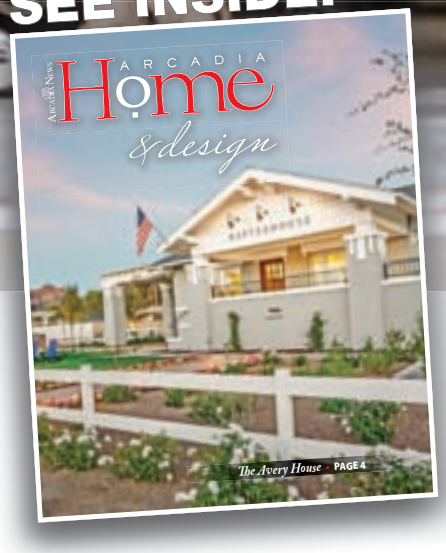
ARCADIA NEWS

VOL. 29 NO. 12 — ARCADIA • BILTMORE • CAMELBACK CORRIDOR — MARCH 2022



SEE INSIDE!



HOPI WORLD TOUR

Hopi Elementary students are gearing up for this year's World Tour Variety Show, with acts from around the globe!

PAGE 18

THE COWBOY POSTMAN

He's an actor, director, cowboy and poet.
This Arcadia mail carrier's story? You might not know it.

PAGE 32



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acp Association of Community Publishers MEMBER PUBLICATION

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MARCH

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51 Season of victory
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Some of the "Flight Crew," who are the emcees for this year's Hopi Variety Show. See the full crew on page 18.
PHOTO: RACHAEL LEWIS



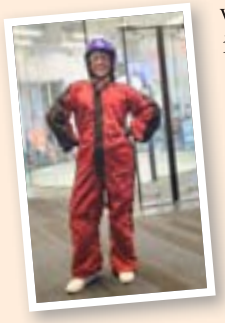
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EDITOR'S NOTE



Every year for my birthday, I tell my family that this is the year I'm going to skydive. And every year, the day passes without me jumping out of a plane.

That said, this month, I did get to try something along the lines of skydiving with iFLY, an indoor skydiving simulator that mimics the freefall – and let me tell you, it was a BLAST.



Before I continue, I have to shout out to reader Crystal DeVelis for the suggestion for our Things We Tried column. It was a great idea!

First, flyers watch a short video explaining how to safely position their bodies while in the wind tunnel. I suited up (see photo), complete with helmet and earplugs. Each participant "flies" for sixty seconds before the next person's turn.

On my last go, I was up 20 feet in the air, which doesn't seem like much, but I was thankful the instructor was in there with me. I think I might be ready for the real thing for this year's birthday celebration…maybe.

Inside this issue you will find our spring edition of *Arcadia Home & Design*. See stories about furniture, plants and art – just a few things that make a home, a home! We are so excited to share it with you.

Keep an eye out for next month's edition, where we'll be sharing the *Arcadia News Summer Camp Guide* with some fun stuff going on this summer. Happy March, and thank you for reading *Arcadia News*.

Mallory

— Mallory Gleich

UPCOMING THEMES:

APRIL	MAY	JUNE
30th Anniversary & Camp Guide	*Celebrating Women*	*Summer Fun*

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"March 4th – the only day that is also a sentence."
– John Green



THIS MONTH'S WINNER:

Amanda Goossen, fourth-grade teacher at St. Thomas the Apostle
Nominated by Araceli Montoya

ARCADIA NEWS TEACHERS we love

My daughter has been the recipient of Mrs. Goossen's love, knowledge and joy of teaching. Her communication with parents goes above and beyond, not just with weekly newsletters but continuous communication, sharing concerns and celebrations. This love of teaching and extensive communication makes Mrs. Goossen a perfect recipient of the Teachers We Love award.



Amanda with Araceli and Aviv Montoya.

You used to work at Arcadia News, and now you've been awarded as an Arcadia News Teacher We Love. How does it feel?

I loved my job at *Arcadia News*, and one of my favorite things to do each month was to present the Teacher We Love award. It brought tears to my eyes every time. To have you walk into my classroom was a complete surprise, and I was incredibly overwhelmed. I immediately started to cry. I love my role as a fourth-grade teacher. Every day, I know I'm doing the job I was meant for, and having someone present me an award for my passion and joy, took my breath away. I am so grateful to the Montoya family.

How did you go from being an editor to being a teacher?

When I was a kid, I wanted to be a writer and a teacher. I earned my degree in English with a specialty in education and always knew I would be a teacher.

After college, we started our family. I started writing for online publications while I stayed home with our babies. When we moved from Los Angeles to Phoenix, I discovered *Arcadia News*. I began writing for the paper in 2011 and in 2013 became the managing editor. In 2016, I left because I felt this tugging feeling that it was time to do something else. I realized it was teaching.

How long have you worked at St. Thomas?

For five years. My children have both gone to kindergarten through eighth grade here. This school has a giant piece of my heart.

What is your favorite part about being a teacher?

I love building relationships with the students. I love watching the lightbulb go off when they learn something new, and I enjoy watching them grow as writers. This year is the first year I've taught math, which I said I would never do, and I've grown to like it. I think it's because I always struggled in math as a kid, and I like finding ways to teach it so that every student can understand.

What is your class learning right now?

We are learning about the Underground Railroad and reading the novel *Freedom Crossing*. We are also studying fractions and writing personal narratives. Our school also has a wonderful Virtues program, and we are studying the virtue of loyalty. It is amazing to watch the students learn about and then practice virtues in their life.

What subjects have you taught?

In my first year at St. Thomas, I was the technology teacher. I taught computers and coding and loved it. My current fourth-graders were my kindergarten class that year. It's so much fun to teach the kids who were just babies when I met them, and now, they are ten years old!

I teach fourth-grade language arts, reading and math. I also moderate the school newspaper, which is great because I get to do a little of my old job!

How do you connect your lessons to the real world?

I have a huge passion for food, and I've learned that connecting so many of my lessons to food helps the children understand. For example, when doing fractions, I'm talking about cutting up pizza and lasagna. With writing, we discuss adjectives and figurative language by describing what we like to eat. It always works, and we have really fun discussions about what we eat for dinner! It helps with forming relationships with the students as well.

How do you motivate your students?

We have a yellow ticket system. The students are rewarded with raffle tickets for good deeds or staying on task, and I do a raffle at the end of every day. It works well. I give students water bottle/laptop stickers for going above and beyond. They love them!

What is your favorite part of Arcadia?

The community. Arcadians want to raise their children in a safe and comfortable neighborhood. Every time I turn around, there is a fundraiser, a friend willing to help and someone going above and beyond. Somehow, it still has a slight "town" feel. I'm so happy to call Arcadia home!

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

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

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Arcadia Real Estate Stats

2021 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/01/2021-1/31/2022)

Active Homes -	63 homes
Homes Sold -	17 homes
Average Sale Price -	$2,049,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$622
Average Days On Market -	55 days

There is currently 2 months of home inventory. (based on 2021 sales results)
2022 home sales have decreased 41% this year. (based on 2021 sales results)
2022 home prices have decreased 2%. (based on 2021 sales results)
2022 $ Per Square Foot prices have increased 12%. (based on 2021 sales results)
2022 homes are taking 50% less time to sell. (based on 2021 sales results)

2021 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/01/2021-1/31/2022)

Active Homes -	34 Homes
Homes Sold -	13 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$1,328,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$518
Average Days On Market -	62 days

There is currently 2 months of home inventory. (based on 2021 sales results)
2022 home sales have decreased 32% this year. (based on 2021 sales results)
2022 home prices have increased 25%. (based on 2021 sales results)
2022 $ Per Square Foot prices have increased 21%. (based on 2021 sales results)
2022 Homes are taking 44% more time to sell. (based on 2021 sales results)

TOMMY ATKINSON

Free MLS Access: visit
TommyAtkinson.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

BRIEFS

The Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association will hold its annual **Neighborhood Meeting** on Saturday March 5, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. in the choir room at Prince of Peace, 3641 N. 56th St., Phoenix. Topics include voting on 2022 board members and a discussion and presentation on burying the utility lines in the Arcadia/Camelback Mountain neighborhoods (see page 20) – which could involve everyone in the original boundaries.

acmna.org

The annual **Arcadia Cares: Food for Kidz Packathon** is back and scheduled for March 25 and 26 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3641 N. 56th St., Phoenix. The community is welcome to volunteer to help pack meals for underprivileged families. The Packathon is hoping to pack 122,000 meals at this year's event to bring the six-year total to 600,000 meals.

popphoenix.org



Mark your calendars for the upcoming **Team Taylor Family Fun Run**. It's the 10th – and final – fun run happening on Sunday, April 10, 2022. Folks can meet up at the 48th St. canal for the 5K and then head to O.H.S.O. for a post-race breakfast. Registration is open and is $45 per person.

teamtayloraz.com

The **Camelback chapter of Boys Team Charity** is now enrolling new members. BTC was founded in 2001 by two Phoenix moms who wanted to teach their sons the importance of giving back to the community. BTC is geared toward boys in 7th through 12th grade. Through various projects, members provide community service while promoting personal growth and strengthening family relationships. Interested parties should fill out a Prospective Member App on the website. Applications will be accepted until March 7.

boysteamcharity.org

A new apartment community for 55+ will open in December 2022 near the northwest corner of 61st St. and Thomas Road. **Overture Arcadia** will have 159 units, plus classes and activities, including cooking demonstrations, fitness and art classes, and educational seminars. Amenities include a swimming pool, outside lounge, pickleball court, putting green, dog park, yoga lawn, fitness center and group exercise room.

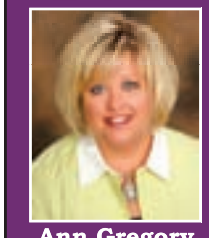
liveoverture.com/overturearcadia

A new pizza joint called **Mr. Moto Pizza** plans to open at Arcadia Village (3945 E. Camelback Road) in March 2022. The restaurant has nine locations in San Diego, with the Arcadia location being the first in Arizona. The menu features specialty pies, calzones, pasta, salads and desserts.

mrmotopizza.com

To celebrate Spring Training, Executive Council 70 presents **Cantina** – an all-inclusive VIP experience for this year's game attendees. Guests will enjoy shaded mezzanine seats, a ballpark buffet and various beverage options. EC-70 is a nonprofit whose mission is to support local youth-based charities and programs that help youth overcome adversity. Individual tickets are $150.

springtrainingvip.com

RentsPHX.com

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In February, **OBON Sushi + Bar + Ramen** debuted at Biltmore Fashion Park (2502 E. Camelback Road). The restaurant offers dishes like sushi rolls, steamed buns, ramen bowls, cocktails, and shareable plates, such as dumplings and papaya salad.

obonsushi.com



Also happening at Biltmore is **Take Me Out to the Movies** – in honor of Spring Training, the mall will offer four baseball-themed movies on Friday, March 4 and 11, and Saturday, March 19 and 26. Bring a blanket and check out these classics: *Field of Dreams*, *Moneyball*, *A League of their Own* and *Little Big League*. Movies start at 7 p.m.

shopbiltmore.com

The third annual **Black Cat Coffee House Food Drive** benefitting St. Vincent de Paul will be held Monday, March 14-Sunday, March 20. Participants can drop off non-perishable food items and enter a drawing to win a gift basket. St. Vincent de Paul provides 4,500 meals daily across the Valley in their five dining rooms. Black Cat is located at 48th St. and Indian School in the Safeway Plaza.

blackcatcoffeeaz.com

Power Paws Assistance Dogs is looking for 12 puppy-sitter volunteers to get pups in training through Puppy Kindergarten or provide vacation relief for their long-term Puppy Raisers. The timeline is anywhere from one week to three months. Puppies are ten weeks to six months old, and Power Paws will provide training and supplies, including a crate, leash, collar, toys, kennel, food and vet care for the puppy.

azpowerpaws.org

The **2022 Barrett-Jackson** auction was the most successful in the show's 50-year history, raising $8.8 million for charities. Barrett-Jackson earned around $195.9 million with a 100 percent sell-through rate on 1,841 cars and $7.3 million on 1,153 pieces of automobilia, for a total of over $203.2 million.

barrett-jackson.com

Mark your calendars for an upcoming presentation at **Christ Church Lutheran** on Wednesday, April 6 at 10 a.m. Tom Vail founded Canyon Ministries in 1997, leading tours and giving biblical talks on the creation of the Grand Canyon. Afterward, CCL will offer a free lunch for attendees.

RSVP to 602-955-4830.

EVENTS

THURSDAY 3/3

Gold Palette Art Walk

6:30-9 p.m. around Old Town Scottsdale's art district. The Gold Palette ArtWalk features extended gallery hours and fun activities for attendees, such as complimentary wine tasting, live music and entertainment. This month's theme is Native Spirit. Attendees will learn about Native American artists, their culture and history in Scottsdale – including performances by traditional Native American hoop dancers. Check out Art One Gallery, Carsten's Fine Art and On the Edge Gallery for more.

scottsdalegalleries.com

FRIDAY 3/4

Rooftop 2022

6 p.m., at Mountain Shadows Resort, 5445 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley. Homeward Bound, a Phoenix-based nonprofit dedicated to serving families experiencing homelessness, will be honored at this year's Rooftop fundraising event. Guests can enjoy gourmet food, craft cocktails, a spirit and wine pull, raffle, rooftop dancing and live entertainment from local band The Hamptons. Individual tickets start at $300.

homewardboundaz.org

SATURDAY 3/5

M7 Street Fair

11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Melrose District, 7th Ave. from Indian School Road to Campbell. This event features over 200 local and independent artisans, food trucks, live music, a farmers market, activities for kid and a craft beer garden. Patrons can also enjoy Chester's Classic Car Show, with over 200 classic antique and vintage cars, trucks and hotrods. This event is free for all ages.

melrosemerchantsassociation.com

Persian New Year Festival

11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Scottsdale Waterfront, 7135 E. Camelback Road. Celebrate the spring season at this year's Persian New Year Festival. Guests can enjoy authentic food, music, dance, performances and art from Arizona vendors. Donations are accepted, and your ticket will guarantee a complimentary cup of Persian tea to kick off the festivities. This event is free.

persiannewyearfestival.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

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

FRIDAY 3/4 – SATURDAY 3/5

McDowell Mountain Music Festival

Gates open at 3 p.m. on Friday, 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at Margaret T. Hance Park, 1202 N. 3rd St., Phoenix. Started back in 2004, the McDowell Mountain Music Festival has grown into a two-day must-see event featuring more than 20 musical acts, including Zhu, Leon Bridges and Jai Wolf. There will also be food trucks, activities, a vendor marketplace and a beer garden. Proceeds from the concert will benefit three local charities. Tickets range from $75 to $200 with VIP packages available.

m3ffest.com

SUNDAY 3/6

Beauty to the Rescue

10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Mane Attraction Salon, 3156 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. The 22nd annual Beauty to the Rescue Fundraiser is back – and in person! Attendees can provide a minimum donation and get select salon services to support the Phoenix Animal Care Coalition – a nonprofit that has raised over $370,000 toward animal rescue organizations in Maricopa County. There will also be vendors, raffles, a silent auction and pet adoptions.

maneattractionsalon.com

SATURDAY 3/5 – SUNDAY 3/6

Indian Fair and Market

9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Heard Museum, 2301 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. The Indian Fair and Market is one of Heard Museum's longest-held events and the largest art market of its kind. At the 65th annual event, over 600 native artists will be on-site showcasing their mediums, plus live entertainment, storytelling, arts and crafts, artist interactions, and a best-of-show award ceremony. Tickets are $22.

heard.org

SATURDAY 3/12

Rescue Rinse

9 a.m.-12 p.m. at ReThinc Agency, 4714 N. 44th St. Bring your pups for a bath at the 10th annual Rescue Rinse benefitting the One Love Pit Bull Foundation, a nonprofit organization advocating for pit bull breeds with a focus on shelter programs, community outreach and sterilization. ReThinc Advertising will provide water, organic shampoo, treats and more for any dog family that stops by. Pet parents can enjoy bagels, coffee and pastries. There will also be a silent auction to help support the cause. Washes are $20 minimum donation for each pup.

oneloveaz.org



***Survival of the Slowest** at Arizona Science Center.*

SATURDAY 3/12

AHAA Food and Wine

6-10 p.m. at the JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn, 5402 E. Lincoln Dr. Hospice of the Valley's signature fundraising event is an art, food and wine experience that features dinner, silent and live auctions of fine art and wine, plus opportunities to win trips and experiences. Funds will support charity care programs for Hospice of the Valley patients and families. This year, Chef Mark Tarbell will be recognized for his longtime commitment to community service and friendship with Hospice of the Valley. Individual tickets start at $300.

