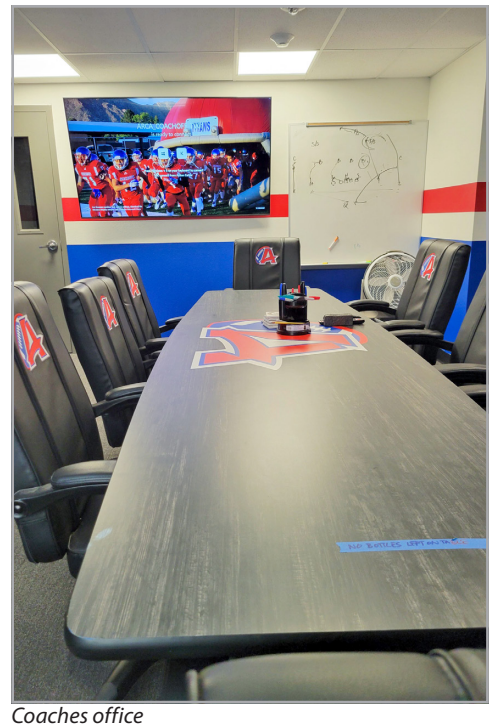
The school's Mental Resource Fair, held in the fall, provided an ideal platform for the club's public debut. The Kindness Club hosted a public relations table to explain the group's mission and enroll more students. They gave out random compliments and lollipops to passersby.

"It was really fun to see how we brightened peoples' day," Ella said.

Ella channels her energy into a variety of other clubs as well. As the student body vice president, she helps coordinate assemblies, school spirit days, dress-up days, and dances. She is also a member of the school's Ambassador Club.

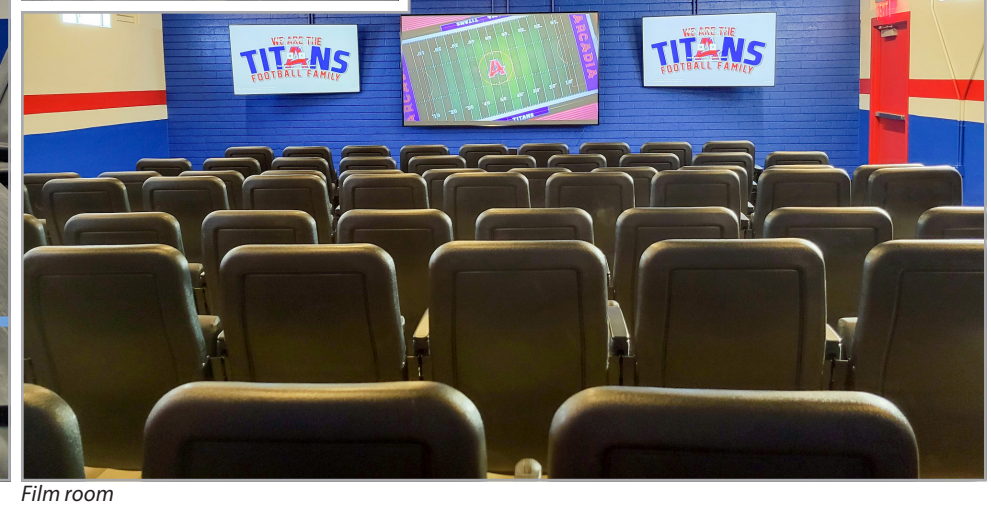
"In Ambassador's Club, we provide a panel of students that share their experiences and answer questions and concerns of prospective, incoming students," she explained. Ella also strives to serve the community outside of school by being a member of the Key Club, which is under the umbrella of the Kiwanis Club, a national service organization. Like the original organization, the school sector organizes local community service projects as well.

Some future projects for the group include creating kindness-oriented posters for the campus and designing t-shirts promoting messages of kindness. "We'd like the profits to go to a mental health facility," Ella said. "As a senior, I want to leave the club in good hands and make it a stable group that Arcadia has for many years. I love thinking of all the fun and amazing things that could eventually come from our group."



Coaches office





Film room

AHS unveils updated athletic field house

By Cody Kennedy

Arcadia High made a few aesthetic changes around campus. One of the most extensive was a restructured field house near the football field's end zone for student-athletes.

Completed this fall, the updated facility caters to all of the AHS sports teams, but the football and wrestling players will use it most of the time. It boasts new bathrooms, showers and a 70-seat film room. There will eventually be new lockers in the locker rooms with updated seating, flooring and plumbing. The goal is for the locker rooms to be completed by the end of this year.

The AHS Booster Club donated the film room's seats and allowed teams to come in and view games or meet with each other to discuss upcoming plays. There are three screens, one of which is a 120-inch that allows coaches to connect to their laptops.

There will be an e-glass screen in the near future that will allow coaches to view players while also showing videos to ensure that athletes are engaged and following along.

"We hope that the field house will provide new opportunities for our students," Principal Cain Jagodzinski said.

Dr. J added that the project was in planning phases when he became principal in 2020 and that it took around a year to be completed.



Area students recognized as National Merit semifinalists

By Rachael Bouley

Several area students have received well-deserved recognition as semifinalists for the 67th annual National Merit Scholarship program. Created in 1955, the award recognizes academically talented students and their accomplishments.

Semifinalists from Xavier and Brophy Prep are among 16,000 high schoolers nationwide to advance in the prestigious program, culminating in $2,500 scholarships awarded to about 7,500 finalists every year. Students must have a qualifying PSAT score to apply for the scholarship.



PHOTO: LISA ZUBA

Theresa Borlongan, Aliyah Chutkan, and Helena Richardson are Xavier's 2022 National Merit semifinalists.

XAVIER

Xavier has three National Merit semifinalists this year: Theresa Borlongan, Aliyah Chutkan, and Helena Richardson.

Theresa plans to major in biomedical engineering and pursue a career in medicine.

"I honestly still can't believe it. I am both very honored and grateful for all the ways that school and my family have supported me in every step of my academic journey," Theresa said. "If anything, I feel that this award constantly pushes me to continue working hard in my studies."

Regardless of what the future holds, Theresa said she would be forever thankful for her time at Xavier, as she loves the atmosphere of an all-girls school.

"Being surrounded by a community of strong females is incredibly empowering and has helped me build my self-confidence," she said. "I have the comfort of knowing that in the relationships I have built over the past four years, I will always be backed up through all my achievements, failures, and disappointments."

Fellow senior Aliyah Chutkan said she is excited about the scholarship and her future after graduating.

"I'm very grateful for the opportunity and happy all my hard work paid off," Aliyah said. "Through Xavier, I have met so many amazing people, including some of my closest friends."

After taking part in Xavier's Great Books program and studying multivariable calculus, Aliyah looks forward to college on the east coast, where she plans to major in physics.

"I want to learn more about the world and become more well-read about issues facing my generation," she said.

Helena said that exploring subjects like English, math, and science has been her favorite part of her time at Xavier.

"I feel fortunate to go to a school that offers so many AP classes," Helena said. "I've also had some wonderful teachers who have inspired me, and my counselor is absolutely terrific."

Helena hopes to major in computer science and minor in biology, psychology, or statistics in college, although she's keeping an open mind for the future.

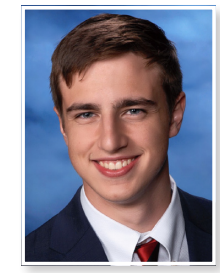
"I would love to find a job in which I can merge my interests and apply computer science to other sciences," she added.

BROPHY

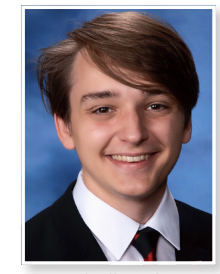
Brophy students Kaden Stillwagon, Louis Narducci, and Dashiell Gardner were named 2022 National Merit semifinalists.



Kaden Stillwagon



Louis Narducci



Dashiell Gardner

Kaden acknowledges how great it feels to receive recognition for his dedicated academic studies.

"I'm happy that my test score reflected the enormous effort I've put into school and that I'm able to be recognized with this honor," Kaden said. "I'm also incredibly excited to see what opportunities this recognition opens for me as I begin applying for colleges."

Kaden wants to study computer science, artificial intelligence and neuroscience in college.

"My school is dedicated to providing the best possible education for my peers and me," Kaden said. "The teachers and coaches I've had the pleasure of learning under at Brophy are second to none."

Classmate Louis was surprised to hear he was selected at the scholarship announcement this fall.

"I knew how few people actually receive this distinction, so I was excited to be a part of that select few," Louis said. "I know myself and others who were named semifinalists have worked extremely hard throughout high school, so this is a huge accomplishment for us."

With interests in mechanical and aerospace engineering, Louis is glad he had the chance to expand his horizons at Brophy.

"I love my school because of the opportunities it has given me, whether that's through the different courses available to me, the many sports I have been able to play, or the new friends I have made," Louis said. "All my teachers and coaches here are committed to my future."

Dashiell, who is passionate about social justice work, singing, and psychology research, says he was shocked to learn he was a semifinalist. He hopes to continue his studies and pursue a degree in psychology, leaving the door open for a career in law, teaching or counseling.

"My favorite things about Brophy are the opportunities it's given me in my passions. I don't know any other high school where I'd be able to go to our nation's capital to protest Title 42 and advocate for migrant justice or have one-on-one support in researching how interrogations can cause false confessions," Dashiell said. "I'm immensely grateful for all my school has done for me, and I know I'll never forget everything I accomplished here."

Like his Brophy peers, Dashiell has promising plans for the future no matter what lies ahead with the scholarship or college.

"This might sound a bit cliché, but my goals for the future are to leave as big of an impact on others as they've had on me," Dashiell said. "That's why becoming a professor, lawyer, or psychologist is incredibly appealing to me. It would allow me to instill a love for psychology in students just like my AP psych and social psychology teachers did for me."

ADDITIONAL SEMIFINALISTS

VERITAS PREP

Gautam Rai scored in the top one percent of Arizona students when he took the PSAT his junior year. He will advance into the finalist competition in February.

Theodor Kitzenmaier is a National Merit Commended Student. His score placed him in the top 3.3 percent of student scores nationally.

Aaron Bill and **Maximo Valencia** are National Hispanic Scholars. They both scored in the top 5% of Arizona students of Hispanic heritage on the PSAT.

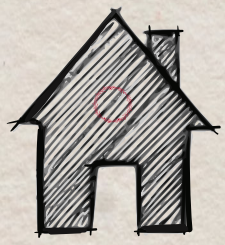
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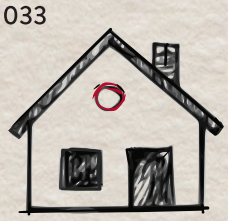
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I hope you all enjoy the magic of the season!