hov.org/aaha

Survival of the Slowest

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Arizona Science Center, 600 E. Washington St., Phoenix. Arizona Science Center's latest exhibition looks at species that have used their "disadvantages" to help them survive. Guests can enjoy presentations featuring a live sloth, hedgehog and iguana while learning the difference between species, food habits and unique ways they hide from predators. Admission is $20, plus $7 for the exhibit.

azscience.org

Conservation Science Night

6-8 p.m. at the Phoenix Zoo, 455 N. Galvin Pkwy. Celebrate the Arizona Center for Nature Conservations tonight at the Phoenix Zoo. Guests will meet conservation scientists and learn about their work to help save species in Arizona and around the world. There will also be activity booths where guests can try engineering and tracking challenges and attend ferret boot camp. This event is free, but registration is required.

phoenixzoo.org

SATURDAY 3/12 – SUNDAY 3/13

Arizona Aloha Festival

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Tempe Town Lake, 80 W. Rio Salado Pkwy. Celebrate the Hawaiian culture at the 28th annual Aloha Festival. This event will feature all things Hawaiian, Tahitian, Samoan and other South Pacific cultures. Guests will enjoy dancing and musical performances, food, drinks, arts and crafts, activities and raffles/prizes. This event is free.

azalohafest.org

Experience Ireland

9 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Musical Instrument Museum, 4725 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day early with Experience Ireland at the MIM. Guests can listen to Irish music with authentic instruments, watch a step-dancing performance, participate in family-friendly crafts and activities and enjoy an Irish lunch. General admission is $20, $10 for kids.

mim.org

SUNDAY 3/13

Ballet & Sip

1 p.m. at Ballet Arizona, 2835 E. Washington St., Phoenix. Ballet Arizona invites guests to learn the art of dance – with a drink or two. Professional dancer Ethan Price will lead a 90-minute intro class; guests will learn basic barre and center combinations, along with class etiquette and terminology. After, enjoy snacks and Moscow Mules from Big Marble Organics. Proceeds benefit Ballet Arizona dancers, staff and programs. Ballet shoes or socks are recommended. Tickets are $45.

balletaz.org

SUNDAY 3/13 – SUNDAY 3/20

Arizona Tennis Classic

10 a.m. at the Phoenix Country Club, 2901 N. 7th St. The Arizona Tennis Classic brings men's professional tennis to the Valley of the Sun. This event will feature top-ranked players and rising professionals competing for the 2022 title. Guests can watch multiple matches – there is a 32-player singles draw and a 16 team doubles draw. Tickets are $25-$40.

arizonatennisclassic.com

THURSDAY 3/17

Roars and Pours

5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Phoenix Zoo, 455 N. Galvin Pkwy., Phoenix. It's time to get wild for Happy Hour. Roars and Pours is a 21 and over event that boasts craft brews, wine and food options, and open walking trails. Attendees can also visit special exhibits, play lawn games and hear live music and entertainment. Tickets are $10.

phoenixzoo.org

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WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

FRIDAY 3/18

Singin' in the Rain

7:30 p.m. at the Phoenix Theatre Company, 1825 N. Central Ave. This rom-com musical is taking the stage at Phoenix Theatre. Don Lockwood is a popular silent film star with humble roots as a singer, dancer and stunt man. He can't tolerate leading lady Lina Lamont, who has convinced herself that the fake romance concocted by the studio for publicity is real. There will be singing, tap dancing and even an actual rainstorm on stage. Tickets are $40-$100.

phoenixtheatre.com

SUNDAY 3/20

Spring Anime Fest

11 a.m. at Collector's Marketplace, 1945 E. Indian School Road. Collectors and cosplayers, this event is for you. Collector's Marketplace is hosting this year's Anime Fest, where folks can dress in their favorite character's costumes and enjoy a cosplay contest with prizes, "Artist Alley," special sales and a car display with the Street Senpais. Admission is free.

collectorsmarketplace.com

FRIDAY 3/25

Agave on the Rocks

6-10 p.m. at Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N. Galvin Pkwy. Blanco, Reposado, Añejo, oh my! Celebrate agave spirits while enjoying Chihuly in the Desert at DBG. Guests can enjoy a complimentary margarita and culinary bites from Valley restaurants.



***Agave on the Rocks** at DBG.*

There will also be a tequila sampling event where guests can learn how Roger Clyne's award-winning tequila, Canción, is made. This is a 21+ event. Tickets are $80 for non-members, $75 for members.

dbg.org

SATURDAY 3/26

Arcadia Auto Rama

8-11 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4225 N. 56th St. The 4th annual Arcadia Auto Rama is happening this March! Exhibitor registration is currently open for those who would like to be in the show; entries include cars, trucks, tractors and specialty vehicles. It costs $20 to register but there's no admission for spectators. Trophies will be given out for Best in Show – People's Choice and Best in Arcadia – Judges' Choice.

acmna.org

Rio's Dash with Splash

7 a.m. at Arizona Falls, 5802 E. Indian School Road. Rio Salado College presents this 5- and 10K, and all proceeds will benefit the Hazel Davis Literacy Legacy Scholarship. The race takes place along the canal, and runners will receive a finisher medal, race bib and commemorative t-shirt. A virtual race is also available. Registration is $40 for the 5K, $45 for the 10K.

runyourraceaz.com

THURSDAY 3/31

Legacy Luncheon

11 a.m. at the Arizona Biltmore Resort, 2400 E. Missouri Ave. The annual Legacy Luncheon honors the life and work of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court. This year's speakers are former White House florist Laura Dowling and former White House Chef John Moeller. Guests can enjoy a reception, lunch and a presentation with guest moderator Chef Mark Tarbell. General admission is $250 per person.

oconnorinstitute.org



Saturday, March 26, 2022 – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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Details at www.ACMNA.org/events

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Exhibitor Registration Fee (donation):
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Acceptable show entries include: Cars, Trucks, Motorcycles, and specialty vehicles such as Ice Cream Truck, Military Vehicle, Trailer, Lawn Mower, Tractor, Scooter. Exhibitor staging begins at 7 a.m.

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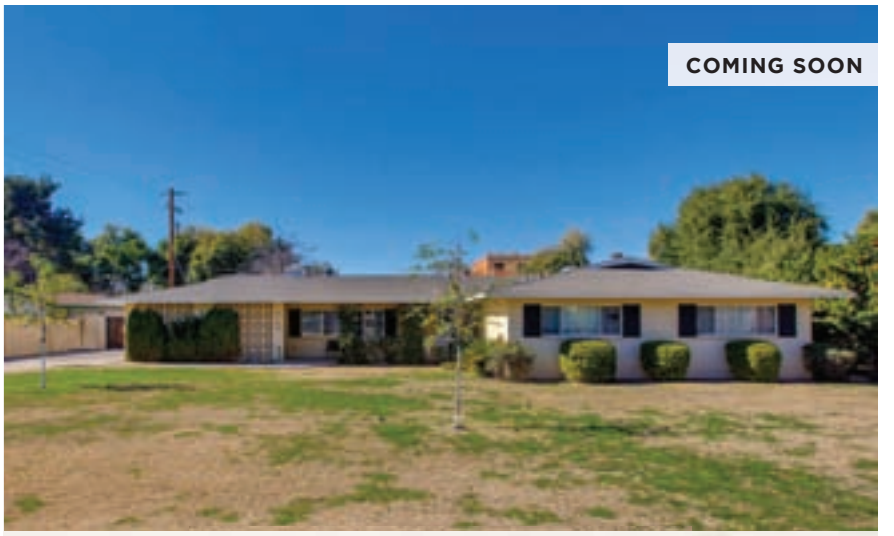
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Ostrich Festival *at Tumbleweed Park in Chandler.*



El Tour de Zona *starting in Sierra Vista.*

SATURDAY 3/5

Glendale Poetry Slam

7 p.m. at the Marty Robbins Plaza, 5740 W. Glendale Ave. If poetry is your jam, don't miss this event. Local poets will read or perform their work in front of a live audience – in which five randomly selected people are given a scorecard and will rank the performances on a scale of 0 to 10, creating a connection between attendees and writers. This event is free.

glendaleaz.com

SATURDAY 3/5 – SUNDAY 3/6

Bluegrass on the Beach

10 a.m. at Lake Havasu State Park, 699 London Bridge Road. There's nothing quite like a weekend full of music – and you can find it in Lake Havasu. The 2022 festival will feature ten live music acts, plus food, beverage and craft vendors, workshops, walking trails and all the bluegrass tunes you can handle. Daily tickets are $25; weekend tickets start at $95.

lakehavasubluegrass.com

SATURDAY 3/12 – SUNDAY 3/13

Ostrich Festival

10 a.m. at Tumbleweed Park, 2250 S. McQueen Road, Chandler. Have you ever seen how fast an ostrich runs? If not, this event is giving you the chance. The 32nd annual Ostrich Festival has national (Nelly and The Band Perry this year!) and local entertainment, various carnival rides, food trucks, a petting zoo and pig, dog and ostrich races. This event is also being held the weekend of March 17-20. Tickets are $20 for adults, $15 for kids.

ostrichfestival.com

SATURDAY 3/12

Community Chili Cook-Off

11 a.m. at Gila River Arena, 9400 W. Maryland Ave., Glendale. The Rotary Club is holding its annual Community Cook-off – wings and chili edition! Arizona restaurants and individuals will compete and it's up to us to decide who wins. There will also be live music, games and activities. Admission is $10 for adults and includes ten tickets to vote for your favorite team's chili/wing. Kids 12 and under are free.

gilariverarena.com

SUNDAY 3/13

Raptor at the Rails

11 a.m. at the Verde Canyon Railroad, 300 N. Broadway, Clarkdale. Arizona's Liberty Wildlife shares a close-up glimpse of a Bald Eagle with Raptor at the Rails. Depending on the season, the eagle will either join guests on the depot patio or ride the train, visiting each open-air car throughout the journey for a short presentation about these majestic animals. Tickets are $99-$109 per person.

verdecanyonrr.com

SATURDAY 3/19

Sage Art Market

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Holland Center, 34250 N. 60th St., Scottsdale. The 7th annual Sage Art Market allows guests to browse and shop from over 40 juried artists within various mediums, including painting, jewelry and glass art. Along with showcasing their wares, artists will be available to discuss their mediums and answer questions. Admission is free.

hollandcenter.org

Chicago Fest

2-9 p.m. at the Mesa Convention Center, 263 N. Center St. If you're a fan of the windy city, this event is for you. Guests can enjoy live music stages featuring Bluesman Mike and Tom Petty, REO Speedwagon and Chicago tribute bands, plus Chicago-themed food vendors, sports memorabilia, a beer garden, kid zone and classic car show. Tickets are $10.

chicagofestwest.com

Briar Patch Marketplace

9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Greenway High School, 3930 W. Greenway Road, Phoenix. Kick off the spring season and support local businesses and crafters! The Briar Patch Market will have staple vendors like Pampered Chef and Avon and showcase local vendors – artists, handmade gifts and décor, baked goods, and treats for four-legged friends. This event is free.

briarpatchmarketplace.com

SATURDAY 3/26

Barbeque & Beer Festival

10 a.m. at Tumbleweed Park, 745 E. Germann Road, Chandler. Presented by KNIX, Arizona's largest BBQ event is back. This year features music by Lee Brice, Parker McCollum and more, plus over 20 pitmasters serving up delicious eats. There will also be a beer and spirit garden, non-alcoholic drinks, vendors and activities for the kids. General admission is $20, VIP is $225.

forty8live.com/chandlerbbq

FRIDAY 3/25 – SUNDAY 3/27

El Tour de Zona

8 a.m. starting at Veteran's Memorial Park, 3105 E. Fry Blvd., Sierra Vista. Make sure to wear good shoes to Arizona's inaugural multi-day cycling tour and festival. Participants will ride during the day through Sierra Vista, Bisbee and Tombstone and then enjoy a festival at night featuring live music, food and local craft beer/wine gardens. Veteran's Memorial Park will serve as a basecamp for riders. Registration is $200 per person.

eltourdezona.org

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Words that should be words

By Sam Lowe

Recently, while partially confined due to current circumstances, we retrieved an old Scrabble game that had been hidden away in a closet for years, and now we play at least three times a week. Lyn, my wife, wins more than half the time, a factor I consider puzzling because I have spent decades writing, and therefore, in my own mind at least, should have a definite advantage in word games.

However, I have concluded the disparity is because there is a rule against using words that aren't words but should be words even though they're not included on the official Scrabble list or any dictionary. If allowed, they would make me an unbeatable Scrabble-r because I have compiled a lengthy list of such words just in case there is ever a need for them, such as rewriting the language.



The Lowe Road

BY SAM LOWE

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

Here are a few words that – I think – should be words. If you'd like, try to sneak one into a Scrabble game or crossword puzzle next time you're playing.

- **Freezling** – A baby icicle.
- **Mallardy** – A sequence of single tones that form a duck song.
- **Scentence** – A punishment given to the person who made up the story about the newspaper reporter who went to work for a zoo because he had a nose for gnus.
- **Shampagne** – Imitation bubbly.
- **Shampain** – A fake hangover produced by consuming way too much shampagne.
- **Conburpsation** – A verbal exchange between two beer drinkers.
- **Tontorantula** – A faithful and trusted hairy arachnid.
- **Idiosinkracy** – Washing all the dishes by hand before putting them into the dishwasher.
- **Aunticipation** – Wondering if your father's rich sister will mention you in her will.
- **Porkupine** – The result of a genetic experiment that crosses hogs with Christmas trees.
- **Twoition** – What you have to cough up when your twins say they both want to go to college.
- **Clamity** – A disaster at a seafood bar.
- **Oshun** – Purposely avoiding large bodies of water.
- **Anonymoos** – Unattributed cow sounds.



- **Kazoozoo** – A place where they display wild musical instruments in cages.
- **Craneotomy** – The surgery required to remove a large bird from your head.
- **Referendump** – Letting the voters decide where to put the new landfill.
- **Dewbious** – Ambiguous moisture in the morning.
- **Draculard** – A vampire who prefers hogs.
- **Brewnette** – A dark-haired beer.
- **Integritty** – Maintaining your composure and dignity in a sandstorm.
- **Parnography** – X-rated movies about major golf tournaments.
- **Symptomb** – An indication that you got something really, really, really bad.
- **Automotivation** – A warning from the finance company that your car's going to be repossessed unless you start making the payments.
- **Elephront** – The forward end of a huge jungle beast.
- **Basketbowl** – An effort to cut down on high-scoring basketball games by making the players use an eight-pound black ball with finger holes.
- **Ambidextrose** – A sugar-making process that can be performed with either hand.
- **Barceloney** – An unsophisticated sausage produced in Spain.
- **Driplomat** – A tactful person who can fix a leaky faucet merely by talking to it.
- **Flopera** – A classic musical production that folds after opening night.
- **Kongregation** – A gathering of church-going giant apes.
- **Sinseriously** – What they do on soap operas.
- **Symphoney** – A fake orchestra playing fake classical music with fake instruments.
- **Floot** – A musical instrument used by burglars.
- **Condorminium** – Housing for large birds.
- **Flinguine** – A pasta made for throwing.
- **Flossil** – Something caught in your teeth since the Paleozoic Era.
- **Chrysthanthemummy** – A flower that's been dead a long time. A very long time.
- **Egyptya** – A term that means "that guy from Cairo cheated you."
- **Sewercide** – The act of doing oneself in by swallowing a manhole cover.
- **Caberneigh** – A red wine for when you're just horsing around.
- **Ampiguous** – Not really caring one way or another about how bacon is made.
- **Siouxshi** – A raw fish dish popular with Native Americans from the Dakotas.
- **Gallopera** – A classic musical production in which horses sing arias.
- **Zeifer** – A cow that moves with amazing speed.
- **Spuddle** – A small pool of potato juice.
- **Catastrophy** – An award given for starting an earthquake.
- **Burytone** – A singing undertaker.
- **Hissterical** – How snakes get when they hear an old Bob Hope recording of "Fangs for the Memories."
- **Zirconnecticutt** – An imitation state in New England.
- **Paraflute** – A musical instrument that can, in emergencies, be used to escape from a disabled airplane.
- **Balloonacy** – An insane desire to inhale and hold your breath in the belief that it'll make you lighter than air and thus weigh less.
- **Comacomma** – A punctuation mark used to designate prolonged states of unconsciousness.
- **Inhairitance** – Leaving your toupee to a favorite nephew in your will.
- **Carbage** – What a substantial number of used automobiles become shortly after they're purchased.
- **Odorly** – Getting all the smells lined up in neat rows.
- **Jestify** – The act of defending an extremely bad joke.
- **Smogly** – An adverb used in reference to polluted air, as in, "So how was your trip to Los Angeles?" she asked. "Smogly," came the reply.
- **Farmacy** – An agricultural drug store
- **Xeroxen** – Photocopies of work cattle.
- **Fluffle** – Residue that escapes from a pillow when it's being smooshed.

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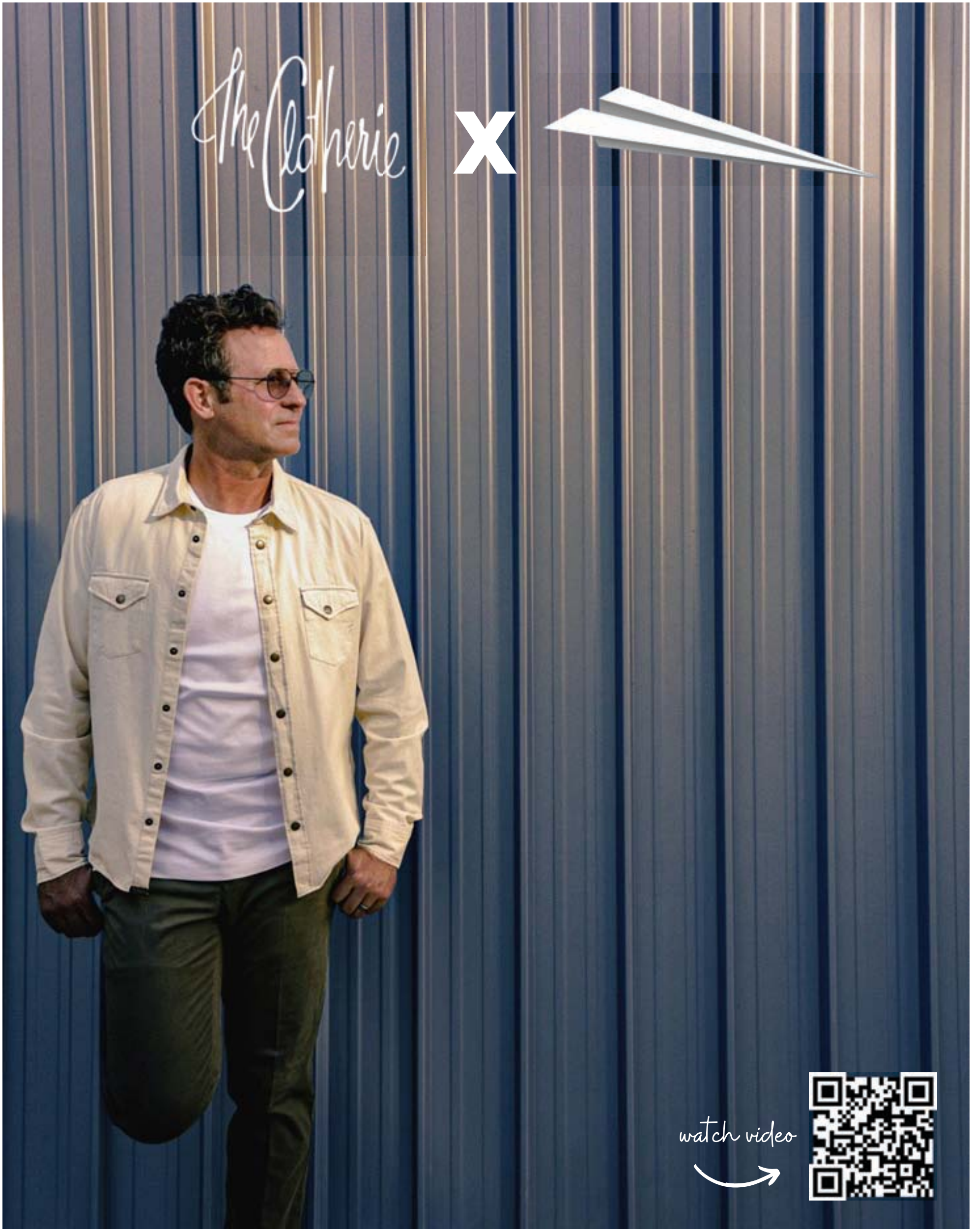
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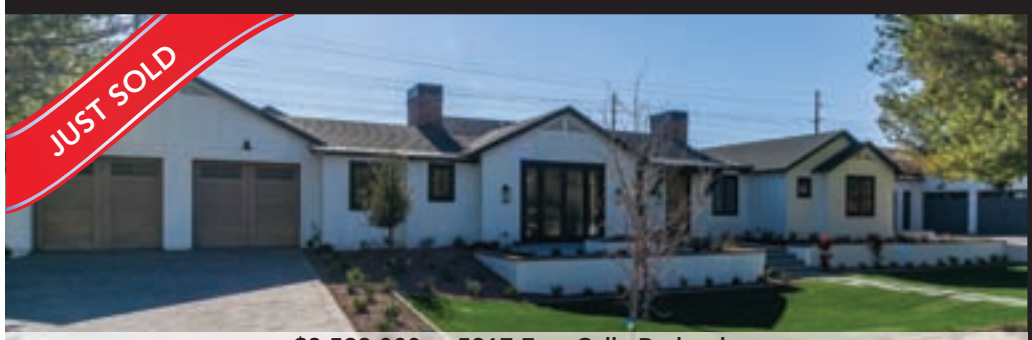
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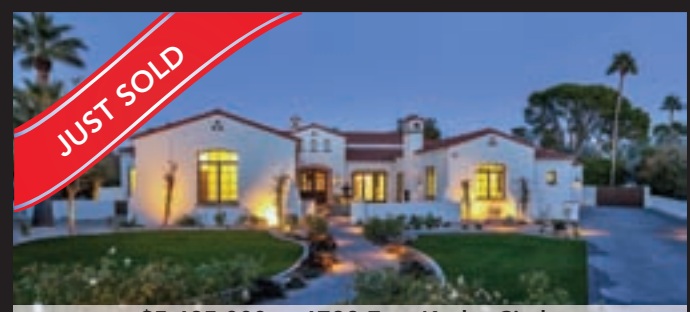
$2,825,000 4216 East Hazelwood
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7824north47thstreet.com



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5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 6,546 square feet
6738kasba.com



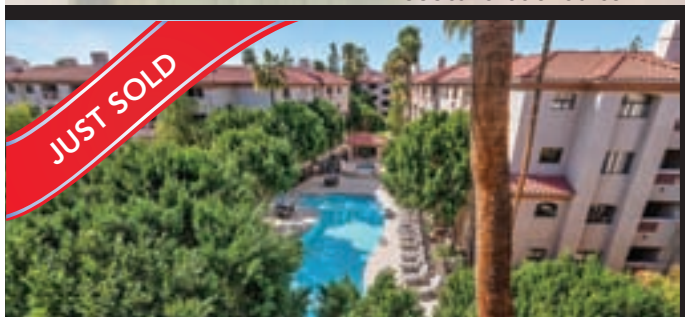
$1,695,000 4030 East Whitton
5 bedroom, 5 baths, 3,197 square feet
4030whitton.com



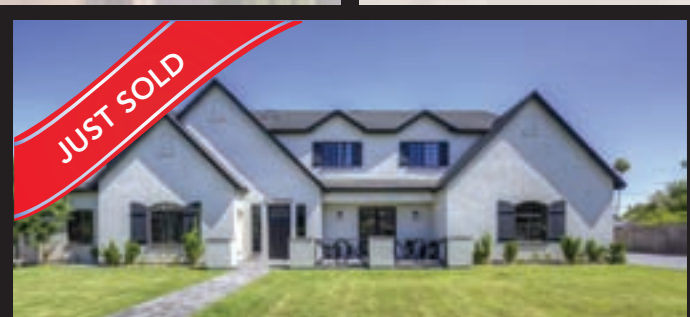
$2,700,000 4636 East Calle Redonda
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4636calleredonda.com



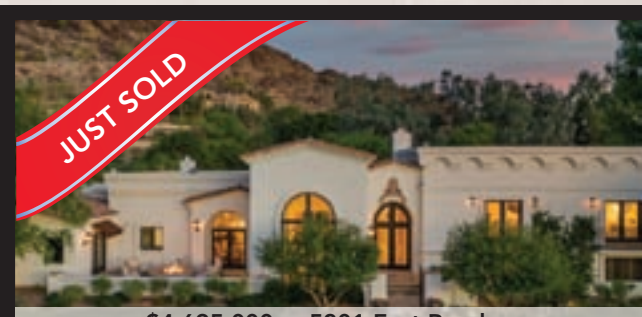
$1,100,000 3344 North 62nd Street
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,108 feet
3344north62ndstreet.com



$245,000 5104 North 32nd Street #302
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$3,095,000 5502 East Calle Del Paisano
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$4,695,000 5301 East Roadrunner
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5301roadrunner.com

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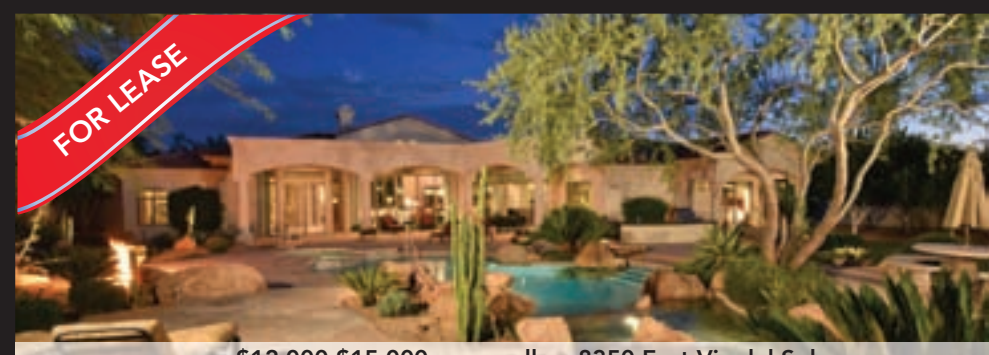
$3,195,000 5149 East Lafayette
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In the Kitchen

with Kirsten Steele, owner of Chestnut at the Vintage



CHESTNUT AT THE VINTAGE
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By Mallory Gleich

For someone who started out with minimal background in the culinary industry, Kirsten Steele has a magic touch as the owner and creative mastermind behind Chestnut, a café located inside The Vintage on Osborn Road. Her love of cooking, family and community has allowed her to become a neighborhood staple in the heart of Arcadia.

You're from Illinois, yes?

Yes! I used to live in DeKalb and went to school in Champaign. Sixteen years ago, after I graduated with a degree in communications and sociology, I moved to Arizona.

Any reason for choosing Arizona?

Not really [*laughs*]. I'd never been to Arizona, but my sister was living here at the time, and I thought, 'well, I'll go out there and see what it's like and probably end up back in Chicago,' and then I never left. Arizona is like a magnet.

Where did the inspiration to open Chestnut come from?

Chestnut Lane was opened by a woman named Polly Levine back in 2009-ish. It was this cute little café (where Buck and Rider is now), and my sister and I frequented that location all the time for salads and pastries and stuff. When she closed, we approached her about buying and taking over the brand for her. We reopened as Chestnut in 2013 on 44th St. and Camelback.

Since then, my sister has been a massive supporter of the business, but I'm now the sole owner. What's interesting is that we don't retain much of the original concept – there are a few recipes, but other than that, it's been modified over the years.

Do you have a background in baking?

[*laughs*] I don't have a background in restaurants at all, actually. I was a cocktail waitress in college, and that's pretty much it. I like to cook, and growing up in an Asian household – I'm half-Chinese – I was raised with that heritage and my grandmother and mother cooked with me a lot.

The beginning factor was a love of cooking, but I didn't have a culinary degree or experience in dining or restaurants before we opened. Typically, restaurants don't usually survive when that happens, but where there's a will, there's a way.

Did you know you wanted to own your own business?

No. I worked for a medical office doing administration work before this. I just fell into this with my sister, thinking it would be a side gig and run itself on its own. I thought it would just be a small café, but then we moved to 44th and Camelback across from The Henry, and then Flower Child went in, and Buck and Rider and I was like, 'well, we're in the thick of it now.' We had to transition and become what we are.

What's the toughest part of being a business owner?

Everything is hard. Dealing with the numbers, the fluctuating cost of goods, and dealing with people – but honestly, every part of it is something I enjoy. If you switch your mindset to caring for your community, team and caring for something you love, then you don't have to dread going to work.

What does a day in the life of Kirsten Steele look like?

Depends on the day. If I'm not needed on-site, I stay active and get rid of the anxious energy. I walk, spin, swim, lift, and try to squeeze in what I can. I have two kids, too, so I get them up and get them ready for school, take them to school, head to Chestnut, see what the team needs, grab a coffee, etc.

I also spend a lot of time at Costco [*laughs*]. These days, with all of the delivery issues, when we run out of stuff, that's where I am.

When we're really busy, I'm working alongside my team; we're always working at events – on and offsite on the weekends. I'm at those usually from sun up to sundown.

What does Chestnut offer?

We're really a one-stop neighborhood shop – we like to serve everything anyone might need or want. We do breakfast, lunch, dinner, bar. We have baked goods and coffee and cocktails.

What about the recipes?

Some of the recipes came from Polly's original café, but many of them are inspired by travel. My sister travels a lot, and I used to travel a lot, so recipes are inspired by world travel and dishes around the country or by other chefs and their dishes. We basically toy around and create things that we think people will enjoy.

My pastry chef comes up with our new pastries – she's amazing – and our original bar manager came up with the drink recipes. You have to find people who are really good at what they do and give them creative freedom.

What are some popular menu items?

We have people that come in and always order the same thing – I'm the same way. I order the Morning Bibimbap Bowl probably four times a week. It has sautéed quinoa and kale with Sriracha, two poached eggs and green onions. So good!

Also, the breakfast burrito and Phoenix chopped salad are popular. The salad is a take on the Stetson chopped from Cowboy Ciao and what I love about it is it's like a staple for the city – a signature salad. My friend – who's not originally from Arizona – asked me to put it on the menu, and she calls it the Phoenix chopped. You can get a rendition of the salad from places across the city, and it's like a staple menu item. I love that.

How did you end up inside The Vintage?

We knew that they were planning on tearing down the complex at 44th and Camelback to make room for the new boutique hotel, so we had already been working on a new location. Within six months, they got everyone out of that complex, so we moved in February 2020.

The Vintage really works for us. It's not too far from our original location, and it serves the community at the level we wanted to have from the beginning – it's walkable, close, you can ride your bike. It also played a role in our brand recognition. Everything happens for a reason!

Advice for people looking to open their own spot?

Be prepared. Don't go into it thinking that you can open it and then step away. It's a hands-on business. You have to have a passion for it – if you don't love every single second, there's no sense in doing it. There's a lot of time, money and energy dedicated to owning a business, so don't take the risk if you don't find value in it.

What's next for Kirsten Steele and Chestnut?

We are hoping to expand to another location, but there aren't any details for that just yet. I'm working on some new concepts and a potential partnership, so growth. Lots of growth!

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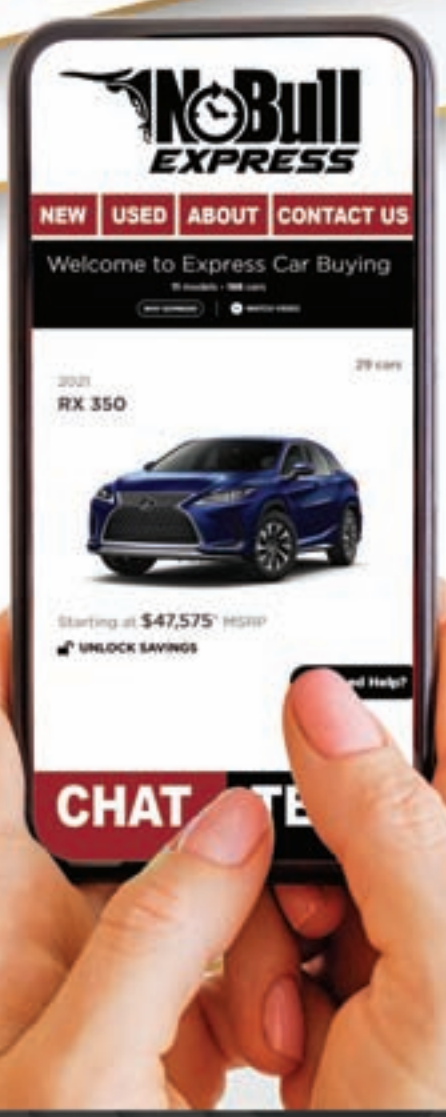
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Meet the 2022 Hopi Variety Show emcees



Brock Fuller, Vivienne Bert, Jack Banister, Holly Mitchell, Caden Lewis, Callie Evarkiou, Ollie Ord, Avery Morrison, Tru Davis, Ainsley Boerckel, Eli Driscoll, Presley Bonnett, Titus Ning and Brooke Radonich.