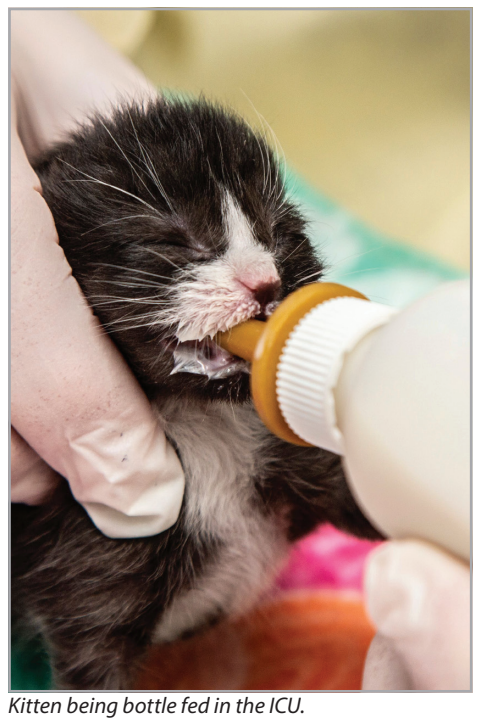
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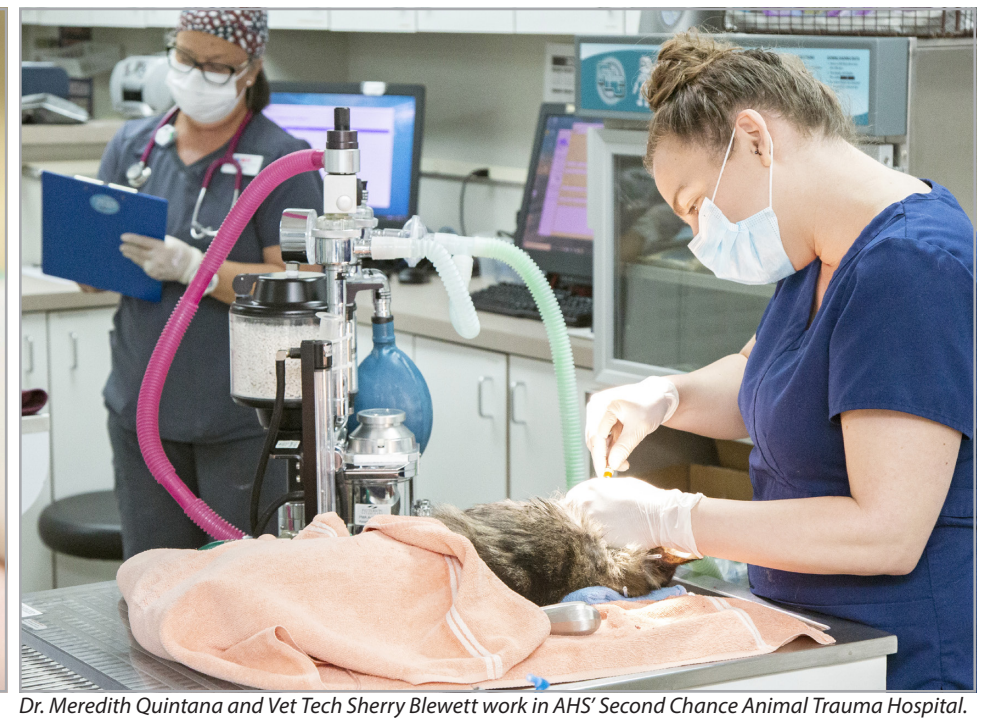
HOMESMART



Dr. Steven Hansen



Kitten being bottle fed in the ICU.



Dr. Meredith Quintana and Vet Tech Sherry Blewett work in AHS' Second Chance Animal Trauma Hospital.

AZ Humane Society breaks ground on innovative animal shelter

By Jennifer Marshall

Pets hoping to be adopted into forever homes will soon be welcome at the Arizona Humane Society's Rob and Melani Walton Papago Park Campus, a new, state-of-the-art facility.

"We chose Papago Park for our latest center because we wanted a central location that was highly accessible," CEO Steven Hansen said. "This site gives us great freeway access, but most importantly, we needed to operate in a safe neighborhood because our trauma hospital will run 24/7, so our volunteers and fosters must be able to come and go in the middle of the night safely."

The Papago Park Campus project started in 2014 when the Arizona Humane Society began working with an architect.

Due to labor and supply challenges, the first phase of this facility is set to open in January/February of 2023. The second phase of the project, which will launch in late 2023, will include an animal urgent care facility, which will be open to the public and offer pet owners affordable access to an evening clinic.

"We particularly love our proximity to the Phoenix Zoo and Desert Botanical Garden," Hansen said. "We want this to be a place where people want to come and visit, see the good work that we're doing, tour our facilities, volunteer or walk a dog. We have a great relationship with DBG; at least twice a year, they open the gardens and host the Dogs in the Park with all proceeds going to the Arizona Humane Society."



PHOTOS COURTEY OF THE ARIZONA HUMANE SOCIETY

Animal Experience Liaison Mik Moeller reads to a trauma patient with a broken leg as part of the Resting Rover program, which allows staff and volunteers to provide mental enrichment to hospital patients who are unable to leave their kennels.

Once complete, the Papago Park Campus will contain two two-story buildings situated on a 72,000 square foot campus with a total footprint of five acres.

"With this new campus, we'll increase by the thousands the numbers of stray, homeless and abused animals that we can treat," Hansen said. "We can take in a higher volume of animals, and we'll have a positive impact far beyond Maricopa County."

The hope is that an animal's stay at Papago Park will be a short one, meaning that it will quickly be adopted into its forever home. According to Hansen, dogs, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs and rats are the most common pets they rescue. Sometimes, they have smaller, unusual animals like hedgehogs, hamsters and gerbils.

Thursday through Sunday are their busiest adoption days, and before people come in, they can look at all the available animals on the Arizona Humane Society's website.

"I'd like to acknowledge the Rob and Melani Walton Foundation, the Lazin Animal Foundation and the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust," Hansen said. "All three of these entities were lead donors in this campaign, and without them and the rest of our donors, this brand new campus would not be possible. We're so grateful for all of them."

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The night the wise man danced

Around this time of year, it's not unusual to reflect upon Christmas memories. When that happens to me, a specific one always surfaces. It happened many years ago – maybe even longer ago than that.

Each December, as another cruel and heartless winter held my hometown of Kensal, North Dakota, in its frigid clutches, the ladies of the parish auxiliary set about readying the church basement for the annual Christmas play. They created an elevated stage by laying two-by-fours flat on the floor and covering them with plywood. It didn't raise the stage very high, but there were only about two dozen people in the audience, so they all got to sit in the front row.



The Lowe Road

BY SAM LOWE

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

After selecting the properly colored bed sheets for curtains, the mothers assigned children to the various roles. As was common practice at the time, the play centered around the arrival of the Magi at the manger, and my mother said I would be a logical choice to be one of the wise men because I got straight A's in school. Mom's wisdom was recognized, and I was chosen to portray Melchior without dissent.

It was a difficult role. By most historical accounts, Melchior was an elderly man with white hair, a wrinkled complexion, and a deep voice resulting from inhaling dust kicked up by camels. Conversely, I was a first-grader cursed with a mop of unruly brown hair, a boyish face turned red by the unrelenting cold, and a squeaky voice caused by too much exposure to winter's chill.

Bobby Nogosek was a natural selection for Balthazar, the oldest Magi, because he had appeared in the previous year's version of the play. Also, he could lower his voice by forcing his chin down onto his throat and pretending he was sucking on a lemon cough lozenge.

Eddie Haugen won the part of Gaspar, the third wise man. He didn't actually win the role; he was threatened with disclosure of his middle name if he refused. Back then, middle names were tributes to elder relatives with names like Ambrose, Gottlieb, Cletus, Ignatius, Constantine and Boris, thus frequently being used as an instrument of blackmail by the threat of exposure. So, Eddie chose to be Gaspar rather than be called Marcellus, his middle name.

Then the moms had to convert three cherub-faced youngsters into Sahara-hardened old men with raspy and crackling voices. That was a major challenge. The Magi, by all accounts available at that time in Kensal, were dark-skinned sons of the desert with large Middle Eastern hook noses; Bobby, Eddie and I had the fair skin, the rosy cheeks, and the snotty red noses typical of the offspring of the Great Plains.

Fortunately, the mothers came prepared with massive amounts of beige face powder, which they slathered upon our countenances with great fervor. The moms drew wavy lines across our foreheads with eyebrow pencils to further the illusion of old age. They attached white cotton batting to our upper lips, chins and any hair that showed below the turbans fashioned from bath towels.

Since nobody in Kensal had ever seen an actual Magi, the moms assumed nobody would notice that their Magi were wearing turbans decorated with peonies, farm scenes and advertisements for granulated sugar. And that they were clad in altered chenille bathrobes with little fuzzy balls hanging off the sleeves.

Once we completed the costuming process, we were ordered to relax around a large container of Kool-Aid prepared especially for the occasion. Being the stars of the show, we Magi naturally assumed that the Kool-Aid was meant just for us, unaware that most of it was supposed to



Pre-Maji Sam, age six.

be sold as refreshment after the first act in which Gaspar uttered his key line, "Hark, a star doth riseth far to yonder east so let us followeth it." Nobody in Kensal knew any Arabic, so the moms felt relatively safe in making minor improvisations.

And so, we partook mightily of the free Kool-Aid, assuming it was the custom of desert dwellers. However, if Kensal's first-grade curriculum had included advanced calculus and biology, I would have known that my bladder with a two-ounce holding capacity could not accommodate sixteen ounces of Kool-Aid. But, being blissfully unaware of the consequences, I swigged and swilled with my compatriots until we had consumed most of the liquid set before us. Then it was time to perform.

The mom in charge of scenery drew the sheets back, and we entered, harking and yondering with precision and the self-confidence that comes with drinking more than a pint of free Kool-Aid. "Hath thou seeneth yonder star?" Balthazar asked, and Gaspar and Melchior responded in unison, "Yea and verily, we hath."

The mom in charge of props strolled behind the sheet hung as a backdrop while shining the five-watt flashlight cast in the role of the eastern star. Right on cue, we Magi began following it until we and the star reached mid-stage, where the Nativity was being held.

And nearly simultaneously, all the Kool-Aid I had gulped earlier began following the gravitational pull of the earth and plunged directly into my nether regions. I tried to shake it off as the jitters, but this was determined Kool-Aid, bent upon following its intended path regardless of my high position as a star-following Magi.

I leaned forward in the hope that the internal flood might select an alternate route, like around my abdominal cavity, where there was plenty of room because I hadn't eaten any supper due to stage fright. But the Kool-Aid was smarter than a first-grade Magi. It had, by this time, studied my internal system and knew exactly where to go to make me go, in the most literal sense.

I went into a second stalling maneuver by bending over while pretending to brush some camel dust from the hem of my robe. When that didn't work, I turned my back to the audience so they wouldn't see my agonized countenance and ad-libbed, "Hark, doth I see another star that riseth in the north?" That confused the props mom because she had only one flashlight, and the script didn't call for her to fire up another one. Balthazar came to the rescue by intoning, "No, that doth not seemeth to be a star," and things briefly returned to normal until the next wave of Kool-Aid made its charge.

This time, it descended toward the normal point of departure with the fury of a thousand unprincipled waterfalls bent upon tidal destruction. In desperation, I leaned over the crib where the Shirley Temple doll was performing as the newborn and uttered the Middle Eastern version of "cootchie-coo" while tightly grasping my midsection with both arms in the hope that it would back up my internal organs and create a dam to hold back the Kool-Aid.

Alarmed by my non-scripted activity, Balthazar was forced to ad-lib. "Doth thou see the child?" he inquired. To which I responded, "I doth! I doth!" The strategy appeared to be initially successful, but the relief was only momentary. The inner surge had become a wave. Now I had but one hope – if I kept walking, it might stem the tide. So, I walked from one edge of the stage to the other – but the scene was only eight feet wide, so I told the other two wise men, "I seeketh the gold, Frankenstein and myrtle that we hath broughteth as gifteths."

Eventually, the pain became so intense that I was forced to hop on one leg, then shift to the other leg and repeat the process in an attempt to trick the Kool-Aid into taking the wrong path toward its intended destination. I looked out into the audience for help, hoping that someone out there would notice my plight and yell, "Tornado!" or something similar so they'd bring down the curtain.

Finally, the first act came to an end, and one observant member of the audience rushed up to me and asked, "Do you...?" I abandoned my Magi persona and proclaimed in native Kensal-ese, "I do. I do. I really do." She pointed to the staircase that led to a wooden outdoor relief station and whispered, "go," and I did – both literally and figuratively.

The second act came off well with no impromptu gyrations by any of the cast members. Afterward, I asked my mom why she didn't notice that I was acting strangely. "Oh, I thought you laced up your shoes too tight," she responded. For several years after that, the performance was referred to as "the night of the dancing wise man."

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Tavan invites neighbors to shop local this holiday season

By Hailey Pearson

Each winter, Tavan Elementary School puts on its annual holiday boutique called Tavan Twinkles. Shoppers can expect to find a wide array of food, gifts and entertainment for the whole family.

"The goal of this event is to bring folks together and unite Scottsdale Unified School District families in a warm, holiday environment," Tavan PTO member Deann Jensen said. "This long-standing tradition is highly-anticipated by members of the community."

The Tavan parent-teacher organization plans and executes this festive affair.

"Our parents have been wonderful at organizing this event, and they always get a wide array of community partners to participate," Ellen Young, Administrative Support Coordinator, said.

The organization makes sure to include a mix of student entrepreneurs and local businesses at the event. Guests will find goods ranging from $5 to $50.

"At first, there were just vendors, and over time, we realized there was a need for entertainment, so we involved surrounding schools, which made it more of a community event," Young said.

Tavan Twinkles will take place outside on the campus to allow for social distancing. Guests can also purchase festive drinks and eats from local vendors and food trucks.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DEANN JENSEN

2019 student vendors.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATRINA ALFARO

Alfaro family with Santa.

"We're striving to provide a variety of bakery and food options so that there is something for everyone," Young said.

As the boutique-goers shop, eat and mingle, they'll experience a tree lighting, classic holiday movies on the big screen, live performances by students across the district, and kid-friendly activities.

"Our family has been at every Tavan Twinkles they've organized. It's a great time," vendor Katrina Alfaro said. "We purchase a vendor booth more to support the school and the community; we don't sell anything but we do promote our local sports league, Arcadia Sports Central."

Alfaro's son, Jordan, will set up a booth this year to sell shoe keychains.

"The part we enjoy the most is seeing the community come together during the holidays and support vendors," Alfaro said.

Attendees can purchase locally sourced goods ranging from health and wellness items, hand-knitted pieces, honey, jewelry, hair accessories, home goods, and more. In addition, junior entrepreneurs will be selling their handmade trinkets.

"I can't wait to meet new people and promote my small business. I hope everyone loves the handmade sewn goods I'll be selling," Arcadia High student Hannah Biesecker said.

"I'm looking forward to sewing for the holidays, knowing that people will be opening my homemade gifts and stocking stuffers and supporting local crafters. My family has always shopped small businesses and I'm so happy to be part of that," Arcadia freshman Sydney Fouts said.

Sydney will be selling handmade tooth fairy pillows, leather card holder wallets, holiday hair scrunchies and boo-boo bags for little "ouchies" that happen.

The event takes place on Saturday, December 11, from 4-8 p.m. at 4610 E. Osborn Road. Admission is free.

"I think that the most important thing about this event is coming together after a challenging few years and being able to embrace the neighborhood, along with the greater community," Jensen said.

twinkles@tavanpto.com





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Phoenix Electric Light Parade

All of the lights, all of the lights!

By Melissa Hirschl

Here are a few holiday displays where twinkle lights are stars of the show.

MONDAY 12/1 – FRIDAY 1/2

Scottsdale Christmas Lights Segway Tours

7330 E. Earll Dr., Scottsdale

See downtown's razzle-dazzle while gliding on a Segway. The tour guide will explain the history of the area as riders tour downtown, the lighted waterfront, the arts district, Civic Center and more. The tour is one and a half hours. Admission is $59 per person, ages 12 and up. Tours are offered during the day as well.

scottsdalesegwaytours.com

WEDNESDAY 12/1

Lighted train ride at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park

7301 E. Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale

Ride the train through this winter wonderland surrounded by colorful holiday lights and displays. Families can also visit Santa and take pictures until December 23. More fun options include riding the Charros carousel, visiting the Model Railroad Building and getting treats at Hartley's General Store.

Admission is $15, free for two and under. The event is limiting the capacity of people per one and a half-hour time blocks at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

therailroadpark.com

SUNDAY 12/2

Chanukah on the Lawn

2505 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix

This enchanting Chanukah event is held at the Biltmore Fashion Park. It features a giant menorah lighting at 5:30 p.m., plus crafts, treats and an interactive bubble show. Admission is free.

chabadaz.com

SATURDAY 12/4

Phoenix Electric Light Parade

For more than three decades, the APS Light Parade has delighted the public with a festive, illuminated parade featuring musicians, marching bands, trucks, floats, balloons and performances.

The two-hour event starts at Camelback and Montebello Ave. and ends at 7th St. and Indian School Road. After the parade, children can take pictures with Santa, partake in workshops and engage in other fun holiday activities.

phoenix.gov

SATURDAY 12/4

The Great Dreidel Hunt

Martin Pear Jewish Community Center Scottsdale, 12701 N. Scottsdale Road

This family Chanukah adventure features music, a dreidel hunt, prizes and lots of festive snacks. Masks are required. The cost per family is $30 for members; $45 for guests. These prices include up to two children; additional children are $12.

vosjcc.org

SUNDAY 12/12 AND 12/18

Arcadia Farms Holiday Tea

7014 E. 1st Ave., Scottsdale

Relax from the craziness of the holidays by enjoying quality tea-time on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays in December. Diners can enjoy scrumptious petite sandwiches, homemade pastries, teas and other holiday fares. Admission is $42 per person, $55 with champagne service. Advanced tickets are required.

arcadiafarmscafe.com

THROUGHOUT DECEMBER

Holiday Light Experience at Salt River Fields Talking Stick

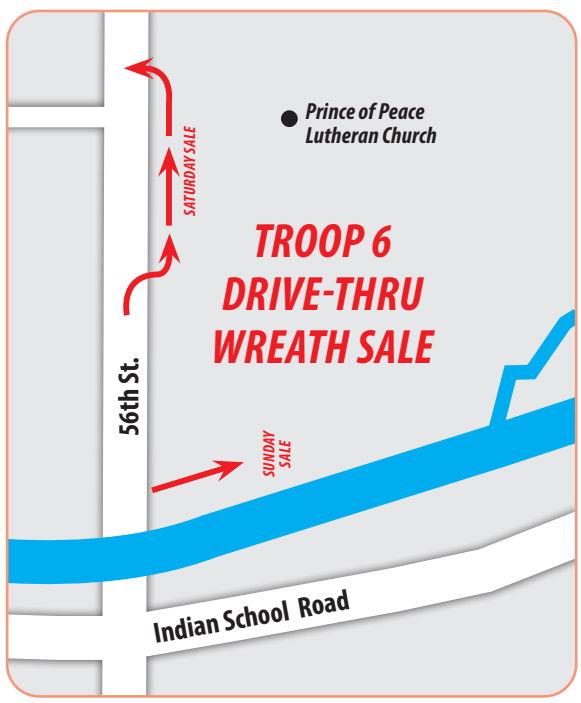
7555 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale

Visitors can experience nearly five million dazzling lights, music and magical displays at this drive-through holiday spectacular. Light displays are synchronized to Christmas melodies simulcast into vehicles on a designated FM radio station. Visitors can also visit Santa's Village, have hot chocolate and a snack. A new event is the Holiday Light Theater, where visitors can experience festive lights on a 20x40 screen. Admission is $35 per car until December 16. $40 from December 17-January 1.

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6301 E Mariposa
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6228 E Calle Del Media $2,600,000
4 beds /3 baths / 3472 sqft



4857 E Lafayette Blvd $3,295,000
4 beds / 5 baths / 4257 sqft



3511 North 39th
4 beds / 4.5 ba



3837 N 50th Street $825,000
4 beds / 2.5 baths / 1883 sqft



6629 E Monterosa St $1,695,000
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3812 N 60th Place $2,600,000
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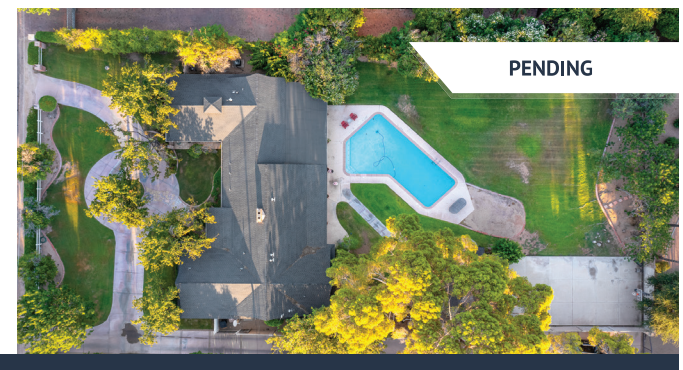
3355 N 55th Pl $2,750,000
4 beds / 4 baths / 3825 sqft





Place $2,195,000
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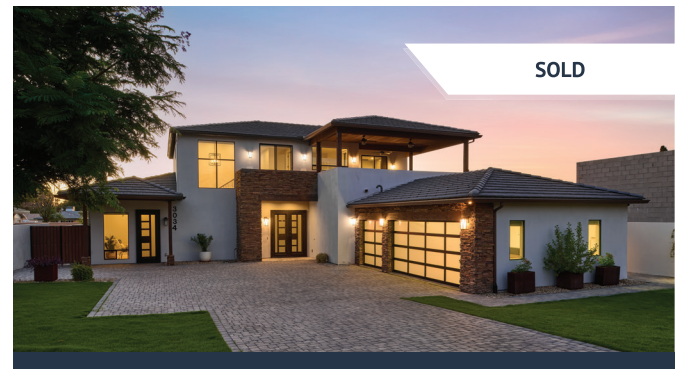
6715 E Exeter Blvd $2,500,000
4 beds / 3.5 Baths / 3623 SF / 36k lot



5420 E Calle Tuberia $1,595,000
16,483 SF lot



2535 N 55th Place $925,000
3 beds / 2 baths / 254 4 sqft



3034 E Valencia Lane $1,775,000
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Pep up holiday parties with tasty appetizers



Plant-based Wellness

BY MIRIAM HAHN

Owner of YouCare-SelfCare, a private wellness practice specializing in plant-based lifestyle and disease prevention.
youcare-selfcare.com

As we wrap up 2021, here are three quick, healthy dip recipes to bring to a party or serve at home. The healthier we are during the holidays, the happier we are when setting resolutions!

Find more recipes on my Instagram: @youcare.selfcare

Join Miriam's Metabolism 4-week, Zoom BOOT CAMP starting January 19.