By Liz Ord

The annual Hopi Variety Show is back! This year's theme is Hopi World Tour and will showcase dozens of acts representing countries all over the world. The fourteen fifth graders above are the emcees known as The Flight Crew. Students are excited to take audiences on a thrilling adventure around the globe. The show is written, produced and directed by a team of women and stars over 400 Hopi students. The show takes place at Arcadia High School on March 10 and 11.

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Underground utilities a possibility for Arcadia

By Mallory Gleich

At the annual Community Meeting in March, there will be a discussion on the placement of underground utility lines and what they can do to benefit the Arcadia community. *Arcadia News* reached out to Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association members Tristahn Schaub and Andrew Gough to find out more.



Exeter Blvd. with powerlines.



What Exeter could potentially look like without powerlines.

What are the boundaries of the ACMNA?

The boundaries are east-west from 64th St. to 44th St. and north-south from the northern edge of Camelback Mountain to Indian School Road.

The boundary map is roughly the area that the utility line project will encompass. On the northern edge, some Phoenix city park property will be excluded. On the south side, some government-owned parcels will be excluded. Areas where utilities have already been placed underground, such as the northeast corner of the map (along east Sage Dr. and east Cholla Lane), will also be excluded.

What will the project entail?

A new underground distribution system will replace all utilities (power, telephone, cable television) currently distributed via overhead lines. All utility poles and overhead lines will then come down. Refer to the diagram (right).

The lines we typically see running throughout Arcadia are five kilovolt feeder lines at the topmost position on the poles. A transformer is mounted to supply residences with power, which steps the power down to 240 volts and is sent to the home via a "service lateral" or "service drop" line.

Lower down the poles are telephone, internet, and cable television communications lines. These are connected to residences via another overhead line.

Some residences may have already buried the service lateral and communications lines to their residences. That is not what is meant by "undergrounding." The work of undergrounding involves creating a new underground system of feeder lines, to which residences then connect via new underground service laterals.

The project was first proposed in October 2021. Can you explain the process since then?

The strategy from the beginning was to plan for a long communications campaign to build public awareness and get feedback on public interest in pursuing the project. The ACMNA board members were interested, but we needed to gather feedback from the neighborhood to gauge the desire and support for such a large project.

Last year, ACMNA President Tristahn Schaub made a comment along the lines of, "I wish we could bury the power lines." I (Andy Gough) thought, "Why not think big?" A lot of redevelopment has happened in the Arcadia area in the past several years. I think that burying the power lines could take Arcadia to the next level of making the community a desirable and attractive place to live. I was also aware that Paradise Valley has, for many years, had a project to bury all of its utilities. In addition, the Arizona Corporation Commission requires that all new communities be built with underground utilities.

My research uncovered State Law Article 6.1, § 40-341 to 40-356, which covers how a community can create Underground Conversion Service Areas (UCSAs) to accomplish utility undergrounding. The owners pay the cost in the UCSA; if the owners pay for it, the utilities will put their services underground.

What are some of the benefits of underground utility lines?

- **Reliability** – less vulnerable to storm damage. New systems are less prone to failure due to aging components.
- **Safety** – no downed power lines after storms, no lines overhead to be accidentally contacted by trucks, ladders and palm fronds. Less chance for wildlife to contact the system.
- **Upgrade** – the design of the new underground system could include more redundant power supply paths and fiber optic internet to every home. Streetlight placement could be improved and expanded.
- **Alley easement abandonment** – after the poles and lines are down in alleys, the utilities will abandon their easement in the alleys. That will enable homeowners to enlarge their lots by purchasing the alley property adjacent to their lot.
- **Aesthetics** – the environment looks more natural, without technology blocking mountain and city views.

In 2021, there were power outages due to monsoon storm damage. There was also a fire and power outage along 56th St. caused by oleanders growing into electric lines. The primary motivating factor for most people is aesthetics – they don't like the look of poles and overhead lines.

What is some of the negative feedback you've heard?

One person – who has since moved out of Arcadia – expressed concern about the cost.

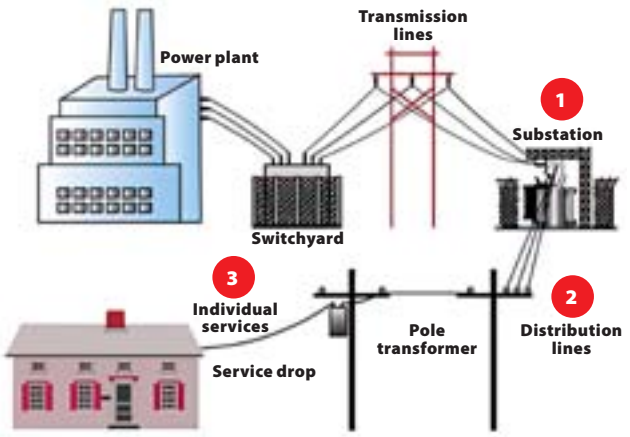
The process of forming the UCSA involves two petitions. The first petition only expresses interest, which triggers the utilities to develop a cost estimate and communicate the exact cost to each property owner. After each property owner knows their specific cost, I would expect more concern over the cost.

Are there potential downfalls of underground utility lines?

If a fault or malfunction occurs in the underground system, locating and repairing it can be more challenging. That is somewhat mitigated by the fact that underground systems have greater reliability – especially a new system – resulting in it being uncommon to have a fault or malfunction.

Otherwise, the transition from overhead to underground system involves some disruption to the neighborhood (street restrictions, construction activity) and individual homeowners as their homes are transitioned from overhead to underground service.

In addition, the transformers that were previously up in the air are now down on the ground, in green boxes that are spread periodically between homes (usually straddling a property line between two homes). The placement of these depends on the design of the system SRP develops. In addition, CenturyLink and Cox Communications will place boxes for distribution nodes. The technical requirements of the distribution system don't disappear – the lines go underground, but other components are placed at ground level.



Do you have an estimate of how much the project would cost?

The utilities are reticent to provide any estimates before receiving the first petition. SRP hasn't done a large undergrounding project like this for 20 years.

A comparable, recent project happened in Palm Beach, Florida. In 2017, the residents there approved moving all of their utilities underground. The Palm Beach project involves 4.20 square miles of land and is expected to cost $128 million. The Arcadia project involves about 3.5 square miles. Scaling the Palm Beach figure down to the Arcadia area results in a cost of $106 million. That would be about $12,000 per ¼ acre.

What will some of the talking points be at the annual March meeting?

The Arcadia Underground presentation at the meeting on March 5 will cover:

- The benefits of utility undergrounding
- How the new underground system will be different from the overhead system
- Homeowner responsibilities during the conversion
- The legal process to form
- Schedule
- Estimated costs and how costs are apportioned
- Vote by those present to proceed or stop
- Legal requirements for petition gatherers and petitions
- Call for volunteers

If the project is approved, when will construction start and end?

In informal discussions with SRP, it was estimated that the project would proceed to 10 phases – which is expected to take ten years. Just designing the new system is a large, challenging engineering project.

acmna.org

“

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-Jim D. and Bill H.

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Mallory and instructor Erick.



The wind tunnel and waiting area.



Things we tried

BY MALLORY GLEICH

When I was a kid, one of my favorite Disney movies was *Peter Pan*. Fly anywhere you want with just some fairy dust? Sign me up! I had traveling to do. Even as an adult, if someone asked what superpower I'd wish for, I would answer, "flight." I would hurry right into the air and head to London; but that's a story for another time.

Since actual flying is impossible, I decided to try the next best thing – indoor skydiving. You're probably thinking, "Why didn't she just head to Eloy and jump out of a plane?" Baby steps, my friends.

iFLY is a vertical wind tunnel that recreates the freefall part of a skydive in an indoor, controlled environment. I headed to the Scottsdale location at The Pavilions at Talking Stick and filled out a waiver – safety first!

Before flying, participants must attend a short educational class. We learned to keep our arms at eye level, legs straight out and bent slightly at the knees, and chin up – this helps keep you in the air and the center of the tunnel. Since it's hard to talk or hear in the tunnel, instructors use hand signals to remind flyers of what to do. I needed constant reminding. It's hard to concentrate in a tube filled with hundred-mile an hour wind!

I was in a session with four others, and we each took turns flying for 60 seconds apiece. For regular flights, flyers go up around seven feet in the air. High-flights go up to about 20 feet.

It. Was. Exhilarating! When the instructor motions for a turn, flyers lean into the wind with their hips and are guided to the middle of the tunnel. More experienced flyers can do tricks – like our instructor, Erick Arevalo.

I choose the four-flight option – three regular and one high fly. I don't have anything to compare to being 20 feet in the air and spinning 360 degrees. It was so fun!

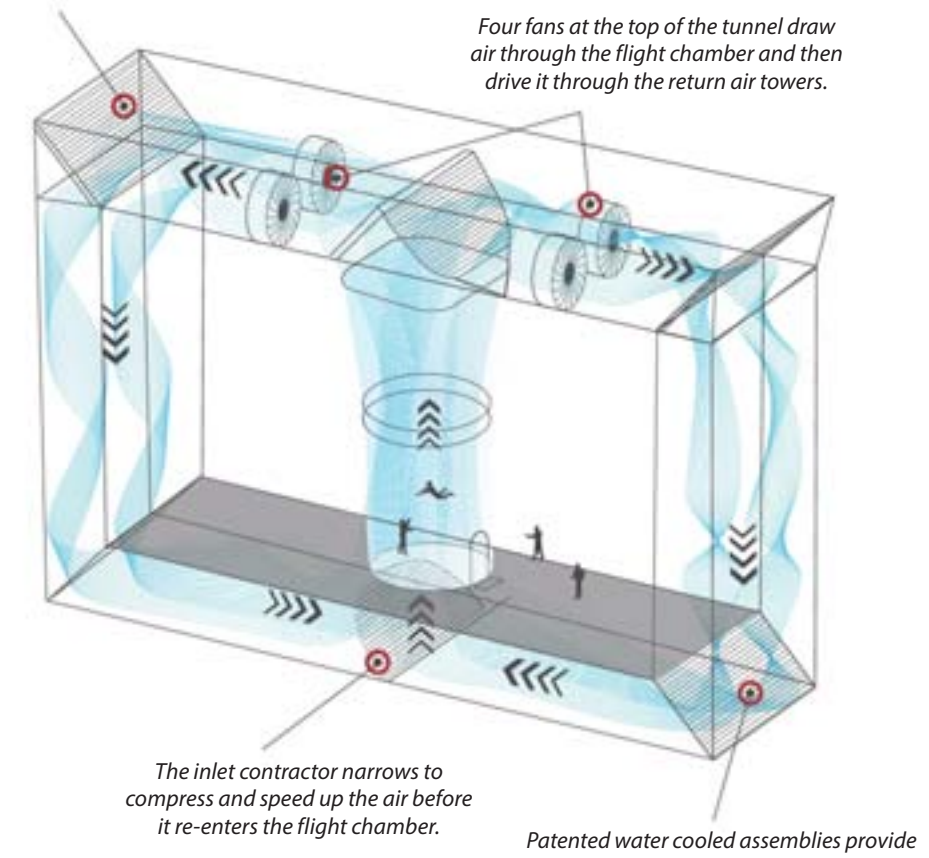
On my last turn, Erick showed me how to position my body so that I flew around in a fast circle. I probably looked silly, but I was laughing the whole time.

At the end of the session, Erick showed us his skills: flying up the tunnel (almost 60 feet), upside down, twists and turns. He reminded me of someone. (Pan, is that you?)

After my session, I spoke to General Manager Spencer Labunski to get the low down on iFLY, which has roughly 40 locations around the U.S. and 100 locations worldwide, including five Royal Caribbean Cruise ships.

"Alan Metni, an engineer and avid skydiver, founded and started SkyVenture with the initial location opening in 1998 in Orlando. A few years after that, SkyVenture created the brand iFLY," Labunski said.

"Knowing the military had already invented this technology, Alan figured he could create a better version of a vertical wind tunnel that would allow a person to experience the thrill of freefall and excitement of body flight without needing to jump from 14,000 feet," he continued.



Labunski said that most kids fly at roughly 85 mph, and adults typically fly around 100 mph. iFLY has four 4,350 HP electric motors with 10-foot axial fans.

These are what produce wind speeds of up to 170 mph. The fans are above the flight chamber, and the system is constantly recirculating, which allows for efficiency and to have the air climate controlled.

The Scottsdale location's wind tunnel is standard – 14 feet in diameter and around 56 feet tall. iFLY makes various sizes, including the largest vertical wind tunnel in the world located in Abu Dhabi – 32 feet in diameter and 110 feet tall.

All of the instructors at iFLY are certified by their governing body: The International Bodyflight Association. To receive certification, the instructors have to go through a rigorous four-week training program that teaches them how to keep all guests safe and how to teach bodyflight with non-verbal communication.

Labunski has been with iFLY Phoenix for almost three years.

"I started at our Chicago location and since then, have traveled around the country opening new ones," he said. "I helped open iFLY Phoenix in early 2017, left in late 2018 for the Portland location, and then returned to Scottsdale in late 2020."

He said there are three key differences between iFLY and outdoor skydiving:

1. You do not have beautiful views of the middle of the desert.
2. There is more adrenaline jumping out of an airplane at 14,000 feet.
3. There is no big sweaty dude attached to your back at iFLY.

"For us, as the operator and instructor, the coolest moment is when it all clicks for the guest, and they can control themselves within the wind. Seeing that is extremely rewarding to us since we love to fly and teach people how to fly," Labunski said.

His advice for those flying for the first time: breathe and try to relax.

"Flying is about finesse and small movements. If you can breathe and relax while flying, you will fly perfectly," he said.

Flights start at $69 for two (during the week) and $99 during peak times. They also offer packages for birthday parties, field trips and flight school programs for all ages.

I didn't make it to London, but I did get to fulfill my dream of flying, if only for a moment in time.

iflyworld.com

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The Dining Scoop

By Mallory Gleich

Little O's

Situated in the former dry cleaners next to O.H.S.O. is the brand-new Little O's Arcadia Market, opened by Jon Lane and the O.H.S.O. team in February.

The menu has a smorgasbord of options, including breakfast items like a ham and cheese croissant and mini donuts.

"Our donuts are handcrafted and funky," Lane said. "We have a cookie monster donut with blue sprinkles and a cookie topping, a hot-Cheeto dusted one, and a 'dirt' one like the childhood dessert with the gummy worm!"

Lunch and dinner options include sandwiches, salads, burgers and pizza.

The Little O's menu is unique in that folks can grab and go, grab and stay or get full service. There will also be a retail spot with local beer and wine for sale.

As far as the most popular items for adults, Lane said coffee in the morning and to-go pizzas.

"They're simple, thin-crust and priced affordably for the neighborhood. Also, the new salads from my wife's restaurant, PV Pie, are popular," Lane said. "In most of Arizona, you don't have that canal presence, where you can bike or walk up, bring your dog, go for a long walk. This is our new place. We want it to be really comfortable."



littleosmarket.com

Kura Sushi

Kura Sushi first opened in 2008 as a Japan-based revolving sushi chain. Worldwide, there are over 500 restaurants. Here in the U.S., there are 35, and in Arizona, there are two – one in Phoenix at the Camelback Colonnade (near 20th St. and Camelback Road), which opened in December, and another in Chandler.



"Kura serves authentic Japanese cuisine through a revolving sushi service model," PR Supervisor Lauren Murakami said. "We offer over 140 authentic Japanese dishes made with fresh, premium ingredients, from nigiri, specialty cold and hot rolls to crispy rice, ramen and desserts."

Hajime "Jimmy" Uba is the president and chief executive officer of Kura Sushi USA, Inc. He joined the parent company, Kura Sushi, Inc., in 2000. During his tenure, Kura grew from approximately 30 to 180 restaurant locations.

"Some of our most popular choices are seared salmon Japanese mayo, real crab California roll, golden crunchy roll, caterpillar roll, tonkatsu ramen, crispy chicken, ten jyu (shrimp and vegetable tempura with sauce over a bowl of rice) and taiyaki ice cream," Murakami said.

The most unique aspect of the restaurant is the delivery – guests can choose their meals from a revolving belt that goes around the restaurant.

"Express belts essentially serve as a sushi highway, where guests can place an order on their tableside touch panel and have it delivered directly from the kitchen to their table. It gives a sense of constant motion and excitement," Murakami said.