Easy Roasted Red Pepper Dip

Ingredients



- 1 jar (12 oz.) roasted red peppers, drained
- ½ cup walnuts
- ½ cup panko or breadcrumbs
- 1 teaspoon balsamic vinegar
- Juice of ½ lemon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder or granules
- ¼-½ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika

Directions

1. Add everything to a large food processor and blend until smooth.
2. Ready to serve. Use as a dip with pita bread, on sandwiches or as a pasta sauce.

Mango Guacamole

Ingredients



- 3 large avocados
- 1 cup mango, diced
- 2-3 tablespoons red onion, diced + more for garnish
- 1 jalapeno, de-seeded and minced
- 1 lime, juiced
- 1/3 cup cilantro, chopped + more for garnish
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon coarse salt

Directions

1. Mash the avocados in a bowl. Add the rest of the ingredients and stir to combine.

Air Fryer Baba Ganoush

Ingredients



- 1 eggplant
- ½ teaspoon salt + a few shakes on the eggplant before it goes in the air fryer
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- ¼ cup tahini
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon cumin
- ¼ teaspoon smoked paprika
- Juice of one lemon
- 1 tablespoon dairy-free feta cheese
- ½ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- Parsley, lemon zest optional for garnish

Directions

1. Cut the eggplant in half lengthwise and sprinkle with salt.
2. Place eggplant halves in the air fryer, face up. Set temperature to 400 F and cook for 20 minutes. When they are done, let them cool for ten minutes.
3. Scoop out the cooked eggplant into a food processor and add the salt, olive oil, tahini, garlic powder, cumin, smoked paprika, and lemon juice. Pulse until smooth.
4. Top with dairy-free feta cheese, red pepper flakes, and optional parsley and lemon zest. Ready to serve!

Night of Hope Gala honors little warriors

By Rachael Bouley

Gala season opened in September, with all the pomp and circumstance of events from years past. There were fancy dresses, a red carpet, and plenty of entertainment to be had at the Night of Hope Gala, which turned out to be a massive success.

They raised a total of $607,000 for Amanda Hope Rainbow Angels, a local nonprofit that supports children fighting cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

The gala included an in-person and virtual event to support families facing the heavy emotions and numerous challenges of childhood cancer. It's one of the signature fundraising events for the organization, founded in 2012 in celebration of Amanda Hope's life. While the little girl lost her three-year battle to leukemia, her courageous legacy lives on.

One of Amanda's dreams was to design a fun clothing line for kids going through chemo treatments, which inspired Comfycozy's for Chemo apparel.

Not only does the gala raise funds for support programs, but it also brings the community together to raise awareness of all the families affected by a heartbreaking diagnosis.

Jessie Swygert is Director of Operations at Amanda Hope Rainbow Angels, and she said it's fantastic to see how much the gala and the organization have grown over the years.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NIGHT OF HOPE GALA





Guests enjoyed an evening of dancing, food and music to benefit Amanda Hope Rainbow Angels.

"The first Night of Hope Gala was in 2013 at the Bentley Art Gallery. Every guest wore white [for the innocence of children], and we raised $53,000," Swygert said. "We were able to sponsor every Arizona little warrior with Comfycozys for Chemo apparel and 'Major Distractions' in every hospital: spa days, crafts, crazy car days and financial aid."

Major Distractions are excursions for patients to help take their minds off their battles.

Thanks to social worker partnerships in every pediatric hospital in Arizona, Amanda Hope Rainbow Angels connects more families with valuable resources every year.

The Rainbow Angels teamed up with community partners to organize auction items and fun ways to give back in preparation for the Night of Hope Gala.

"Everyone was very excited to be out and about. You could feel the energy, excitement and generosity in the room," Swygert said. "Our virtual table hosts had catered meals at home with party boxes and cocktails delivered to their homes. Our co-founder, Marty Tallman, filled the room with compassion for the incredibly hard journey every cancer warrior fights."

Having surpassed the initial fundraising goal of $500,000, the funds raised will support the charity throughout 2022. Donors chose different programs to help, including mobile counseling, emergency crisis expenses, financial assistance, Comfycozy apparel, and Major Distractions.

Amanda Hope Rainbow Angels is currently planning for more fundraising and support programs in the future.

amandahope.org



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Miss Arcadia steps into her next reigning role: Miss Arizona

By Sabrina Proffitt

In a blue dress with a bouquet in hand and a sash around her shoulders, Miss Arcadia – also known as Faith Phares – has earned the crown and the title of United States of America's 2022 Miss Arizona.

Along with her queen sisters: United States of America's (USOA) Teen, Ms. and Mrs. Arizona, Phares will be heading to nationals next year, where the group will be competing for the titles of Teen, Miss, Ms. and Mrs. America.

Phares was crowned on October 24 and shared the news on her social media accounts the following day. She said that she felt like it was a dream but then realized that she had really won Miss Arizona.

"I have been working hard for the past year to prepare, whether it was physical preparation or to elevate my platform. I'm really excited to represent Arizona this year," she said.

Phares added that she plans to continue expanding and joining forces with other nonprofits in the Valley while teaming up with her other 'sisters' in Arizona to make a difference, "as best as we can throughout our year."

As Miss Arizona, Phares hopes to spread awareness about her platform dedicated to helping homeless veterans in the Valley. She said she often helps veterans by making "bare necessity" bags and passing them out to homeless veterans she finds while driving around the neighborhood.

"These bags may consist of blankets, food, toiletries, toothbrush, combs, sunscreens, some food items," Phares said. "For women, sanitary items and those kinds of things. I put them together and drive around with them in my car and hand them out to any homeless veterans that I see out on the streets."

Phares wants women to know that the competition isn't all about looks but that USOA's pageants specifically are aimed at empowering women and helping them become the most authentic and best versions of themselves.

"I think there's a lot of stereotypes around pageants like it's a beauty queen contest and the prettiest girl wins, but that's not the case," Phares said. "Our organization looks at who you are as a person, what you want to do for your community, and they want to help further your future by doing community services. It's about what you want to do with your title; that you're doing your best to represent your state."

Phares and the rest of the USOA contestants will head to Las Vegas for President's Day weekend in February 2022 to compete for the United States of America crowns in the Teen, Miss, Ms. and Mrs. categories.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAITH PHARES

Charis Royal, 2021 USOA Miss Arizona, passing the crown to 2022 winner, Faith Phares.

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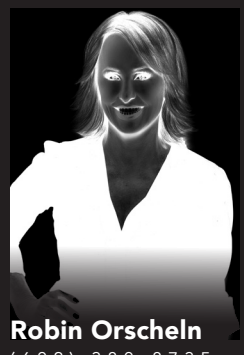
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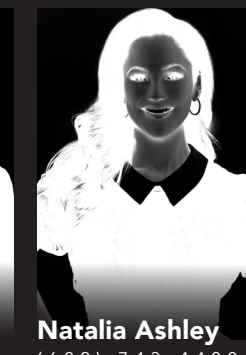
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Jason Boyer

Growing up, Jason Boyer spent his playtime building things out of Lego blocks. As he got older, he moved on to model kits, constructing all sorts of things. When he wasn't caught up in his creations, he helped his dad build or fix things, so it's of little wonder that he would eventually become an architect.

"I was exposed to a lot of opportunities as a kid, and when you're young, those tend to influence you," said Boyer.

He and his sister were raised in Rockford, Illinois, and both parents were high school teachers. "We learned that Midwest work ethic from our parents, and that has certainly come in handy in owning my own business."

> **When you teach others, you are also learning.**

Boyer graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in architecture and then headed west to "get away from all those gloomy days." He attended Arizona State, earning a Master's in Architecture degree and finishing among the top three graduates. Perhaps with a bit of influence from his parents, he then traded a book bag for the professor's lectern, teaching while working as an architect for five years.

"When you teach others, you are also learning, so my time at ASU was instrumental," reflected Boyer.

At age 35, Jason was named a principal and director of architecture for the local office of a national firm, a lofty position for someone that age. He headed up many of their projects around the country. Later, he moved to another firm – earning numerous AIA design awards while there before finally taking the plunge and launching Jason Boyer Architects in 2012.

Boyer prefers to view himself as the "total architect" because his professional offerings encompass three competencies: design, technical execution and practice management. "Our suite of offerings is interrelated and helps distinguish who we are," he said.

His projects include municipal buildings, schools, healthcare, sporting venues, adaptive reuse, and residential neighborhoods created through public/private partnerships. His work with Great Hearts Academies has resulted in six new campuses in as many years.

The 49-year-old entrepreneur modified his business model and launched Boyer Vertical, which offers design, build and real estate development services. "This new approach allows me to work on things I'm interested in and control my destiny," he said.

A project that Boyer is most proud of, calling it his "biggest success," is artHAUS, a residential infill project that has drawn national acclaim and just last month earned an Arizona AIA Distinguished Building Honor. He is currently developing Karma Phoenix, another infill project and a place where he says people can "live with intention."

Jason isn't the only entrepreneur in the family, as his wife, Karen, owns her own business as well. They met at a Halloween party – Karen quickly catching his eye dressed as Pocahontas – and were married a few years later. Their 10-year-old daughter, Kennedy, and two standard poodles round out the Boyer household.

Boyer says his days and nights blur together as he juggles the roles of husband, father, businessman and avid "fitness guy."

His self-professed superpower is resiliency. "I'm able to deal with the unknowns that come along the way, whether they be good or bad, without overreacting."

Not surprisingly, a thoughtful philosophy from someone who has built his life on a solid foundation.



Jason Boyer

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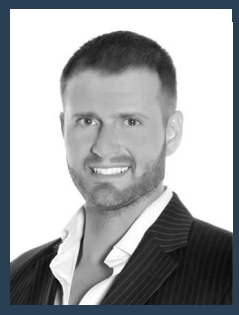
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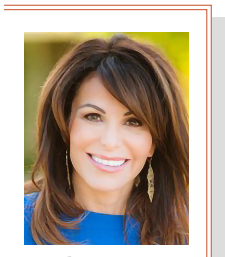
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Stick with a classic gift for the holiday season



Robin's Adventures

BY ROBIN SEWELL

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

It's that time of year – everyone is searching for the latest and greatest gadget to gift – whether for kids, parents or spouses.

It's also the time of year when that quest often turns into a frenzy because the toy at the top of everyone's wish list is often out of stock or on backorder until next year, and by then, the allure of that elusive gift will have faded, and the new "it" toy will be top of mind.

So, why not give a gift that's fun for everyone, a gift you can play anywhere and will never go out of style?

The yoyo is still considered one of the greatest toys of all time. It can be traced back to 500 B.C., but it didn't find mainstream success until the 1920s when a young immigrant from the Philippines came to the U.S. and founded a yoyo manufacturing company.

Within a year, the company was producing 300,000 yoyos, transcending it to the "wonder toy" with yoyo contests and events popping up all over the country.





Hans Van Dan Elzen

We took a trip on the Arizona highways to the YoYoFactory in Chandler to see just how popular the toy is today. We chatted with Hans Van Dan Elzen, the owner and a professional yoyo instructor. He's been in the *Guinness Book of Records* twice for the number of minutes he could spin and for the number of tricks he mastered.

Hans, or "Yohans," as he likes to refer to himself, picked up his first yoyo at age 15 and with no instruction, he made a slipknot and put it on his middle finger. He then threw it down, turned his hand over, tugged and brought it back.