Oh, and there are prizes, too.

The Bikkura Pon Prize System is comprised of a prize machine, touch panel and plate disposal slot at every table in the restaurant that is connected via sensors.

The touch panel registers the number of green and red plates dispensed into the plate disposal slot. After every five plates, a short animation plays on the touch panel, and after every fifteen, a prize is dispensed.

kurasushi.com

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Time to bust out the green décor – it's St. Patrick's Day

By Cliff Summerhill

There is no shortage of St. Patty's Day fun in the Valley this year. Read on to learn about some of the holiday events happening in the Phoenix metro area.

The 39th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and Faire

March 12, parade starts at 10 a.m.; Faire from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

The annual Phoenix St. Patrick's Day Parade and Faire is back in person and is the largest St. Patrick's Day celebration in the Valley. After the parade, head to Margaret T. Hance Park and indulge in Irish music, step dancing, bagpipes, food, drinks and clubs. The Irish Cultural Center will also host a Satellite Faire on their grounds.

The parade starts at 3rd and Oak Streets; Faire is located at Margaret T. Hance Park, 67 W. Culver St.

stpatricksdayphoenix.org



St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Phoenix.

Grand Ol' Irish Week

March 14-19, times vary.
Irish Cultural Center,
1106 N. Central Ave.
A whole week of events:

Monday, March 14: The Irish Cultural Center hosts a movie night featuring two movies (one for adults and another for the family). The family-friendly film is called *Riverdance: The Animated Adventure*. Afterward, *The Commitments* will be screened for adults – $ 5 for members, $10 for non-members.

Tuesday, March 15: Join the center for a night of Irish readings sourced from novels, poems and plays, all rooted in Irish and Celtic traditions. Members are free; non-members are $5.

Wednesday, March 16: In partnership with Arizona and Irish distilleries, taste some of the best whiskeys during this year's Whiskey Wednesday celebration. $45 for members, non-members are $50.

Thursday, March 17: Emmy Award-nominated singer Michael Londra, from "Ireland with Michael," will host a live event with Irish music, dance and stories. During the celebration, he will be joined by Tony Award winner and Irish world dance champion Trent Kowalick. Tickets for members start at $30; non-member tickets start at $35.

Friday, March 18: The center will host a traditional Ceili Irish dance class for all ages. Tickets are $6 for members; $10 for non-members.

Saturday, March 19: Bring on the laughter with Irish comedians Sean Finnerty, Martin Angolo, and Dave Nihill for the Real Irish Comedy Fest. Member tickets are $25; non-members are $30.

azirish.org/grandolirishweek

Clancy's Old Town Scottsdale St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Thursday, March 17, 6 a.m.
Clancy's Pub,
4432 N. Miller Road

Starting with Irish coffee and breakfast at 6 a.m., join Scottsdale's oldest Irish pub for a day filled with Irish celebrations. Various musical artists will perform in the pub's outdoor garden throughout the day, including the Glendale Pipes and Drums (11 a.m., 2 p.m., and 5 p.m.), Sugar Thieves (5:30-7:30 p.m.), and Cory Golden Band (8-10 p.m.).

clancyspubscottsdale.com/st-patricks-day

St. Patrick's Day Greening of the Fountain

March 17 at noon.
Fountain Park, 12925 N. Saguaro Blvd.

Since the 1980s, Fountain Hills has celebrated St. Patrick's Day by turning their world-famous fountain emerald. The fountain will light up in St. Patrick's Day's famous green color in the evening. Bring the family, enjoy a picnic at the park and revel in this colorful celebration.

fountainhillsaz.gov



MEET THE IRISH CULTURAL CENTER



The Irish Cultural Center has been Phoenix's link to Irish and Celtic culture Since 1999. What started as a memorial for The Great Famine expanded over the next 20 years with a great hall, library and cottage, all focused on providing the public with education, resources and events.

Currently, the nonprofit hosts monthly events and classes and is a pillar of resources for those interested or genealogically connected to Irish and Celtic culture.

"Last year, we took the time to rethink everything we have been doing to make it bigger and better," Operations Director Ciara Archer said.

They are expanding and reformatting to give members and participants better Irish and Celtic education.

"We have major events every month with the hope and mission to better promote Irish and Celtic culture," Archer said.

Launching in May 2022, the organization will host semester-like classes for traditional Irish instruments such as drums and penny whistles, language, genealogy and more.

In addition to hosting this year's Grand Ol' Irish Week and their annual St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Phoenix, the center is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the McClelland Library. Named after Norman McClelland, the late CEO of Shamrock Foods, the library houses over 12,000 volumes of Irish and Celtic traditions and history.

"Since we haven't had a St. Patrick's Day in two years, I think people will be anxious and excited to get out," Archer shared. The center is open to the public but does require a membership to access some of it's features.

azirish.org

Pack your bags!

With summer quickly approaching, booking vacations early is critical. Hotels and resorts worldwide are selling out. Here are some of the top trending destinations for summer 2022.

EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISES

Small European river cruises are a naturally immersive and enhancing travel experience. Stopping in different towns each day provides ample opportunities for exploration. Ships stay at port longer and set up enriching dinners and evening performances off the ship, allowing travelers to experience the destinations fully. And unlike their ocean counterparts, travelers averse to crowds will enjoy the small boat ambiance and personalized service. Perhaps the best part is you only unpack once!

LUXURY RANCHES

Scattered throughout Montana, Wyoming and Colorado, you will find resorts that have redefined the definition of "dude ranch." A visit to a luxury ranch provides the perfect mix of nature and adventure while being pampered in top-notch accommodations. Luxury ranches are typically located on hundreds of acres of untouched wilderness, allowing you to spend your days hiking, fishing, boating, horseback riding, or simply reading a good book. It is one of our favorite suggestions for a multi-generational trip, with unique experiences for kids and adults of all ages.



Let's Travel

BY REBECCA HOGAN

Travel expert and writer for Boutique Travel Advisors. travelbta.com

ALASKA

Alaska remains one of the most popular summer destinations, inspiring travelers with its natural wonder as a true "paradise on earth." While Alaskan cruise ships continue to be appealing to all ages, more and more of our clients are exploring by land. Customized itineraries lead clients on glacier hikes through spectacular national parks, allow you to get up close and personal with diverse wildlife, and fall asleep under the northern lights. Whether by small or large cruise ship, car or train, Alaska stuns with its picturesque land.

COSTA RICA

This small but mighty country can take several trips to fully explore, although a 7-10-day itinerary can provide the perfect mix of relaxation and adventure. It's a fun destination for adventurous couples and ideal for families with kids. It's great for combining beach time with national parks, jungle exploration, wildlife viewing, or volcanic hot springs. Other desirable destinations include Portugal, Croatia and Italy.

It's time to dust off your old suitcase, call your local travel advisor, and decide "where will your journey take you?"

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The FirstBank Bloom Package[2] is an innovative and secure way to spend, save[3] and earn. Bloom Package customers must maintain the following components to receive these benefits: Bloom Checking, Bloom Savings, Online Banking, eStatements,[4] and FirstBank Visa Debit Card. Take your saving satisfaction a step further with our Money Manager tool. Create a budget, track your spending by category, and set savings goals — all right from your FirstBank Mobile App.

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[1]Cash bonus is not available to existing FirstBank consumer checking customers or those whose accounts have been closed within 90 days or closed with a negative balance. Past customers who ever received a bonus or promotional gift from FirstBank are ineligible for this bonus. Bonus valid for new consumer checking accounts opened between March 2, 2022 to May 4, 2022. The account must be opened online at efirstbank.com or bring in this advertisement to any FirstBank location to receive the $300 bonus. Limit one bonus per household, per lifetime. Limit one bonus per account. Customer must have at least one direct deposit ($500 minimum) per month for three consecutive months following the open date of the account. The first required deposit ($500 minimum) must be made within 60 days of the open date. Direct deposit must be new to FirstBank and must be payroll, pension, Social Security or other recurring government benefits. The monthly direct deposit cannot be multiple direct deposits combined that exceed $500. The cash bonus will be given if the account opened is in good standing (i.e. is not overdrawn or at a zero balance), and the customer enrolls for online banking on or before the posting date of the required ($500 minimum) direct deposit in the third consecutive month. All requirements must be met within 120 days of account opening and the cash bonus will be deposited into the new checking account within 30 days of the final qualifying requirement. We reserve the right to substitute the bonus offered at any time with an item of similar value. Limited time bonus. The $300 cash bonus is considered interest and is subject to IRS and other tax reporting. The cash bonus can be revoked if the account is closed within twelve (12) months of opening date. FirstBank employees are not eligible to receive the bonus. See branch for details. Member FDIC.

[2]Bloom Checking, Bloom Savings, Online Banking, eStatements, and a FirstBank Visa Debit Card are required or the package will be cancelled. The Visa Debit Card is $10/year after the first year and waived for accountholders who are 25 years of age and under at the time the annual fee is charged. Other conditions and restrictions apply.

[3]Certain restrictions and requirements apply. For each Visa Debit Card, Bill Pay, or Electronic Funds Transfer transaction, FirstBank will transfer an amount you specify from your Bloom Checking account to your Bloom Savings account. You may specify a fixed amount between $0 and up to $99.99 or choose to round transactions to the next dollar and transfer the difference. The default amount is set to $1.00 and can be changed in Online Banking.

[4]Online Banking is free with eStatements. $3 per month with paper statements. Online Banking is required to use mobile and online products.



PHOTO CREDIT: SHONNA JAMES

The New Horizons Student Art Exhibit has been part of Shemer Art Center for over 30 years. This year, 42 scholarships were given out.

Supporting student artists at Shemer Art Center

By Mallory Gleich

Through February 17, student works from over 35 Valley high schools filled the halls and walls of Shemer Art Center for the annual New Horizons Student Art Exhibit.

This year, 42 scholarships representing over $4,000 were awarded by community donors to the students selected for this year's display.

"We appreciate all of the instructors who, with their plates already overflowing in 2021, made time to help their students create high-quality works to enter. It is always amazing to share what these emerging artists are making and how our high school instructors guide and influence their works," Shemer's President, Shonna James, said. Below are some of the artists from our neighborhood schools:

ARCADIA

Senior Mikah Tripke-Hughes

Winner of the Linton-Barnhil Award

Mikah's photography piece has two names: "Garfield" and "Modern Apocalypse."

"It was originally part of a school project, what is known as a Diptych, in which you take two different photos and combine them to make one. My part of the photo was selected by my teacher, Mr. Johanni, to be entered into the show," Mikah said.

He found inspiration from attempting to match the tones and scheme of his partner's photo – specifically, the sandy palette of the desert and a washed-out sky.

"My work being displayed at the Shemer was nothing short of astounding. Having my work not only recognized but accepted by a museum utterly blows me out of the water," he said. "I am ecstatic to have been accepted and hope to do more shows going forward."

Mikah was surprised by the scholarship win.

"I tell everyone that having your work praised by friends and family is one thing, but to have museum curators and other artists recognize your work holds exceptional merit," he said.

Senior Jenna Waren

"The title of my piece is 'Electrify my Heart,' and the medium is micron and watercolor. Jack Stauber's song, Buttercup, inspired me. I've always doubted my skills as an artist, so having my piece displayed boosted my confidence. I feel like I could have a career in art," Jenna said.

XAVIER

Senior Lila Mago

Winner of the Jennifer's Choice Award

Lila's mixed media piece, called 'If Only You Knew' includes newspaper, acrylic paint, and transparent paper. Her original intention was to create a piece that incorporated flower doodles that she had made in the past, but she said it turned into more of a self-reflection as time went on.

"I feel that it embodies the final stage one must pass before embarking on a period of self-growth. It was an honor to have my work displayed at Shemer, especially with a piece as personal as this one. This was the first time my work has been featured in a gallery, so I feel very blessed to have won a scholarship in addition to this significant achievement," Lila said.

VERITAS PREP

Junior Corynn Gates

"I was honored to have my art displayed alongside many inspiring artists at the New Horizons Art Exhibit," Corynn said.

The name of her piece is 'The Red Room' and it was created with acrylic paint. Her inspiration for the piece came from childhood, a pastime that bloomed into a full-fledged hobby.

"When I started out as a young artist, I was drawn to painting faces of my friends. We had an art assignment where we had to take a picture of something that meant a lot to us and paint it. I took a picture of myself with a red background," Corynn said. "I have always used painting as an outlet for stress and have always correlated the color red with that stress. This painting was my way of defeating stress with something I loved."

OTHER WINNERS:

Penelope Pulliam
Xavier Prep senior

Ananda Ballestros-Cook
Veritas Prep junior

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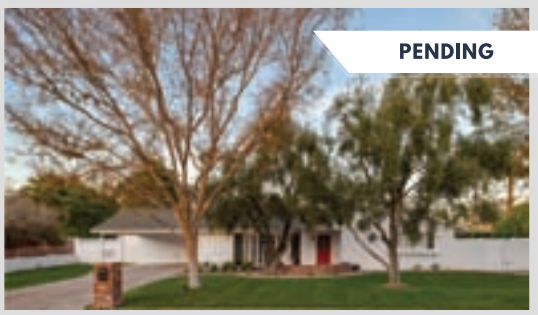
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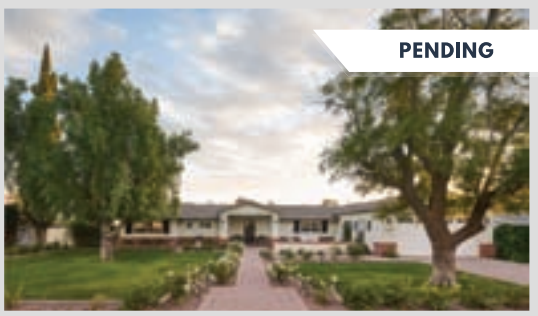
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4401 N 40th Street $425,000

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LISTING HOUSES THAT FEEL LIKE HOME


Robert as Doc Holliday.


Drake and Dali in Tombstone.


Robert and Luis in Tombstone.

The postman who wears many hats

By Mallory Gleich

It started with an email – a "shout out" to Sandra Zanck's Arcadia neighborhood mail carrier. Sandra shared a poem that Robert Emery had passed along to neighbors on his route over Christmas. She also shared that Robert had a handlebar mustache and used to work as a Tombstone cowboy in Cave Creek.

With that, my interest was piqued, and I found myself sitting across from Robert for lunch. I wanted to know all there was to know about this "truly genuine and kind person" that Sandra spoke of.

Emery was born in northern California and moved to Arizona in the third grade. He attended Apollo High School and has lived in the Arcadia area for over a decade.

Growing up, Emery had a paper route and said he was "one of the last" before the job was turned over to grown-ups tossing papers out of their cars. He worked in retail, construction (helping build Piestewa Peak Parkway, among other local jobs) and eventually found himself at the post office.

"Back then, you had to take a civil service test, get a score and register. Now, I guess you fill out an application, do a background test, and you're in," Emery said. He started as a clerk and worked up to a supervisor position.


Robert Emery



Halloween 2021

"I worked all over the state doing route inspections and stuff like that, worked in Sun City and around Phoenix, then decided I wanted to be a mailman. I should have started with that," he laughed.

Readers, you may be wondering why I mentioned the handlebar mustache. Allow me to explain: In 2017, his former wife's favorite movie was *Tombstone*.

"Val Kilmer was here, in Tombstone, at the time doing a lookalike contest. So we decided to go down there, and I entered the contest – and I won. I got a photo with Val and got to judge the next two years' contests," Emery said.

He then became part of the Arizona Gunfighters, a group that reenacts the gunfight at the O.K. Corral at Frontier Town in Cave Creek and Wyatt Earp Days in Tombstone. Emery was hired to play Doc Holliday.

"It was so fun, and I learned so much," he said. Emery was part of the group for two years before hanging up his spurs to focus on other projects – and, of course, maintain friendships with those he meets on his postal route.

His favorite part of being a mailman? The people. This is where the poem comes into play.

"I started writing my Christmas poems back in 2013," Emery said. "I was giving them to family and friends and wondered, 'how can I put this out there more?' I wanted to share it with people I'd met on my route."

The issue was how to write a poem with a different spin than "the reason for the season." The inspiration for the first installment? Three neighbors – one whose wife had died, one whose husband had died, and one who had just gotten a divorce.

"With this inspiration, I wrote a poem about them," Emery said. "I put it in their mailboxes with a note that said 'I hope this doesn't offend you.'"

The almost 300-word poem was called A Slice of Peace from a Pie of Sorrow. It focuses on how God's love is there to help and lift our spirits even though bad things happen in life.