It was as if he was a yoyo champion in a former life – and it happened in this life, too. By the time he was 26, he had been to over 25 countries, running demos and working with kids all over the world to teach them his skills. His motto is, "if you teach them all the tricks, they will stick with it for life."

When it comes to yoyos, Hans says there have been years when popularity spikes. During one global craze, the YoYoFactory sold around 50 million yoyos. While we were there, we also met the next generation of unstrung heroes. Hunter Feersteen is a four-time Arizona state yoyo champion, and currently, he's 15th in the world.

In 2017, Hunter went to Iceland for the World Yoyo Championship and, in 2018, competed in China. He says what he loves about the yoyo is that it's a highly creative outlet. There are infinite amounts of tricks people can learn, and there's always a challenge to learn more.

There's a small store inside the factory where folks can buy a yoyo for $5-$10 and, in less than thirty minutes, can also learn how to play. "You'll learn ten basic tricks that every generation has learned in the last one hundred years," Hans said. Sounds like a gift that just keeps on giving!

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11-97862 07/21

This season's toy stories

Not long ago, I heard NPR announce that toys will be scarce this holiday season. Container ships are waiting at the Port of Long Beach, with similar queues in ports around the country. Many ships in the Pacific hold the gifts that Arizona retailers ordered months ago.

Oh dear, *toys*? Children have already made so many adjustments recently. Sure enough, the playground items I had ordered were soon canceled.

While toy shortages are the conflict in many Santa Claus movies, a scarcity may not be as sad as it sounds. A shift in consumption could be good for children, families and the planet.



Nola's Notes

BY NOLA ENGE, PH.D.

Director at The Hills School, 5524 E. Lafayette Blvd. For more: thehillsschool.org.

In fact, play researchers have been promoting simpler playthings long before the supply chain issue emerged.

Play is how children make sense of their world. It is foundational to mathematical concepts, reading, writing, and social and emotional development. It advances the spatial awareness needed for athletics. Play is emotive and creative, which may support artistic pursuits. Adults can thank risky play such as tree climbing, jumping off things, or somersaulting downhill for whatever spatial sensibility we now rely on as adults. Play is crucial to child development.

Using simple materials is supported by the three popular early childhood philosophies. Reggio Emilia-inspired schools use natural materials, create with everyday loose parts, and consider an aesthetically pleasing environment a third teacher (alongside parents and teachers).

Montessori schools carefully choose materials for children to experience their five senses, and children self-select following their interests as they grow in independence. Waldorf education values open-ended, imaginative play, and handmade playthings. Waldorf's weighted dolls could be an example of a gift to make this season with your child.

The good news is that experts encourage the very types of play that our shortage may necessitate. Instead of the toys marketed to us that are loud, colorful, and plastic, we may find open-ended, collaborative, experiential toys and connect children to nature via organic materials.

It becomes a present when you create stations, sensory tables, or studio space with art materials, glue, Velcro, and tools in the corner of your home or yard. Give yourselves permission to simplify and connect. This year's toy shortage may end up having an upside.

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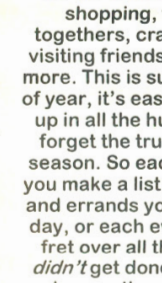
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Vol. 7. No. 9 FREE December 1999

arcadiaNEWSBEAT

Tis the season for parties, shopping, family get-togethers, crafting, baking, visiting friends, and so much more. This is such a busy time of year, it's easy to get caught up in all the hullabaloo, and forget the true spirit of the season. So each morning, as you make a list of the projects and errands you must do that day, or each evening, as you fret over all the things you *didn't* get done, take time to observe the simple joys in your life. Treasure the secretive smiles of your children, as they plan what gifts *they* will make or buy. Take pleasure in the home you have so lovingly decorated, the delicious aromas of the goodies you have baked, the hugs you've given and received, and the cards sent by those far away. These are the things that make the holidays truly special.

All of us at Arcadia News wish you and yours the very best of everything during this Joyous Holiday Season



Holiday Joy!



Photo by: Rose Lausten Photography

These guys have discovered a great hobby to occupy their time—yo-yos! All of these yo-yo wizards attend Arcadia Christian School. They are (pictured clockwise bottom l to r): Cody McCluskey (age 7), Phillip Elwardt (age 10), Andrew Tang (age 8), Joseph Zembsch (age 9), Nico Elwardt (age 7).

LOOK TO US FOR YOUR SOURCE OF NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

These guys have discovered a great hobby to occupy their time – yo-yos! All of these yo-yo wizards attend Arcadia Christian School. They are (clockwise from bottom left) Cody McCluskey (age 7), Phillip Elwardt (age 10), Andrew Tang (age 8), Joseph Zembsch (age 9), Nico Elwardt (age 7).

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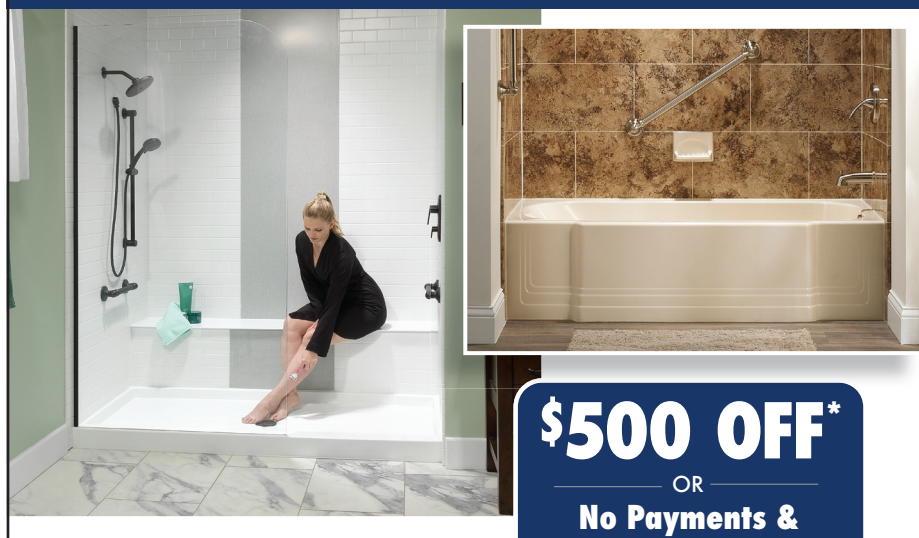
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The first pieces of the Jewel Tea Autumn Leaf collection were made in 1933.

Glass and jewel: What once was

Once upon a time, American households regularly set tables and had family meals. Glass makers and china companies capitalized on this wholesome tradition by flooding the market with millions of pieces that once graced everyday tables of yore.

American Fostoria line 2056 and the Jewel Tea Company hawked their wares in a contrasting fashion: Fostoria was sold through fine department stores and Jewel Tea by the traveling salesman. Sadly, the popularity of collecting line 2056 and Jewel Tea has lessened, much like the family dinner.

Line 2056 is commonly known as "American Fostoria" and was produced continuously from 1915 until the plant closed in 1986. The geometric, cube-like pattern was unusual, revolutionary and intriguing to the housewife who desired to show the family and neighbors that she was a "future-thinking woman" setting a new course.

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.

At one time, Fostoria was the largest glassware maker in the country and employed over a thousand people who produced more than seven million pieces in over fourteen colors. Since line 2056 was sold in a more upscale environment, it was more commonly used in upper-tier society circles.

As appraisers, we see a great deal of the clear American Fostoria pieces, such as plates, serving dishes, candy dishes and appetizer plates that all have nominal but no extraordinary value. Folks can purchase many of these items at local malls – a dinner plate is $6.98, and a water glass goes for $4.98 each.

However, the early Fostoria pieces produced in specific colors (red, peach and cobalt blue) still command a collector value. As an example, a cobalt blue footed candy dish can fetch up to $65 or more. Of course, some companies copied the design, like Indiana's Whitehall Company, which produced avocado pieces that are mistakenly identified as American Fostoria. It takes a trained eye to pick the real from the fake.

Likewise, Jewel Tea, which featured the "Autumn Leaf" pattern manufactured by the Hall China Company from 1933 until 1976 (except for a few pieces briefly reintroduced in 1978 and stamped accordingly), was also prized tableware at one time.

The pattern first entered the home by door-to-door salesmen from the Jewel Tea Company and later as "customer premiums." The first item was the famous teapot introduced to educate the American housewife on the proper method of brewing tea and the pot to brew it.

Other pieces followed as interest grew. Many people mistakenly identify the piece as a "Jewel Tea" pattern instead of the correct "Autumn Leaf." The company produced over 42 million pieces.

Like Fostoria, the commonplace has even less value. Mixing bowls, serving pieces, coffee cups and saucers are found almost everywhere. The rarer pieces are still collected by a shrinking collector market that looks for the unusual. Again, it takes a trained eye to know the nuances of the historical changes, such as the purported 160 different shapes and color combinations of Hall teapots.

Collecting along with values shift with each generation's interests and demands. Sadly, as the everyday evening meal with a set table has drifted to passing memories, the clamor to collect those memories in the tangibles of glass and china has also lessened.