"A couple of weeks after Christmas, I saw the 90-year-old gentleman on my route and stopped to chat. He said thank you for the poem and 'this was the best present I got,' and then…he pulled the poem out of his pocket. He still kept it with him, two weeks later," Emery said.

He's continued to write a poem each year since. According to Emery, being a postman requires three things: exercise, socializing and fantasizing. Enter Drake and Dali.

In 2020, Emery found himself with some time off work and decided to create a YouTube channel featuring aliens named Drake and Dali, who explore Earth during the pandemic.

"This is my passion project. That the characters explore Earth and can't understand what's going on, but try to remain understanding and compassionate," Emery said.

The YouTube channel isn't his only acting experience – Emery has had parts in nine independent films, with names like *The Prototype* and *The Pleasant Valley War* documentary.

"I'm more of a storyteller. When my sons were younger, we would make home movies and skits, and it was just fun," he said.

He ended up making two movies where he plays all the characters and is currently working on a new character for Drake and Dali and another film that he said he "might put into a festival."

While Emery is a man who wears many hats, he said that his most important job is to be a good neighbor, a good human, and share his energy with all those he comes across – easy to do in his profession.

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We can all be Irish with these recipes!

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

This month, it's time to bring on the exercise. It is so important to get some movement in every day and make sure it is a mix of cardio and strength training. Most people tend to slack on the weight training, but here are a few reasons why it's a priority:

- We lose muscle as we age, so strength training builds it back up.
- The more muscle we have, the faster our metabolism. A pound of muscle burns six calories, and a pound of fat only burns two.
- It is great for bone density and can prevent osteoporosis.
- Increased strength means you can do daily activities easily.
- And the obvious: You will look fit and toned!

Thirty minutes of weight-bearing exercises three to four times a week or 15 minutes every day is the amount to shoot for. YouTube has a lot of great options for workouts. Squats, lunges and push-ups are some standard go-to exercises that work great!

St. Patty's Day is this month, so let's put a healthy twist on these meals to celebrate the day.

youcare-selfcare.com

Plant-based key lime pie



Ingredients

- 1 cup raw cashews (unsalted)
- 1 cup coconut milk (canned)
- ¼ cup coconut oil
- ½ cup frozen limeade, thawed
- Zest from two limes + more for garnish
- ¼ cup maple syrup
- Graham cracker pre-made crust

Directions

1. Soak cashews in boiling water and let sit for 30 minutes or more.
2. Drain cashews and add to a high-speed blender with coconut milk, coconut oil, limeade, lime zest, and maple syrup. Blend until very smooth.
3. Pour this into the pre-made crust – cover and freeze for four hours.
4. Add additional lime zest on the top before serving.

Serves: 8-10

St. Patty's Day cabbage & carrot soup



Ingredients

- 4 cups vegetable broth, divided
- 1 onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 1 russet potato, diced
- 1 can (28 oz.) fire-roasted tomatoes
- 1 can (15 oz.) cannellini or garbanzo beans, drained
- 6 cups cabbage, sliced
- 2 tsp. cumin
- 1 tsp. each: thyme, pink salt
- ½ tsp. each: smoked paprika, pepper, red pepper flakes

Directions

1. Add ¼ cup broth to a large pot and heat to high heat. Add in the onions, garlic, carrots and celery. Sauté for eight minutes.
2. Now add in the rest of the broth, potato, tomatoes, beans, cabbage and spices. Bring to a boil, then cover and cook on low for 20 minutes or until the potatoes are cooked through.
3. Top with fresh cilantro or parsley. Also great with chopped avocado.

Serves: 8

St. Patty's Day green smoothie



Ingredients

- 1 frozen banana
- 1 cup almond milk
- ½ cup coconut yogurt
- 1 cup spinach
- ½ tsp. vanilla
- A few mint leaves
- 4 ice cubes

Directions

1. Blend everything in a blender until smooth.

Serves: 1



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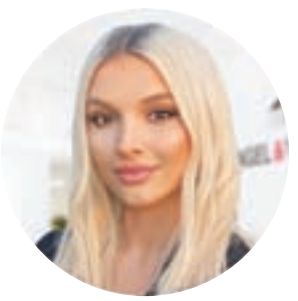
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"Meet Mr." | Ray Artigue

Chris Hayward

Chris Hayward calls himself a 'late bloomer,' but it's hard to blossom when you've been uprooted year after year. Growing up, Hayward attended nine different schools before graduating from high school.

"I grew up everywhere," said the 38-year-old real estate executive, "and it's funny because it has ultimately helped me learn not to be complacent and to adapt."

After graduating from Arcadia High School, the Utah-born Hayward went on to play basketball at Menlo College before returning to the Valley and graduating from Arizona State University.

> ***My dad taught me always to remain humble and treat everyone with respect, no matter who they are.***

"I didn't know what I wanted to do after finishing college," he admits. "I stubbornly refused to go to work for my dad, but eventually, and wisely, I did."

He signed on in the construction/real estate division of Leslie's Pools, where he worked for 14 years, helping chart the expansion of retail stores around the country.

"I enjoy real estate development and especially the art of negotiations, always striving to make the very best deal," he said.

He was successful in those negotiations, as the company opened more than 350 locations during his long tenure there.

Today, Hayward serves as president of Del Mar Ventures, a multi-faceted investment company with more than 300,000 sq. ft. of real estate holdings in their diverse portfolio of commercial, industrial, retail and residential properties.

Chris and his wife, Gem, have been married for nine years, and they have two children: a six-year-old daughter, Rome, and a two-year-old son, Bond.

They moved to Arcadia early on and have no intentions of leaving. "We love Arcadia because of all the vegetation and the family atmosphere. It allows us to be outdoors as a family and active with our kids."

When Chris isn't working or spending time with his family, he pursues his passion for golf.

"I didn't pick up golf until I was 25, but I immediately fell in love with the game. I find that it teaches you life lessons about not getting too high or too low about how you are doing at any given time," he said. He is doing just fine out on the course, as he carries an impressive handicap.

Another passion for Chris is community service. He is an active PCH-50 board member for Phoenix Children's Hospital and volunteers with the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Valley.

"Volunteering teaches us to put others above self," he said. Hayward credits his father for much of what he has learned, both in life and business circles.

"My dad taught me always to remain humble and treat everyone with respect, no matter who they are. Our family is pretty low-key, but we try and make a difference where we can," he said.



Asked about a favorite book, Chris doesn't hesitate, saying *Leaders Eat Last*.

"It's a great book for business and life because it talks about the importance of putting your colleagues and family above yourself and leading with deep trust and loyalty," he said.

Something Chris Hayward continually puts into practice.

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Making this year's spring break all about the animals



Robin's Adventures

BY ROBIN SEWELL

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

March is here which means it's time for spring break. If you can't get away to an amusement park, tropical beach, or mountain ski resort this year, but still want to have some fun with the kids – that won't break the bank – we have an idea. We're talking about something fun and educational, that instills in youth the importance of taking care of our environment while experiencing our state's diverse beauty and cute critters.

This year, the Phoenix Zoo is celebrating 60 years. I doubt that when they opened their doors in 1952, they had any idea the zoo would become the largest privately-owned, nonprofit zoo in the United States. Chuttie the Cutie, a one-horned rhino, has quite the cult following here. Fernando, a two-toed sloth, is well-known on the Cameo app. According to his keepers, Fernando is a superstar and has quite a personality.



Fernando the two-toed sloth at the Phoenix Zoo



Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum cacti



Fennec fox at Bearizona

The Phoenix Zoo also has a new way to navigate the property. Stop by the Rydables corral and rent one of the battery-powered carts designed specifically for multi-terrain outdoor experiences. Climb onto an elephant, monkey, giraffe, or even a sloth for a ride that is fun for kids of all ages.

The Arizona Sonora Desert Museum is unlike any other. It is outdoors, has few walls, not much glass, and the exhibits are anything but static. It is a true living museum on the edge of the Saguaro National Monument in Tucson. It is part zoo, aquarium, botanical gardens, natural history museum, and art institute – all rolled into one. They highlight a wide variety of animals, including black bears, mountain lions, even stingrays – which some might find surprising. The reality is stingrays live close, in the Gulf of California, so they can educate people on ocean conservation and why it's important, even here in the desert.

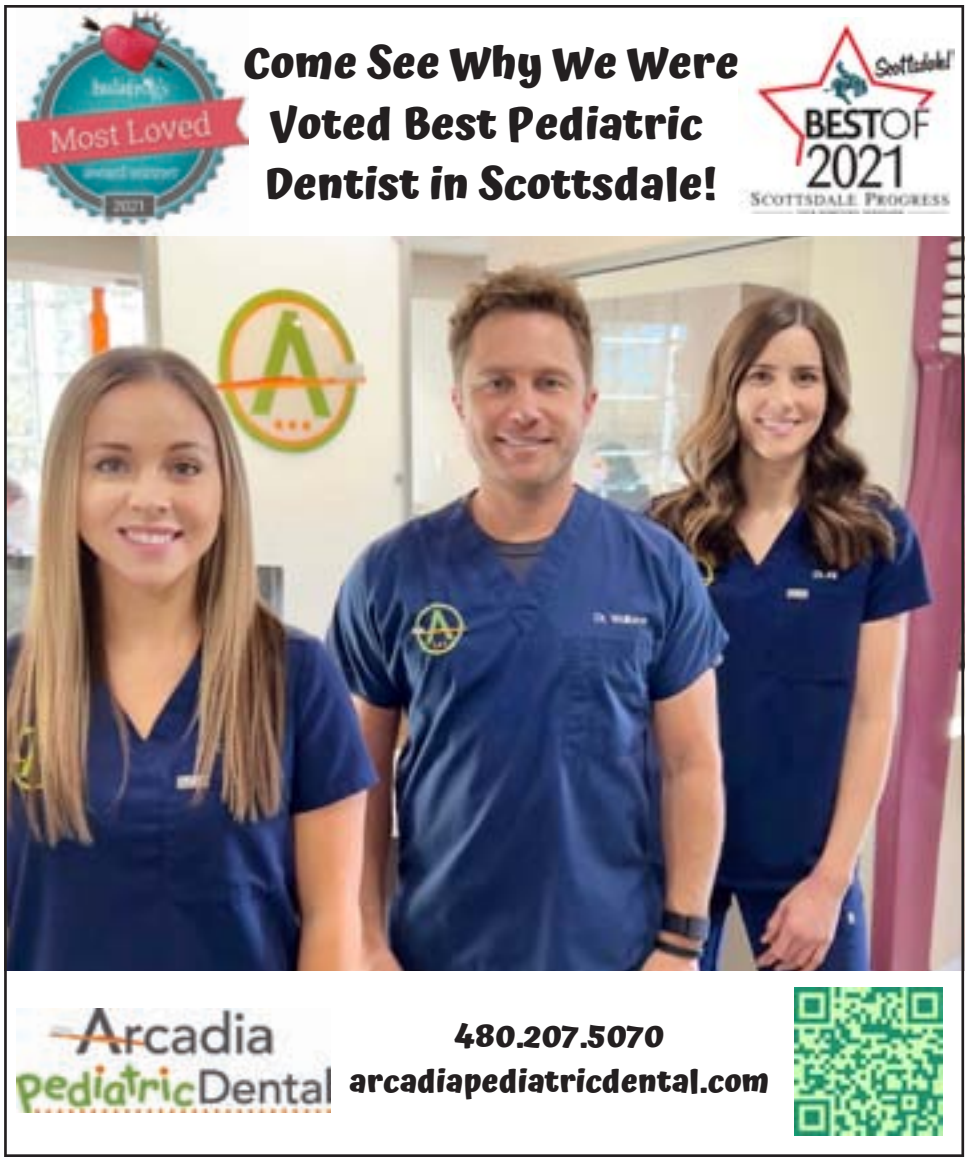
The museum campus is a chameleon, always changing to reflect the seasons and its surroundings. Unlike the Sahara or the Mohave, the Sonoran Desert is one of the lushest deserts in the world. Most people hear the word and it conjures an image of brown sand and barren landscapes, but the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum in the springtime is an explosion of rich, vibrant color. Folks can spend an entire day here: walk the trails, visit the art institute, the cave, and of course, see the cute critters – like the prairie dogs, which are a fan favorite.

Mayor Moore says that Bearizona is a must-stop. I would say he is a bit biased, since he is the Mayor of Williams, and the wildlife park is in his "backyard," but I couldn't agree more.

One of the things I love most about Bearizona is the number of options guests have to enjoy the park. From the comfort of your car, you can see bears, wolves, and other North American critters roaming freely through their ponderosa pine-filled range. Another way to explore the park is by strolling through Fort Bearizona. Home to a petting zoo and the Mine Shaft Experience, where the nocturnal animals and creepy crawlies live, guests can see jaguars, grizzly bear cubs, and the playful antics of smaller animals, like otters and fennec foxes.

These are just a few options for spending spring break outdoors.





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Let's talk money

One of the hot topics in the news right now is pay. It's about time. Many people have been making the same pay for years. Employers believe we're lucky to have a job at all. We're told we should be happy to receive two percent each year. The good news is, times are changing – for now.

The Great Resignation has caused chaos in companies as employees have quit in large numbers. The buzz around this topic has caused several employees to ask me questions. What should they do? How should they make the case to their current employer to pay them the rates they see in the market?

There's no easy answer to this question. First, how you deal with negotiations of any kind at work depends on your risk profile. If you have family members who depend on you financially, you may have to be more careful about your risk-taking. And the chances are high that you need to keep your current job until you find a new one.



Career Corner

BY ANGELA COPELAND

Career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching. copelandcoaching.com

You can make a case with your existing employer. A good time to have salary conversations is during your annual performance review as you discuss your progress over the last year. You can showcase your work and discuss your future career path with the company.

If you do make a case, plan your approach carefully. Rarely will demanding more pay result in anything positive. That is the case, even when you're right. Think of it this way: your boss is like your customer. The services you provide are similar to being a consultant.

When you started working for your boss, you offered consulting services for a specific rate. To suddenly expect to deliver the same benefits for a much higher rate may feel negative to your boss, no matter what the going rate is on the market.

The slight raise that companies offer leaves employees with few choices. They reward new employees to attempt to lure them to their organizations. This is traditionally where the higher salaries are. If you see other companies paying much more than you make today, your best bet is to start looking at those companies.

If you have a hunch that you're underpaid, do your homework. Some websites share salary data – and more companies are including salaries on job postings. You can look by company and role.

Don't be lured into thinking that cheaper parts of the country will always pay less. Salaries vary considerably. You may find a job in a more affordable area that pays more than you make today.

From the Archives



In 2000, the Arcadia News was still black and white, with "spot color" limited to two colors each issue.

Spring is coming and these little Arcadia ladies are ready! They've donned their finest outfits just for the occasion. Pictured: Jenna Campbell (8), Kelsey Kenna (8) and Tara Campbell (6 ½).

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Mobile shop offers flowers on-the-go

By Rachael Bouley

Have you been driving around Arcadia lately and noticed a bright blue VW bus at Sip Coffee & Beer or Tarbell's Wine Store? If so, you might be surprised to learn it's not just any old vintage vehicle, but rather a local pop-up flower shop selling blooms right out of the cab.

Ann Barker, the owner of Annie's Flower Truck, developed a lifelong love of flowers that eventually blossomed into a small business in November 2020. She said that she hasn't looked back since, taking her reconstructed 1964 VW Single Cab along and making the most of a new opportunity after retiring from a successful corporate career in sports and event marketing.



Ann Barker

"I was doing some freelancing and was spending way too much time on Instagram, where I discovered flower trucks," Barker said. "I fell in love with them. They make people happy, and make me happy. Every pop-up is an event with the opportunity to create a memorable experience for the guest and spread a little bit of joy."

Having worked with professional sports teams and large-scale events like the NFL Super Bowl, PGA Tour and NASCAR, Barker said she enjoys creating new memories with people. Now, she can combine both her professional and personal passions.

Annie's Flower Truck gives customers the chance to create bouquets with fresh flowers of their choosing.

"On the bus, we have 16 different flowers and a half dozen types of greens or stems to fill out the bouquet," Barker explained. "Guests know the person they are buying flowers for, so they choose the flowers with that person in mind. They create the bouquet, which makes it more meaningful."

Of course, Barker has to give her beautifully restored bus some credit. "The vintage bus also attracts a lot of attention. You have to love it!"

Barker is always happy to help, whether customers are stopping by for a bouquet to brighten someone's day or fielding calls from other floral enthusiasts interested in starting a flower truck. She's even finishing an eBook outlining what she's learned about starting and running a mobile business.