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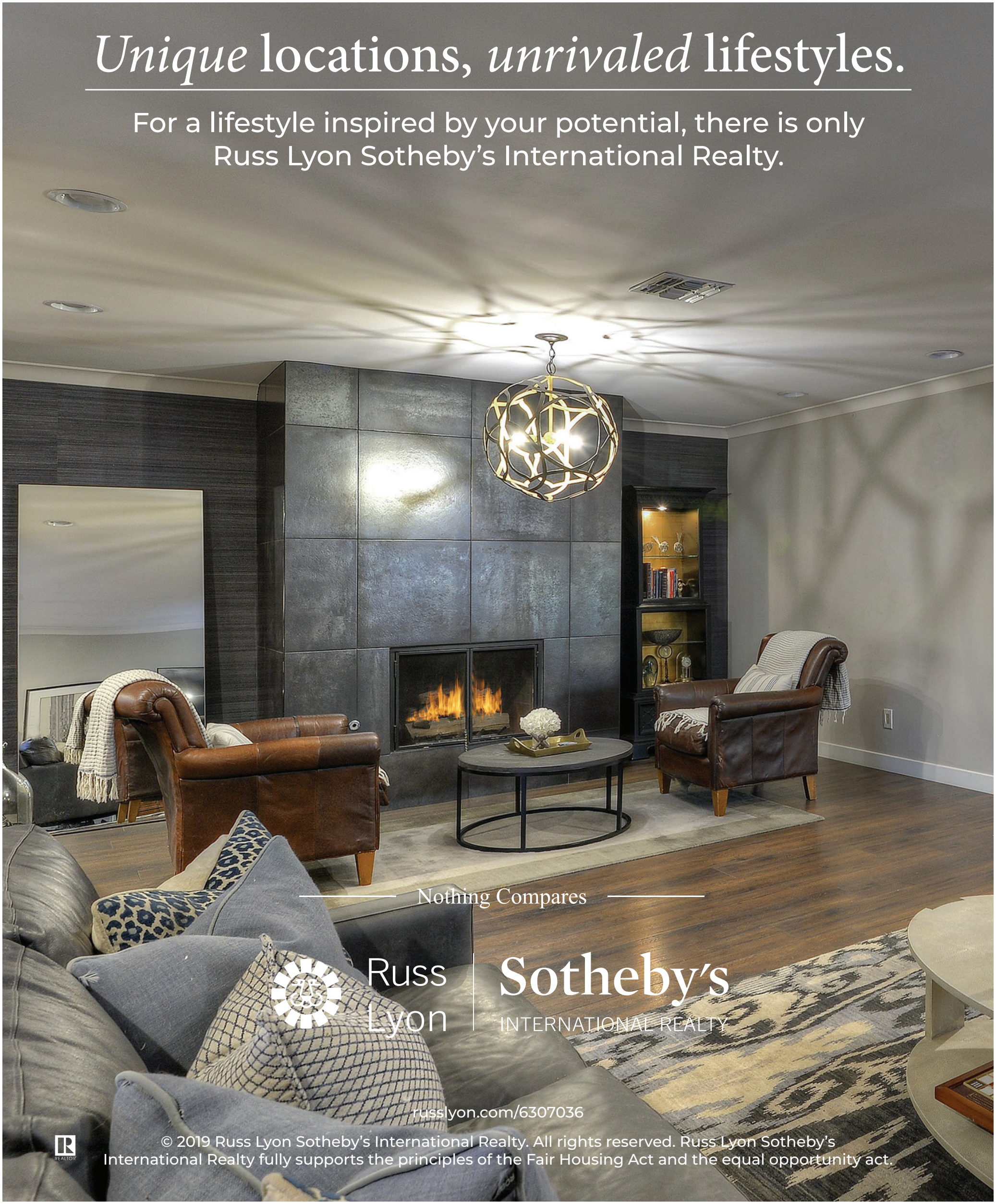
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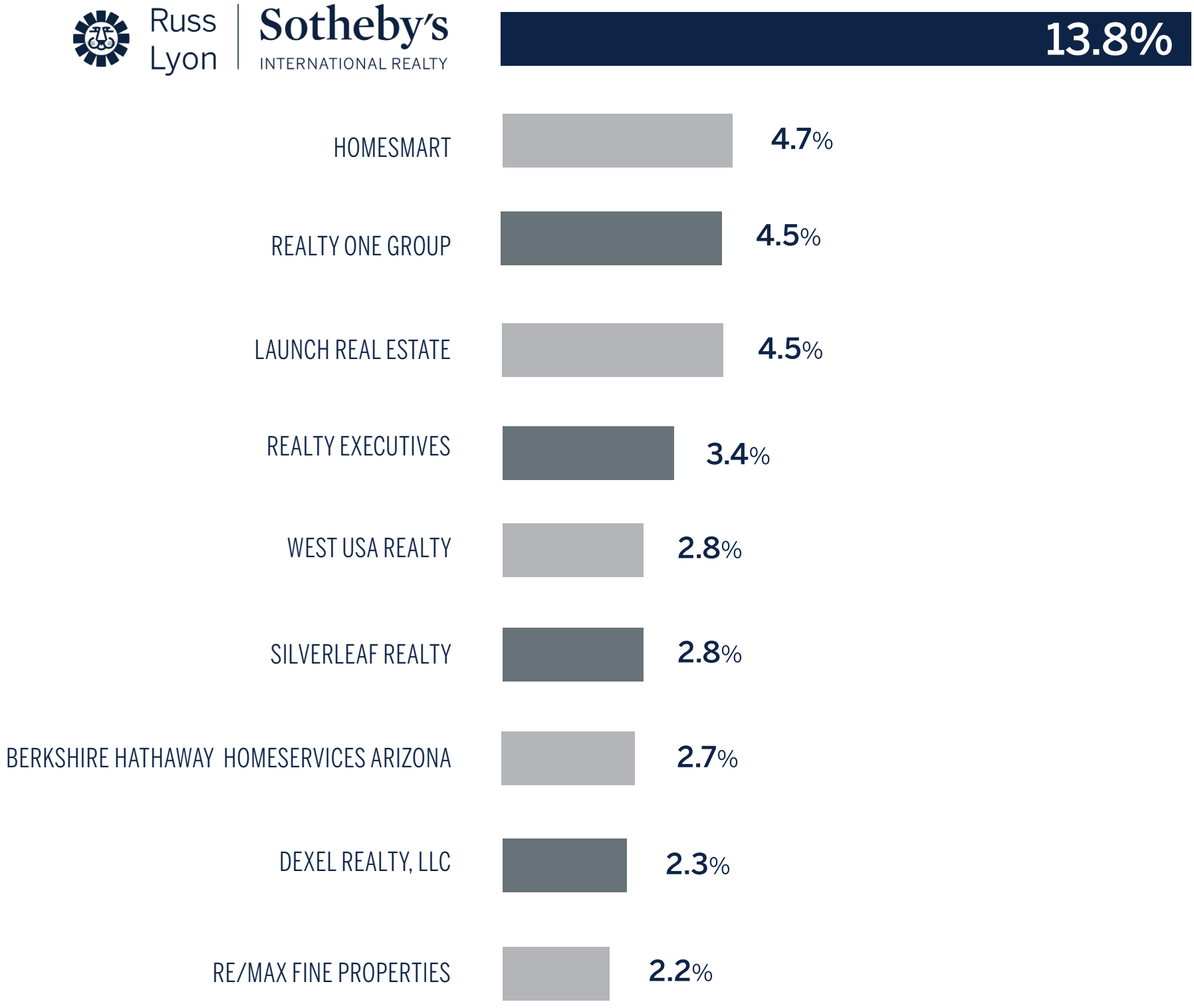
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Brophy golf's undefeated season ends at the state championship

By Melissa Hirschl

Under the leadership of varsity Coach Jon Shores, the Brophy golf team has experienced the sweet smell of success – three times in a row. During September and October, the team won nine of the nine-hole matches they played against high schools across the Valley in addition to three tournaments.

According to Shores, the team was on point this year with the help of starters Charlie Palmer, Brayden Bozak, Jack Dozer, George Rubelsky and Henry Dall.

"This season's success has been because of each of the players," senior Michael Kuhl said. "We had a competitive team of 12, and we strived to be the best version of ourselves. Golf is a game that tests patience and concentration."

Shores said that the time and energy expended by the team were critical reasons for their success. He also attributes their achievements to ancillary forms of support. "The boys hire swing, fitness and mental coaches, who focus on motivation and resilience," he explained.

The season began the second week of August and culminated in early November with the State Championships in Tucson. Brophy posted a two-day total of eight under par at the championship, finishing in second place behind Chandler Hamilton's 35 under par. Three players finished in the top 10; Charlie Palmer in fifth, George Rubelsky in sixth and Jack Dozer in seventh.



PHOTO BY JON SHORES

Jack Dozer, Alec Hilgers, Dylan Boenning, Nico Nuez, Scottie Belgrad, Tyler Spielman, George Rubelsky, Charlie Palmer, Brayden Bozak, Mike Kuhl, Trevor Karber and Henry Dall.

Brophy golfers enhanced their skills with afternoon matches of 15 players playing nine-holes against two other schools. Tournaments, by contrast, are two-day events of 10 to 20 teams, with 50-100 players playing 18 holes each day.

The team's winning streak began at the Varsity Invitational Tournament at Grayhawk Golf Course in Scottsdale, held on August 27 and 28.

"They had their best team score in tournament history," said Shores. "They played four-under par with sophomore Tyler Spielman posting a tournament record of ten under par as an individual."

The next cause for celebration occurred at their second tournament on September 3-4 at the Brophy Rodeo played at the Wigwam Resort Golf Club in Litchfield Park. The team's trajectory stayed on course when they once again won at the Encanterra Tournament International the weekend of September 23-24. Hosted by Perry High School in Gilbert, the event was held in San Tan Valley.

Discussing the allure of the game, player George Rubelsky said, "I wasn't planning on playing golf in high school, but once I tried it, I was hooked. This has been a very competitive year that's been amazing and unforgettable. I feel like I've gotten to know all my teammates very well, as we've grown our team chemistry since the beginning of the season. I'm looking forward to playing in college."

Shores described the multiple ways he believes golf impacts teens' lives. "I love the sport, but I also love the fact it's an excellent avenue to help kids learn about life beyond high school and beyond competitive golf.

Golf skills include patience, dealing with adversity, determination, trusting in yourself, and learning to deal with disappointment. It's a game you can play for the rest of your life. I've been coaching at Brophy for 21 years, and I'll coach as long as my wife lets me," Shores said with a grin.

Arcadia sisters took a swing at a new sport…and kept swinging

By Sabrina Proffitt

For athletic sisters Brooke and Mackenzie Bream, their source of entertainment during last year's shutdown came from an unlikely place. They decided to try their hands at a sport they had never played before and were surprised by the outcome.

In 2020, Brooke was a senior at Xavier College Prep, and Mackenzie was a sophomore at Arcadia High School. With their sports games and practices canceled, the pair were at a loss for how to pass the time. One day, they headed over to the Arizona Country Club to play golf on a whim, and what started as a joke changed their athletic careers.

"Right about the time quarantine hit, I thought it would be fun to try and play golf with one of my friends. I told Brooke she had to come play," Mackenzie said. "We started going every single day and started loving it."

The duo had never really liked golf before, even though their father had begged them to play with him years before.

"It kind of started as a joke," Brooke said. "We were just going to go out there and try to hit the ball and not miss it, but then we started going out there all the time, and we thought 'oh, shoot, we're actually getting better.'"

Brooke said that she thought about playing at the beginning of her senior year and was planning to play in college but considered that she wouldn't be good enough at the sport.

"We kept working and getting closer and closer to the end of the year," she said.

As the girls worked on their skills at the course, their mother, Shelly, would often be approached by neighbors asking if she knew how often they were practicing.

"As parents, we were really strict during the pandemic," Shelly said. "It was really scary. But we said 'go outside and do stuff' because that's what you could do. Golf was something positive that came out of this, which is great."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHELLY BREAM

Mackenzie Bream



Brooke Bream

Mackenzie has participated in nine Junior Golf Association of Arizona (JGAA) events since she first picked up a golf club in March 2020. As a junior, she played on AHS's girls' golf team and the team won first in the district. Mackenzie herself won second overall in the district.

Brooke is a freshman at the University of Nebraska and plays on the girls' golf team, where she was a walk-on after playing in 12 JGAA competitions. She ended the season in the number three position for JGAA Player of the Year honors.

"They found something they really liked and worked hard to get where they are. It's a testament to hard work paying off, and I'm so proud of them both," Shelly said.

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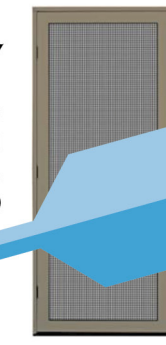


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HOW MUCH?

189 INCHES

The most snow ever recorded from a single storm in North America was 189 inches. In Northern California, the Mount Shasta Ski Bowl received 189 inches or 15.75 feet of snow on February 13-19, 1959.
– guinnessworldrecords.com



100.8 INCHES

The most snow in 24 hours occurred in Capracotta, Italy, on March 5, 2015, at 100.8 inches. (For comparative purposes, Chicago's largest 24-hour snowfall was 23.0 inches on January 26-27, 1967.)
– guinnessworldrecords.com



HOW FAST?

9 MPH



Snowflakes can fall at speeds anywhere between one to nine mph, depending on the environmental conditions. It takes roughly an hour for a flake to leave its cloud and reach the ground. That's almost as fast a goat can run.
– metoffice.gov.uk

HOW LARGE?

15 INCHES



The largest snowflake was 15 inches in diameter and eight inches thick. It was measured at Fort Keogh, Montana in 1887. That's about as tall as a bowling pin.
– guinnessworldrecords.com



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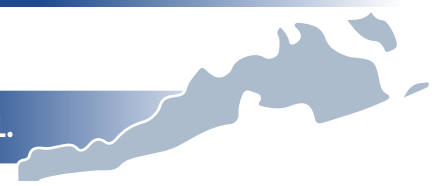
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SNOW FACTS

Snow is translucent, not white.

Snowflakes always have six sides.

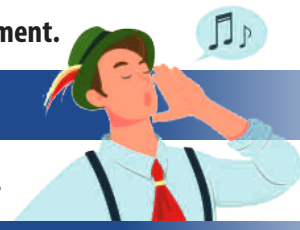


Snow has never been reported in Key West, FL.

It's a myth that no two snowflakes are the same.

Snow is classified as a mineral.

Snow affects the sound in an environment.



Snow is adaptable.

Yodelling will not cause an avalanche.

Snowflakes aren't the only form of snow, and snow can also precipitate as snow pellets or sleet.

Each winter in the U.S., at least one septillion ice crystals fall from the sky.

To be classified as a blizzard, winds must blow at least 35 miles per hour, and the snowfall must reduce visibility to less than 0.25 miles for at least three hours.

Snow can actually warm up a person.



Igloos can be more than 100 degrees warmer inside than outside.

Snow can cause blindness.

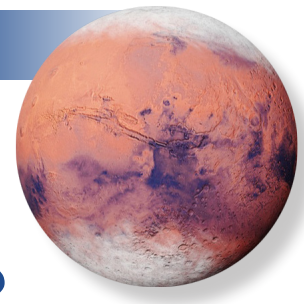
In 2007, 8,962 people in North Dakota set the record for the most snow angels made simultaneously in one place.

In 2011, 22,022 Nova Scotia residents in 130 separate locations set the record for the most snow angels made simultaneously in multiple locations.

In 2013, 5,834 snow fighters came together to create the world's largest snowball fight.

Snowflakes fall at a rate of one to six feet per second in all conditions.

It snows on Mars.



Chionophobia is the fear of snow.

SAY WHAT?

SYRACUSE, NEW YORK, TRIED TO MAKE SNOW ILLEGAL

America's snowiest major city has an impressive arsenal of plows, but in 1992 it tried a new trick to control white stuff. The city's Common Council passed a decree that any more snow before Christmas Eve was illegal. As it turns out, Mother Nature is a scofflaw – it snowed just two days later. – *buffalonews.com*

SNOW WORD SEARCH

N	U	K	Q	L	D	T	Y	R	V	V	T	K	V	A	Z	D	K	K	L	N	L	G	O	F
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Arcadia High School varsity football


Brophy Prep football


Veritas Prep middle school football

Area schools wrap up fall season sports

By Cliff Summerhill

The sports teams at Veritas Preparatory Academy, Arcadia High School, Brophy Prep and Xavier Prep enjoyed numerous successes as their sports seasons concluded this fall.

ARCADIA HIGH SCHOOL

FOOTBALL

The Arcadia Titans ended their football season in second place in the 4A Black Canyon region with a 5-5 standing.

Having won their homecoming game against Tempe High School with an impressive score of 55-7, the team gained upward momentum into the rest of the season. Unfortunately, Arcadia High did not make it to the playoffs; the score of their last game was 35-20, with Poston Butte taking the win.

GOLF

The boys golf team ended in third place after the state championships, while the girls team placed eighth overall after a 6-2 ratio during their regular-season matches.

The boys team was full of younger players this year and it was Coach Stephen Danford's first time coaching golf, but he said by the end of the season, the players discovered who they were as a team.

"We played the absolute best on the last day of the state championships," Danford said. "All of our guys contributed this season; it was truly a team effort."

According to Coach Erica McClurg, the girls team had a very tight bond, which helped them win the district championship and place three of their golfers in the top four.

"We had three seniors that have been on the team for all four years," McClurg said. "They are very close and they welcomed the new players with open arms. We had such a great and fun season."

CROSS COUNTRY

Both the girls and boys cross country teams had a difficult season. The boys team ranked 13 out of 15 teams in the Division II East Section and the girls team ranked eighth overall in the same division.

"The Arcadia boys and girls cross country teams had several successes this season, including resilience, toughness and a willingness for growth," Head Coach Tyler Moore said. "Our Arcadia boys cross country team showed resilience by pushing themselves in each race and workout. The Arcadia girls team ran with toughness all year long."

Key runners include seniors Luke Sleeth and John Campbell and juniors Mateo Rodriguez, Leo Montoya and Scott Gurley on the boys team. On the girls team, junior Tegan Hendricks, sophomores Kate Marinick and Kialeena Ferguson and freshmen Jenna Mukavitz and Charlotte Hopper all performed above expectations.

"We came up short on some team performances. However, we did have some individual successes," Moore said. "We sent Luke Sleeth and Kialeena Ferguson to the AIA State Cross Country Meet on November 13."

SWIM

Arcadia's swim team remained flexible and worked hard both individually and as a team this season. However, after competing in the Division II State Championships on November 6, the Titans ranked 21st on the girls side and 12th on the boys side.

"This was my first season as a head coach and there are so many things that I learned from it," Coach Wyatt Schafer said. "Coaching for swimming has so many different parts and it is a lot of work to make sure everything is organized and running smoothly. I had my fair share of learning opportunities that will make me a much better coach in the future."

While Schafer believes every athlete is important to the team's overall success, senior Chase An and junior Emily Dodd scored the most points at meets this season.

BROPHY PREP

FOOTBALL

As the season wrapped up, the Broncos headed into the playoffs with a 6-3 standing after facing off against Williams Field High School. The group won the first round of playoff games on November 19 against Desert Ridge and at press time are heading for the quarter finals against Red Mountain.

"I wanted to finish on a high note in the regular season so that we could make a deep run in the playoffs," Jewell said.

The team had 23 passing touchdowns, 476 rushing yards and 242 receptions this season. Senior Benjamin Morrison, who is already committed to Notre Dame and senior Elijah Warner were just a few standout players as Brophy hurtled toward the finish line.

SWIM

After being undefeated this season, Brophy participated in the Division One State Championships and ranked third overall against 32 other Arizona high school teams with a total score of 296. According to Coach Daren Brubaker, State was a tight race and it came down to some very close scores among the top three schools.

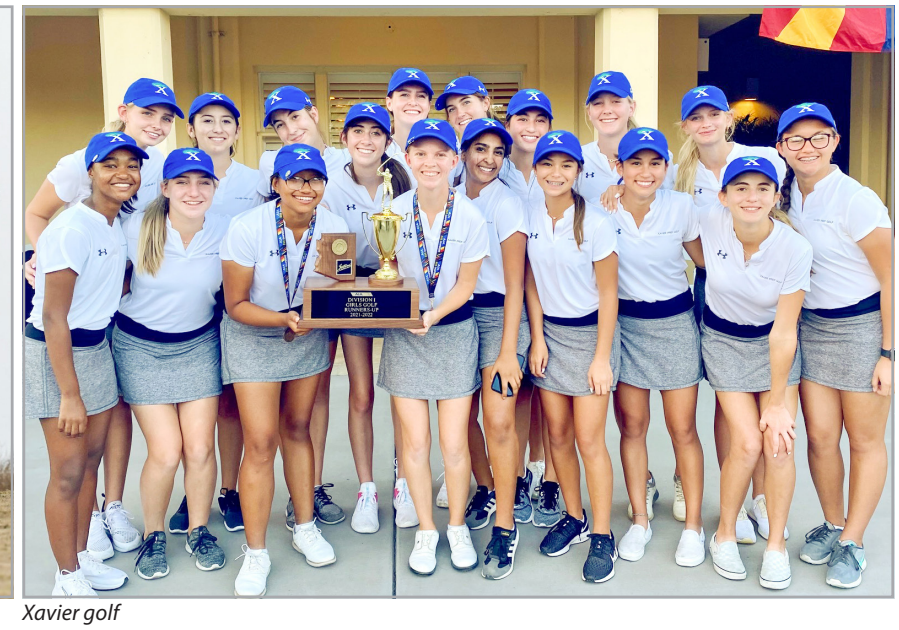




Veritas swimming



Xavier cross country


Xavier golf

"I think what we did was remarkable for the talent we had," Brubaker said. "We had great team camaraderie this year. Our boys are resilient, patient and persistent and came within 16 points of being on top."

This season, seniors Jack Sorenson and Thomas Joswiak were the Bronco's standout athletes with top-five placements for the 200-yard freestyle event, ranking fourth and fifth, respectively and Thomas ranking second in the 500-yard freestyle event. In the diving event, senior Gage Dubois took second place with an overall score of 546.50, meeting a school record.

"We swim for each other and that's a big key," senior Justin Krueger said. "It's a big family and brotherhood and I couldn't swim fast without them."

VERITAS PREP

FOOTBALL

With 35 athletes, Veritas' largest roster to date, the Falcons ended their season 5-5 and ranked second in their region. According to Athletic Director Kayla Walsh, every player on the team was dedicated and worked hard for a successful season.

"Our students believe they can do whatever they set their minds to and our coaching staff does an amazing job at making their athletic dreams come true," Walsh said.

She attributes Veritas' standout seniors for their successful season, including Gage Lentz (QB/DB), Eli Ravelo (G/MLB), Will Tork (LB/RB), Anthony Risola-Williams (WR/FS), Levi Galat (OLB/SB), Brody Richter (WR/DB), John Haman (DE/OC), Nathan Gonzalez (G) and Aaron Bill (T/DT).

The Veritas Falcons Middle School Football Team finished their season with a championship. The Falcons' only loss came from the first game of the season against Chandler Prep. The Falcons then won six in a row, finishing 6-1 on the season. Their final game was for the championship, which they won handily 38-18 against Chandler Prep.

CROSS COUNTRY

Veritas' cross country season ended on November 13, with the boys team placing third and the girls team placing sixth.

"We have a lot of talented, strong-minded runners this year and they were in it to win it," Walsh said. "Our boys and girls both know what it takes and they pushed for another title. Their mental toughness is second to none."

At their last meet, senior Jonathan Barney placed first, giving Veritas a big win. This season, Barney is among standout students Jacob Soukup, Timmy Soukup, Kishan Bhatnagar, Jake Hirsch, Suzannah Quayle and Maddie Mitchell.

SWIM

After competing in the state championships in early November, the girls swim team ranked eighth overall with a total score of 116, while the boys team ranked ninth with a total score of 82. This year's teams comprised freshmen and sophomores primarily, but Walsh believes this will set a strong foundation for future teams.

In the boys 100-yard freestyle, senior Jake Marbach came in first place and in the girls 100-yard butterfly, junior Callie Lucero came in first place, giving these two students a stunning standout performance.

XAVIER PREP

CROSS COUNTRY

With the largest team in the school's history – 47 girls – the Xavier Gators currently rank fifth in Arizona. According to Coach Dave Van Sickle, the team is excellent at setting personal goals, but he believes the team needed to be a bit faster as they raced into the state championships on November 13. In the end, the team placed 6th in the state.

Based on their total numbers, the team's top three athletes this season are Tatum Goforth, Hannah Wheeling and Catherine Alaimo.