When asked why she loves flowers, Barker references Ralph Waldo Emerson's quote, "The earth laughs in flowers." She said she appreciates the sweet surprise and joy and loves sharing blooms with the community through pop-up collaborations at local valley businesses, which are just some of the perks of her venture.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANN BARKER

The 1964 VW Single Cab bus was restored by Robert Skinner. Barker built the flower displays in the truck herself. Fun fact: This exact bus was used in the Bruce Lee movie Birth of the Dragon*!*

"The best part is establishing your own business identity, the flexibility, and in my case, working side-by-side with my dearest friend, Joal Redmond. We have been on many adventures together in our careers. I also enjoy collaborating with other businesses to lift each other and support each other," she said.

Barker hopes to do more private events with companies and clubs who want to thank their employees, customers, or members with custom bouquets.

"We also have a bouquet bar during the months when it is too hot to take the flower truck out. And we offer the bus as a bar for events – filling troughs with beer and wine or bubbles – one of my other favorite things. Bubbles with Blooms, it's kind of perfect!" she said.

anniesflowertruck.com

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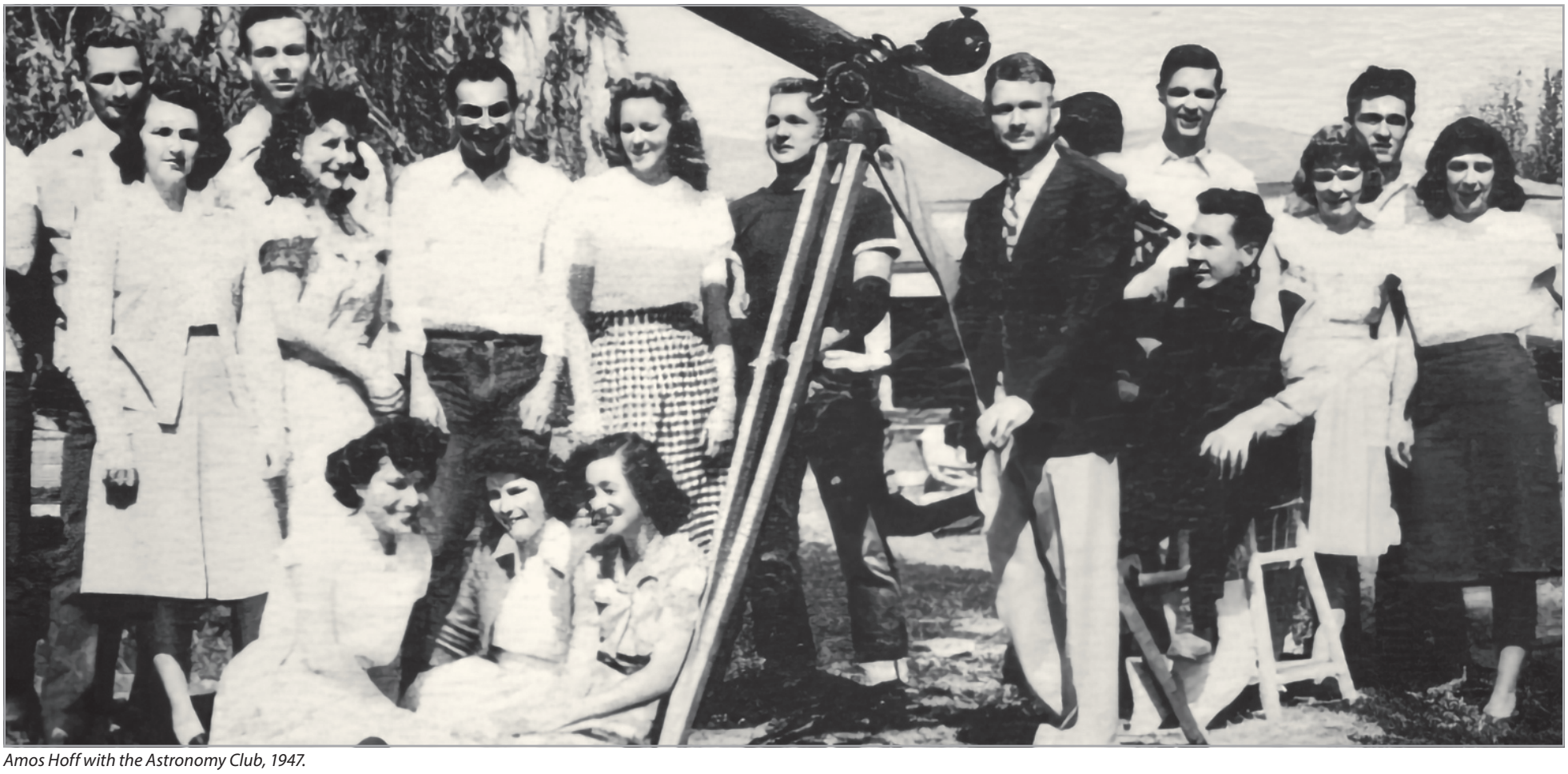
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Amos Hoff with the Astronomy Club, 1947.

Party among the stars with an out-of-this-world organization

By Cliff Summerhill

The Phoenix Observatory Association, later renamed the Phoenix Astronomical Society, was founded in 1948 by Amos Hoff, a professor from Phoenix College.

The members of PAS have a few goals in mind. One that's at the top of the list is learning and exploring everything they can about the night sky and sharing it with others, whether that be through education about the vast regions of space or something as simple as setting up a telescope.

"Back in those days, there were more women in astronomy classes than men," President Stuart Brackney said. "There was not a lot of information or exploration about what was going on in the night sky at that time."

Over the next 70 years, the society became a hub for curious minds and those looking to explore. They offer how-to resources for stargazing equipment, real-time data on the solar system and countless resources for those looking to expand their knowledge.

"We are not necessarily a research society," Brackney said. "We're more of a hobby club that has serious astronomers in it, but that's also open to everybody."

The mission of this group is to help stargazers learn more about the ever-changing elements of our solar system.

The society hosts monthly "Star Parties" that are open to the public to showcase the wide array of intriguing night sky features.

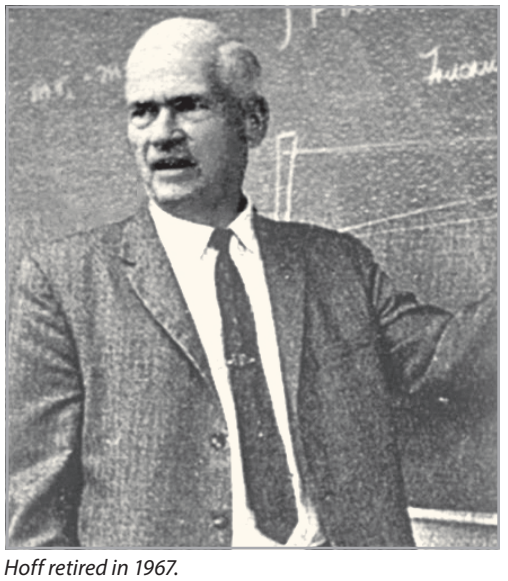
"We have our guys and gals take telescopes out and allow the general public to see what's glowing up there," Brackney said.

The society meets at Paradise Valley Community College and hosted their first in-person Star Gazing Party of the past couple of years in February.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE PHOENIX ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY



With students in 1957.



Hoff retired in 1967.





PAS also hosts several guest speakers every month, highlighting something current or informative about the stars and planets within our solar system. Recently, they hosted Dr. David A. Williams from Arizona State University and Dr. Emily Levesque from Washington University.

Dr. Levesque's presentation spoke about a star named Betelgeuse (not to be confused with the movie *Beetlejuice*!). Currently, the star is dimming and may explode in the near future.

According to the lecture, if you were to take Betelgeuse and place it into our galaxy as a replacement for the sun, it would engulf Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars and reach all the way to Jupiter.

"There is a lot of observational information for the novice and the professional," Brackney said.

He believes that offering virtual presentations has opened some doors for the club.

"We are able to get guest speakers we've never been able to have," he said. "We can have speakers from all over the country and will continue to host them with our in-person meetings."

The society leans greatly on partnerships that the state universities have with NASA to expand their lecture series and resources. PAS is also connected with Northern Arizona University's astronomy program and Flagstaff's Lowell Observatory.

Currently, the society has just under 100 members and hopes to recruit more in the future. While many resources are available for free to the public, it costs $25 per year to become a member.

"We have the best deal north of the equator when it comes to membership fees," Brackney said.

pasaz.org

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AWARD WINNING NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS SINCE 1993



Neighborhood speakeasy celebrates a decade

By Sabrina Proffitt

Among the well-known restaurants, bars and businesses lining Indian School Road in Arcadia is a hidden gem, sitting inconspicuously on the corner of 42nd Place. Without a sign facing the main street, The Little Woody almost looks like an abandoned building. Those who haven't been inside might think it's an unassuming neighborhood dive bar. Some know, however, that there is more than meets the eye.

The Little Woody is vast compared to how it looks from the outside. With three separate areas, it has a space for every type of customer. The main area holds tables and barstools for those looking to lounge for an extended period.

The next room, also known as the game room, boasts a Skee-ball machine, shuffleboard and foosball, with a DJ on the weekends. It is usually the loudest room. The final room has pool tables, couches, chairs and TVs. From here, guests can still hear the music but can comfortably assemble with a group of friends, play a game of pool or lounge around. First-timers may be surprised by the versatility and space within The Little Woody.

General Manager Elle Hoyt said that Genuine Concepts initially designed the Little Woody to be that way. The space was created with a speakeasy in mind. Those who know about it know, and those who don't, drive right past.

"When we first opened up, that was the whole point," Hoyt said. "An unassuming place that will pleasantly surprise you when you walk in. You might think 'dirty little dive bar,' but then you come in and realize that it's not."

The Little Woody, owned by Genuine Concepts (the same company that owns The Vig locations, Ladera Cocina, etc.), recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. To ring in their first decade in business, the staff dedicated themselves to giving back to the community by hosting a charity raffle for Boys Hope Girls Hope, Chrysalis and Onward Hope, Inc. Patrons were offered $3 cocktails throughout the weekend and a 10x10x10 night, meaning they would have a new ten-cent cocktail each hour, for ten hours.



In the ten years of being open, Hoyt said the most notable changes were physical. While they expanded twice, adding on each additional room, the message and brand of the bar remained the same.

"The vibe is consistent," Hoyt said. "We welcome everybody and want everyone to have a good time. It's a place for you to meet your neighbors, a place for you to hide out in the corner and enjoy a drink or join a community table."

Little Woody aims to create a culture among people in the neighborhood, a place to meet new friends, and it seems they're doing a great job at just that.

littlewoodyaz.com

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*Source: 2020 CVC Publication Report Audit

Xavier alumna installed as Arizona Supreme Court Justice

By Rachael Bouley

On Friday, January 8, 2022, over 400 people gathered on the Xavier Prep campus to watch 1999 alumna Kathryn Hackett King be installed as a Justice to the Arizona Supreme Court, a first for Xavier graduates.

Arizona Governor Doug Ducey announced her appointment in July 2021, and Justice King is only the fifth woman in state history to serve in the esteemed position.

Xavier's president, Sister Joan Fitzgerald, BVM, gave the invocation for Justice King. Family, friends and her high school community stood by in support. The audience heard remarks from Chief Justice the Honorable Robert M. Brutinel, Ducey, Christine Burns, Esq., U.S. District Court Judge Michael Liburdi, and Anita Hackett, King's mother.

"It was a very proud day for Xavier. Reflecting on her success in high school, she was in a perfect place to draw upon her leadership and intellectual abilities all through those days," said Fitzgerald. "She has maintained that through her service in the community and the field of law. Kathryn is another success story about a woman who has taken advantage of her education and her gifts to make her mark on the world and help others."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATHRYN KING

Vicki Richardson, Anne Burns, Kathryn Hackett King, Lauren Parson, Catherine Tiffany and Natalie Meszaros at King's induction ceremony in January.

After graduating from Xavier, Justice King attended Duke University, earning a Bachelor of Arts with a major in political science and a minor in history before getting her law degree from the University of Arizona College of Law.

She joined numerous boards and committees as she remained dedicated to community service, which was instilled in her throughout her time at Xavier. Justice King was a student-athlete, ambassador and award winner in high school, receiving the school's highest honor at graduation, the Regina Caeli Award for Service.

Justice King served as a law clerk for Arizona Supreme Court Justice Michael Ryan and as deputy general counsel for Governor Ducey. She was also a law partner at BurnsBarton and a regent on the Arizona Board of Regents [the governing body of Arizona's public university system that provides guidance to ASU, NAU, University of Arizona and their branch campuses].

The Supreme Court's primary judicial duties are to review appeals and to provide rules of procedure for all the courts in Arizona. It is the highest court in Arizona and is often called the "court of last resort."

Seven justices serve on the Supreme Court for a term of six years.

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Bumblebee bracelet


Carmella Lucchesi, Madison DiGianfilippo, Delaney Garsha and Gwen Morgan.



Neon Happy bracelet

Go ahead, wear some sunshine

By Sabrina Proffitt

Making friendship bracelets is one of the many rites of passage during early school years. Threading big bulky beads and letters onto a stretchy string and passing them out at school is something we all remember doing, right?

For two Valley third graders, Madison DiGianfilippo and Delaney Garsha, this fun past-time activity has become a full-fledged business that they call Sunshine Accessories.

Because of their passion for being creative and making jewelry, the duo decided it was time to go official with their skills. They drew out a logo on a piece of paper, and Madison asked her mother, Melissa, if she could help them create a website.

By the end of holiday break, the website was up-and-running, and the girls gathered up a group of students to help out.

The seven jewelry makers are made up of students from around Phoenix and include Tatum DiGianfilippo and Hopi students Cash and Kaiden Krisay. Creators are in first, second and third grade.

"Madison and I met in kindergarten," Delaney said. "And when we were in third grade, we started learning to make bracelets together, and that's how this started. I like putting a bunch of different colors together and making the bracelets whatever we want them to be."

Their jewelry collection ranges from beaded and stretchy bracelets, anklets, rings, bracelet and ring combos, necklaces and customized pieces.

"We take special requests," Madison said. "You can email us, and we have this thing on our page that talks about how to make your bracelet and what the best color combinations are. We've tried them before, and some look good, some don't."

With a mix of colorful beads, pastel string, letter beads and various pendants, each piece of jewelry is unique and handmade. The jewelry also has a theme and a name to pair with it.

A few of their creations are the Bumble Bee Bracelet, The Cat in The Hat Choker, the Sun Ray Ring and the Monkey Party Bracelet. As of now, they've already sold over 40 pieces.

"I like making all of the different bracelets and putting on all of the accessories and making different kinds," Delaney said. "We use clay beads, yarn and other beads. We love to use different colors like red, black and white. Our other friends in the business go to school with us, and they love making bracelets, too."

Because of their growing success, the team has decided to pick out a local nonprofit to donate a percentage of their sales so they can give back to their community in the future.

sunshineaccessoriesaz.com

With this organization, girl power takes the lead

By Jennifer Marshall

More than ever, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education is critical to success in the global marketplace. Girls have always been underrepresented in these subjects and in the spirit of encouraging them to participate, a Phoenix organization called Sisters in STEM was created.

"In 2018, the Saguaro High School Robotics team found out that Scottsdale Community College could not host Girl Powered, one of their annual events. In response, members Eli Arnold, Kayli Battel and Laney Olsen took the initiative and created their own event, which they called Sisters in STEM," President Natalie Foster said.

The first event took place in November 2018, and a whopping 130 girls participated. Though the three founders are now enrolled in college, they are still active and help current Saguaro students operate and manage the program.

"The objective of Sisters in STEM is to inspire elementary and middle school girls to pursue their interests in science, math, engineering and technology," Foster said. "Students that are in high school have the chance to volunteer, but we encourage everyone – boys and girls – to get involved," Foster said.


PHOTO COURTESY OF POLLY PICKETT
Sisters in STEM attendees at their most recent event.

Their most recent event featured 25 unique activities, encompassing physics, math, chemistry, robotics, engineering, astronomy and biology.

"We like to take a hands-on approach. We want students to learn about STEM actively," Foster said.

Just as important as the students who participate, the teacher and parent volunteers are essential to keeping the program running effectively. Because of their support, Sisters in STEM has gained over 1,000 members, including students from six different cities and 25 separate schools.

"Over the last two years, our program has transformed from one annual event to providing opportunities for students every month," Foster said. "In April 2021, we launched 'First Fridays,' a virtual event where kids could participate in an experiment on the first Friday of every month. With these events, we can reach out to students across the U.S."