GOLF

Coach Lynn Winsor said that Xavier took its largest team (18 girls) to the state championships in Tucson and finished second overall with a section win. This ranking is on top of a season standing of 10-0. Since 1974, the golf team has only lost 25 matches and won over 497 matches, having no losses since 1996.

"Our kids did very well this season, with two of them ending up in the top seven," Winsor said. "It was a perfect match and the AIA did a terrific job running the competition."

This season, some key players include junior Annie Dawson, who ranked fifth at state and senior Ivy Song, who ranked seventh at state. Seniors Kate Ryan, Ava Mayberger and Audrey Sanchez also played key mentoring roles this year and helped bring home a big win for Xavier Prep.

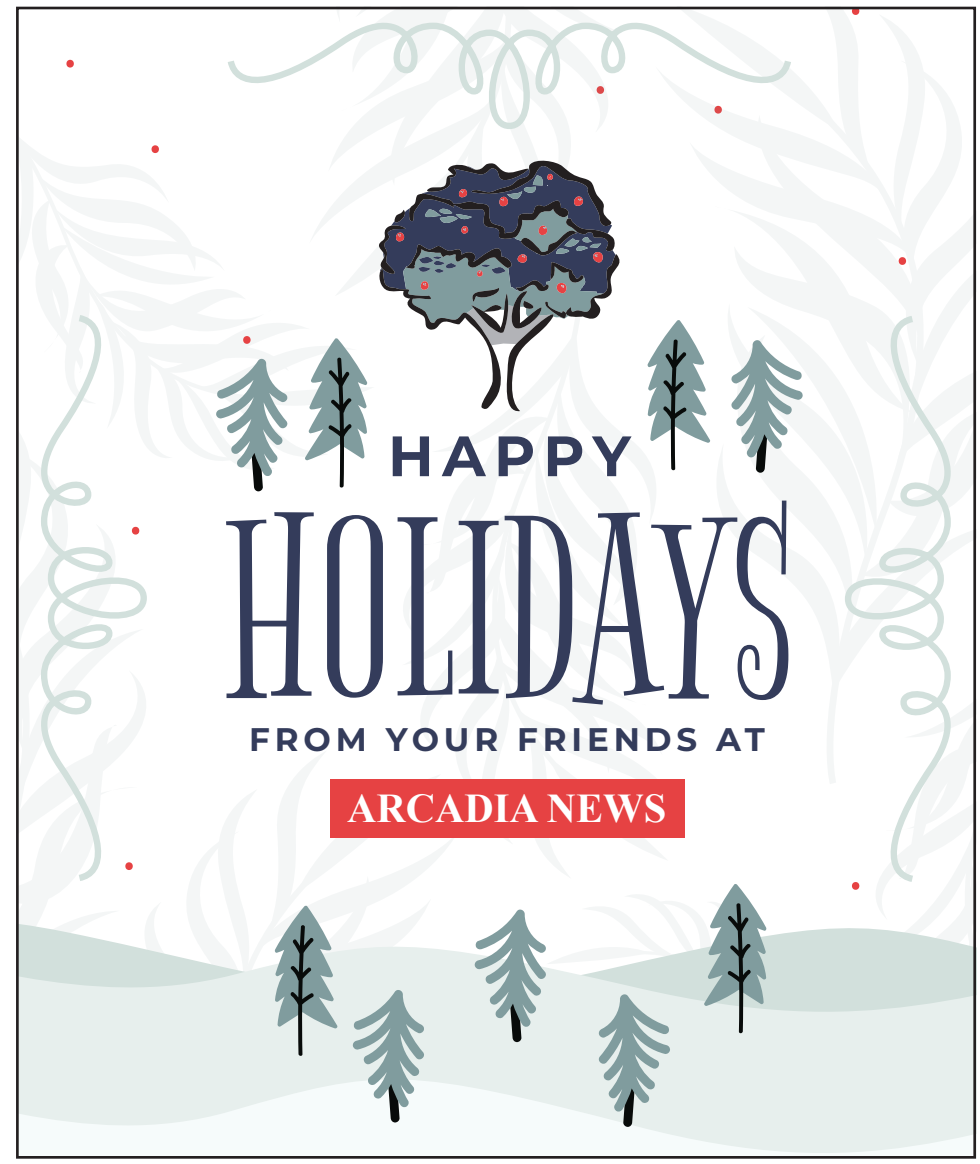
"You couldn't ask for a nicer group of kids," Winsor shared. "It was an ideal year, from a coach's standpoint."

SWIM

Xavier Prep finished seventh overall, compared to other division one Arizona girls teams, after participating in the state championships on November 6. The team ended with a 5-2 standing after doing well in the butterfly and backstroke events throughout the season.

"I am really happy with how my first season at Xavier went," Coach Glen Coy said. "I am proud of all the athletes and their hard work. The future looks really good and the freshman class is really strong and I am looking forward to next season."

Senior Gracie Munk swam to first place in the 100-yard butterfly event and ranked second overall in the 200-yard freestyle relay. In addition, senior Hope Nolan placed fourth in the 100-yard butterfly, awarding Xavier Prep two top five spots in the event.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF ZACH WESSEL

Zach and Brandee Wessel.

The key to every DIY project is knowledge

By Hailey Pearson

Wessel and Baker Contracting, a local residential remodeling business, founded DIY with an Expert after years of experiencing homeowners reaching out in a panic when their home projects became more complicated than expected.

"We found it much more expensive to fix someone's problem rather than advise them from the beginning," owner Brandee Wessel said. The goal of DIY with an Expert is to help clients make educated decisions before purchasing expensive materials and making long-term updates.

> ***We found it much more expensive to fix someone's problem rather than advise them from the beginning.***

One common DIY mistake that Wessel and her team encounter is people tearing into their walls, thinking that they can be removed or modified without confirming whether they are load-bearing or not.

"A load-bearing wall is an active structural element of a building that holds the weight of the elements above it. Removing it can cause significant structural issues to the home, resulting in an abundance of time and money to resolve," Wessel said.

Additionally, they see homeowners attempt projects with the wrong tools. Removing flooring with the wrong tools, for example, can be more tedious than it needs to be and can potentially ruin the home's foundation.

"DIY with an Expert gives people a road map. For example, we say, 'here are the five steps that you need to take to remove your window,'" Wessel said.

Wessel explained the need for support so that repairs are easier and people can be encouraged to do the work themselves.

"The right tools are essential to any home improvement project," she said.

Another example Wessel gave was when a client was looking to paint his home but didn't know where to start when choosing colors.

"We brought him multiple options of paint colors, explained keeping them in the family by utilizing the color wheel to help determine what colors look best together, and helped him choose the final three colors for his home," Wessel said.

The group also helped freshen up an old, original kitchen with no demolition and only three fixes. After reviewing their client's plans, she was able to add new paint, fixtures, and flooring to her home for less than $1,000.

The team recommends that before beginning a DIY project, make sure to educate yourself on your home and the materials needed to complete the project. Wessel said that the quality and type of paint on the walls make a difference. The tile size makes a difference. Every detail is essential.

Fees for DIY support depend on the scope of the project. The team will come up with a plan based on the size of the project and what type of consulting is needed.

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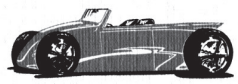
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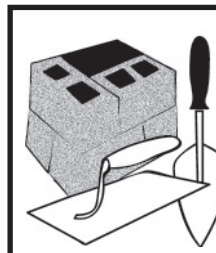
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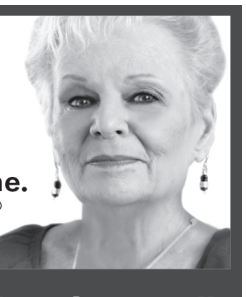
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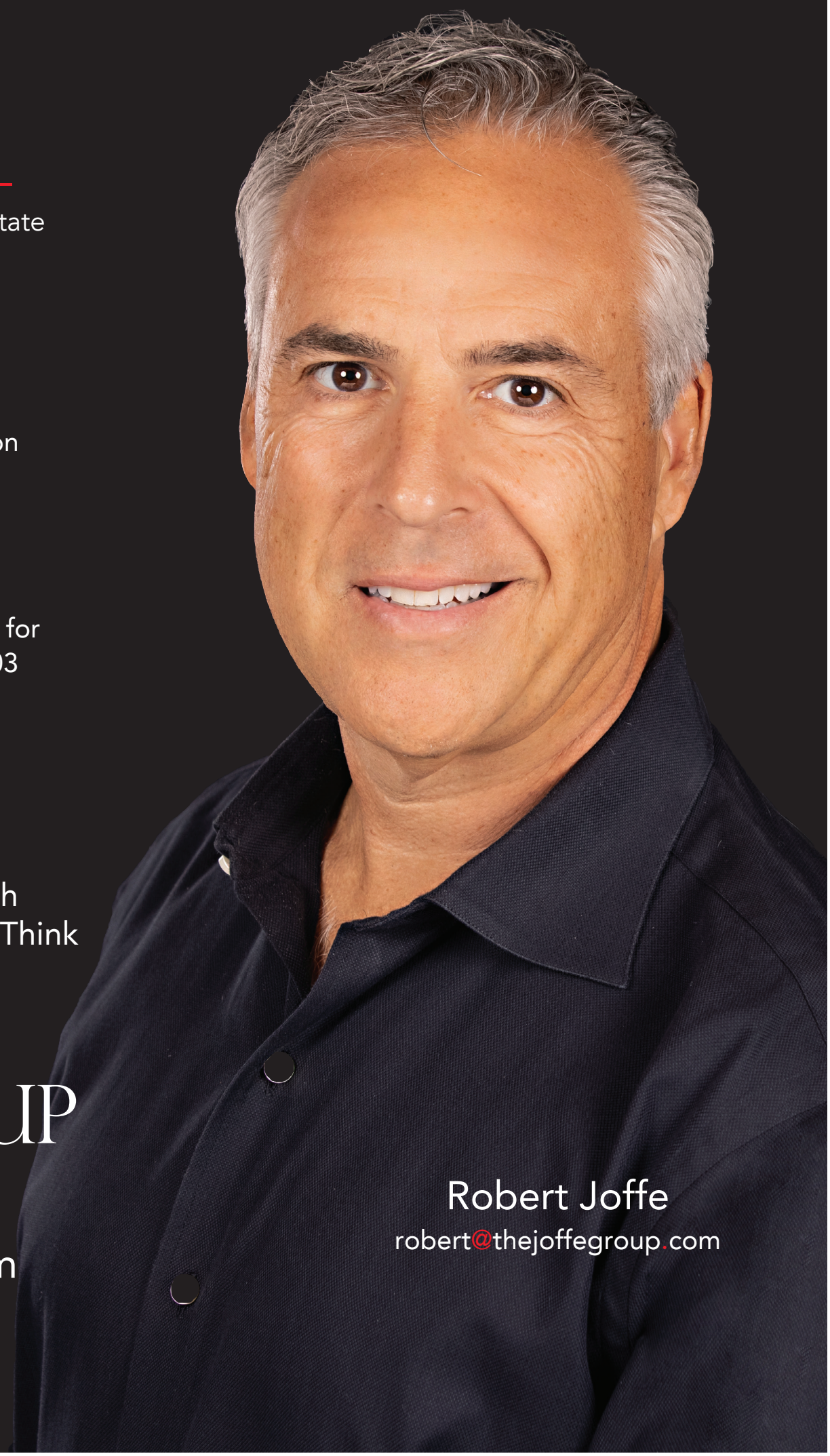
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