The organization recently acquired a trailer to take events on the road to help educate students in underserved communities in Arizona and, hopefully, other states as the program grows.

sistersinstem.net

DID YOU KNOW? MARCH MADNESS

HOW MUCH?

1 in 9.2 quintillion

At 1 in 9.2 quintillion, your odds of filling out a perfect bracket are lower than your odds of winning the lottery, getting struck by lightning and having a boa constrictor emerge through the pipes in your toilet all on the same day.

– moneywise.com

HOW LOW?

#8 SEED

in 1985, #8 seeded Villanova won the national championship, becoming lowest-seeded team ever to win the title. Since 1985, the #8 and #9 seeds have each won 68 games.

– forbes.com

HOW MANY?

97

Mike Krzyzewski of Duke has 97 tournament game wins – the most by a coach.

11

UCLA has won the most championships with 11.

10

The most championships won by a single coach is ten, by John Wooden of UCLA.

20

North Carolina has the most Final Four appearances with 20.

61

The most individual points scored in a single March Madness game was 61 by Austin Carr for Notre Dame vs. Ohio in 1970.

149

A record 149 points were scored in a single March Madness game by LMU against Michigan in the second round of the 1990 tournament.

38

The UCLA Bruins won a record 38 consecutive March Madness games between 1964 and 1974, lifting the trophy seven straight times from 1967 to 1973.

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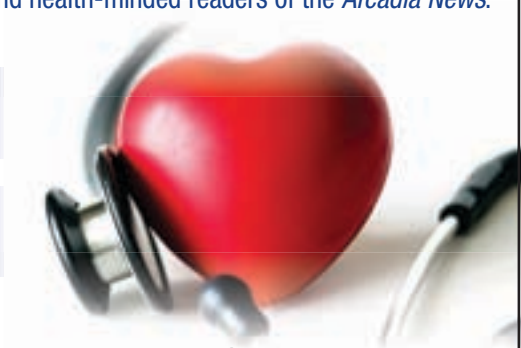
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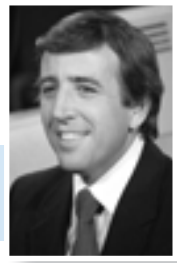


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DID YOU KNOW? MARCH MADNESS

ORIGINS

In 1941, The University of North Carolina set a record for the lowest point total by a single team at 20 points in a losing effort against Pittsburgh in that year's East Regional Semifinals.



Sportscaster Brent Musburger coined the phrase "March Madness" when he uttered it in a broadcast in 1982.

MARCH MADNESS FACTS — forbes.com

Oregon won the inaugural NCAA tournament in 1939.

The NCAA says it doesn't condone gambling on their brackets.

UCLA's Bill Walton holds the record for most points scored in a championship game. In 1973, Walton scored 44 points against Memphis State.

2008 is the only time that all four No. 1 seeds: Kansas, North Carolina, UCLA, and Memphis played in the Final Four.

Emmett McCracken of Indiana is the youngest head coach to win a national title at age 31, in 1940.



In 1990 LMU and Michigan combined for a 149-115 score, the highest in tournament history.

Joe B. Hall with Kentucky, Bob Knight with Ohio State and Indiana, and Dean Smith, with Kansas and North Carolina are the only three men who were champions as coaches and players.

Larry Brown with the Kansas Jayhawks in 1988 (NCAA), and the Detroit Pistons in 2004 (NBA) is the only coach who has won in both organizations.

Though the tournament has been held for almost 80 years, only 35 schools have won the top prize.

No #5 seeded team has ever won a championship.

The University of Connecticut is the only school to have fielded men's and women's national championship teams in the same year, with victories in 2004 and 2014.

American beer companies will produce between 17-18 million barrels in March (the average is 14 M) during the tourney. Pizza orders also increase by 19%.

Since the tournament was expanded to 64 teams, #1 seeds have a won-loss record of 454-114, a winning percentage of .798. Seeding began in 1979.

The 1979 championship game between Larry Bird's Indiana State and Magic Johnson's Michigan State has been the most-watched game, averaging 35.1 million viewers. The 1992 title game (Duke vs. Michigan) ranks second with an average audience of 34.3 million.

In 2018, Maryland-Baltimore County became the first #16 seed to defeat a #1 seeded school (Virginia) in the opening round. Top seeds now have a won-loss record of 135-1 versus #16 seeds.

UCLA's Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has been the Most Outstanding Player of the "Final Four" a record three times (1967-69).

SAY WHAT?

NCAA BASKETBALL COACHES MAKE BANK



In many states, a college coach has the highest salary of any public employee. In Kentucky, the top earner is John Calipari, who coaches the University of Kentucky's basketball program. Calipari is making $8.6 million a year after signing a 10-year, $86 million deal in 2021. – forbes.com

MARCH MADNESS WORD SEARCH

V	Q	V	S	E	F	L	Q	B	D	H	E	V	V	G	X	U	I	Q	F	K	P	U	M	T
Z	P	G	Q	X	I	L	T	D	A	O	Z	E	J	S	O	F	A	A	C	N	S	I	Z	X
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Childhood dream becomes a reality for Arizona transplant

By Melissa Hirschl

A sincere belief in the healing nature of art, as well as an incredible passion for baking, led to the creation of Lula's Arts, Sweets and More, a small shop near the corner of 23rd St. and Indian School Road. The store showcases talented local artists, decadent desserts and whimsical gifts. Honduran native Lula (Lourdes) Figueroa opened the doors in June 2020.

Lula bakes everything herself, spending two days creating cookies, brownies, bars and candy. The result of her energy is a loyal following of patrons who enjoy the latest confections, browsing the various handmade items and artwork. Others sip coffee or tea and relax.

One of the most commanding works of art in the store is an 84" by 66" piece titled "The Many Faces of God" by Utah-based Jon Wassom. It depicts famous spiritual people throughout time, such as Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jesus and Crazy Horse.

"There are many artists I can promote, but I am mainly interested in exposing artists who are passionate about their work above everything else," Lula said.

"The business shares the gift of creativity by remarkable artists, a tasty selection of baked goods and a welcoming energy," said Lula's regular, Rev. Julianne Lewis. When you walk in, you see and feel the vibration of the diverse art, the healing energy from the beautiful crystals, and so much more."

Lula's baking career catalyst was a cake she made at 12 years old.

"I loved the feeling that if I followed directions, there was a transformation that could yield such an elevated item," she said. "My love of baking, art and community was the real reason I opened this place. I am a girl from a third-world country whose mother would never let her give up on the dream of owning her own business."

When Lula took that leap of faith, artists and creative friends were more than willing to fill the growing business with their art pieces.

Part of the store's chemistry is Lula's efforts to accommodate her customers. For instance, when a friend had no time to make breakfast because of a demanding job, Lula worked her magic and concocted a cookie version of her favorite breakfast.

"I created a healthy mix of blueberries, chia seeds, coconut flakes and oatmeal," she explained.

In February, Lula's carried "Cupid's favorite," a mix of potato chips, pretzels, chocolate chips, M&M's, and sprinkles.

"At Christmas time, they were Santa's cookies, but Santa told Cupid, and now they are Cupid's," she said with a laugh.

The recipe for success in opening a business, according to Lula, is the following:

"You need a vision mixed with reliance. Visualize how things will look and surround yourself with people who believe in you. My vision is to continue to fill the store with wonderful people who share my vision in building community."

The store is open from Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

artunitesus.org



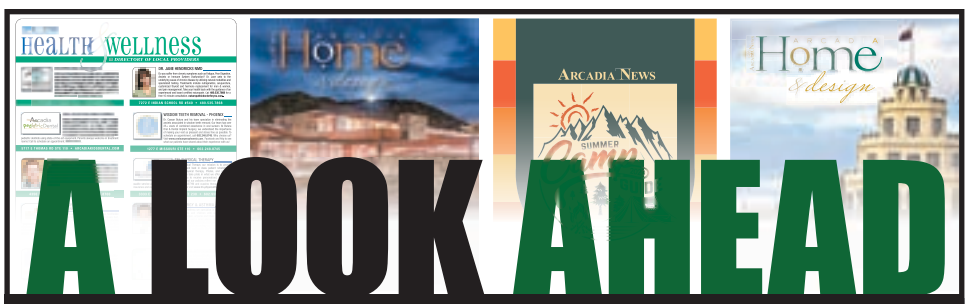
Lula Figueroa with some of her latest art pieces.



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Arcadia wrestling resets with a new coach, fresh talent

By Rachael Bouley

The wrestling team at Arcadia High School faced many challenges this year, especially with a season that almost didn't happen. With the help of a new head coach, the Titans kept pushing forward, eventually qualifying four wrestlers for the state championships.

After Aaron Simpson's departure, Coach Shawn Carbajal stepped up to fill the head coaching role. As a firefighter with 15 years of experience coaching wrestling (most of them at Red Mountain High in Mesa), Carbajal saw the potential and wanted to make sure Arcadia's wrestlers still got the chance to hit the mat.

Carbajal came to Arcadia after a brief stint as the head wrestling coach at Prescott High School, where he was a state champion wrestler in 1999. The pandemic brought him and his family back to the Valley. With his daughter at Tavan Elementary School and Arcadia High without a coach just a day before the season started, he got involved – alongside 12 eager athletes.

Although the team didn't have a big preseason, they got right to work. Unfortunately, it wasn't long before they lost a few athletes, and even those relatively new to wrestling were facing some tough varsity matchups. Injuries and departures left the team with six wrestlers entering the sectional tournament.

Low numbers are nothing new to the team, which has seen several seniors come and go since it started back up in 2017 after nearly four decades without a wrestling squad.

While there was an opportunity for the Lady Titans team to return this year, there wasn't enough interest, something Carbajal hopes to see change as girl's wrestling is one of the fastest-growing high school sports. Despite the small group, he's proud of how the wrestlers challenged competitors from veteran schools.

"We're young. I knew walking into it we had to stick to the fundamentals of wrestling and focus on conditioning," Carbajal said. "I knew we wouldn't be able to out-technique our opponents. We had to out-wrestle them by being in better shape."



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHAWN CARBAJAL

Emilio DuComb, Nolan Field, Rocco Mortensen, Mateo Rodriguez and Mark Radonich.

The team competed in three tournaments and some additional dual meets to use their 12 weigh-ins before sectionals.

"People across the board and most coaches say the section we are in is one of the toughest in the state," Carbajal said about Division 2 Section 3, naming Casteel High, Campo Verde, and Higley as some of the fiercest competitors.

"I already knew how tough this section was. I wasn't even sure how we were going to get any kids to state. It's not their fault they got stuck in a tough section this go around," he said.

Even with the challenging competition they succeeded, thanks to the strong core group of kids who came to practice every day and showed their commitment to the program.

"I think it's a challenge that a lot of these kids come into high school wrestling believing it's a sport like football or basketball where you can lean on your team, but this is an individual sport. You stand out if you don't show up, especially when there are only six or seven kids."

What the new team lacks in accolades and awards, they make up for in determination, as four wrestlers qualified for state – the most in the team's short history, and especially impressive given the full teams they were competing against.

At the qualifiers, Nolan Field (28-14) finished third in the 126-pound weight class and Mateo Rodriguez (18-7) came in fourth in his weight class at 150 pounds, an exciting accomplishment for his first year of wrestling. Even though he broke his hand a week into the season, he came back just before sectionals to place.

Arcadia's other two qualifiers were quarterback Rocco Mortensen (25-21), who weighed in at 190 and placed fourth, and Emilio DuComb (30-14), who took third in the 215-pound class. Carbajal said all of the athletes made him proud.

For the first time in decades, the Titans had state placers in wrestling after success at the Division 2 State Championship, which was held from February 17-19 at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Coliseum. Mateo finished fifth in the 150-pound weight class and Emilio placed sixth in the 215-pound class. Nolan went 1-2 in the 126-pound weight class and Rocco went 0-2 in the 190-pound weight class.

"Our goal was to get as many kids as we could through to the state tournament and they all peaked at the right time," Carbajal said.

With a memorable season in the books, Carbajal is looking to the future and hopes to see more support and resources for wrestling, not just at Arcadia but throughout the Scottsdale district, which in total qualified 12 boys for state and no females this year. He believes if the district can invest more in junior high wrestling and feeder programs, they will be able to build the program, drawing in athletes when they are younger to get more experience and stay engaged with the sport.

"We can be just as competitive with the big schools in the east and west valley. It's just going to take more support from the district for junior high wrestling to take it from a wrestling team to a wrestling program," Carbajal said.

St. Vincent de Paul CEO celebrates 25 years

By Jennifer Marshall

One fateful glance at an employment ad propelled Steve Zabilski into the career he's called his for over 20 years.

Steve was born in Los Angeles, grew up in southern California, and called it home for 33 years. But as his career and family grew, so did the need for more space.

The family relocated to Allentown, Pennsylvania, Chicago, Dallas and finally Phoenix in 1995. Arriving in the Valley of the Sun, Steve, his wife, Denise, and their three children settled into the Arcadia neighborhood.

Then, it was time to look for work. After reading the employment ad in *The Catholic Sun* newspaper, Steve applied and was hired for the management position at St. Vincent de Paul.

Having formerly served as a senior vice president with Transamerica Insurance Group and an audit manager with the accounting firm of KPMG Peat Marwick, he brought an impressive resume with him. That experience has served him well, as Steve recently celebrated 25 years at St. Vincent. He started in 1997 and hasn't looked back.



Steve Zabilski

"I thought, 'this could bring a different sense of meaning to my life.' I knew the position would be special, and it was," Steve said. "I was grateful to God for the opportunity."

Steve continued: "Being able to lead SVdP simply meant that it was an opportunity for me to use my skills while living out my Catholic faith."

He also applies his faith and generous spirit to many other causes and endeavors, such as being active with the Order of Malta (a Christian organization focused on community service) and serving on the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust and Great Hearts Arizona boards. He belongs to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and plays an active role with the Phoenix Community Alliance.

According to Steve, his time with SVdP has been nothing but rewarding and fulfilling as he cites the many outstanding programs and wonderful, hardworking people associated with the organization. Out of a career filled with special moments and victories, he cites the time when Andrea Bocelli sang "Ave Maria" to homeless diners in their downtown dining room as being "magnificent."

"To me, that is what St. Vincent de Paul is about," Steve said. "We can have Larry Fitzgerald, Dwayne Wade, Joe Torre, Muhammad Ali, Meadowlark Lemon, politicians and business leaders who visit, serve and raise awareness. So many exciting, powerful, newsworthy moments. But every single day, there are these smaller moments of grace – just as important – happening all around us, making our community a better place."

Steve shows no signs of retiring and plans to continue working and growing St. Vincent de Paul.

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Singer Joe Badolato rocking his custom denim jacket.

Bringing fashion back to concerts with Grave Danger Co.

By Sabrina Proffitt

Kate Stump and Milos Ognjanovic love to attend concerts – but they love dressing up for shows even more.

The pair explained that concerts are the runway for musicians and music lovers.

"You can show off your fan merch, strut in inspired outfits, and add a unique flare," Stump said.

When the two started making jean jackets inspired by the decorated outfits of the 80s to wear to shows, they were approached by concertgoers who wanted to know where they could get one. That is how Grave Danger Co. was created.

Grave Danger is an online clothing shop focused on creating hand-painted and custom jackets and flannels based on the customer's vision. Stump and Ognjanovic work with clients to create the outer wear, taking weeks at a time to research, listen to specific artists and sketch out ideas.

"We sit down with a bottle of wine and listen to – if it's based on a musician – that artist for a while to get proper inspiration and to put ourselves in our customer's shoes to see what they might want," Ognjanovic said. "That's why it takes quite a bit of time. We truly try to capture what the artist, musician or actor would want on a jacket."

Some of their hand-painted wares have been inspired by Bob Marley, Marilyn Monroe and Elton John.

"I recently did a [Mexican painter] Frida Kahlo-inspired jacket, which was so fun," Stump said. "That was for my mom, who is an art teacher and is my number one inspiration for being an artist. I always looked up to her artist-wise, so making that for her was very special."

Stump and Ognjanovic recently moved to Arizona from New York, and in doing so, their business skyrocketed. While Arizona and the Big Apple are two very different places, the neighborhood vibes stood out the most.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATE STUMP

Kate Stump and Milos Ognjanovic.

"One of the first things we noticed about Arizona was the sense of community," Ognjanovic said. "We've been trying to get involved with local people and events to show them what we do. Eventually, we'll be opening a brick-and-mortar location. This state has been great to us and our business, and we're thankful for that."

Along with opening a storefront, Stump said they would like to be a part of more farmer's markets, swap meets and vintage clothing meet-ups. They also hope to add leather (vegan and genuine) to their lineup and are working to put together a jacket auction for charity.

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