ARCADIA NEWS

VOL. 30 NO. 9 — ARCADIA • BILTMORE • CAMELBACK CORRIDOR — DECEMBER 2022



#DARE2TUTU

The Pink Tutu Project started as a self-photography campaign for Bob Carey that now reaches globally.

PAGE 30

FUTURE TITAN NIGHT

Over 140 students from local schools cheered on the football team with a choreographed routine at Future Titan Night.

PAGE 18

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

St. Theresa's seventh and eighth-grade flag football teams had a knockout season, ending with a championship win.

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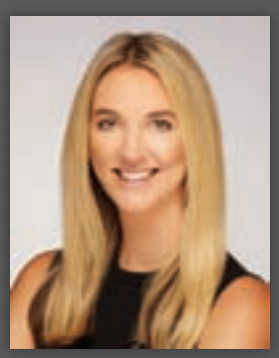
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Arizona-based nonprofit Cowtown S.K.A.T.E. supports children in need by providing them with all the tools needed to learn how to skateboard.

34 They've got the zoomies
Longtime friends Gio Santora and Cooper O'Clair took their need for speed to an Indiana go-kart track this fall. Their hard work paid off when they won first and second place.

48 Arizona's working cats
The AZ Humane Society offers a program for kitties to work on farms and in businesses to help with pest control and add a dose of cute to the workplace.

50 Don't rock the boat
Xavier and Brophy Preps's crew teams have worked hard throughout the school year and will finish off 2022 with the Christmas Regatta in Long Beach.



Arcadia varsity cheerleader Jordan McCall and Hopi first-grader (and Future Titan Night participant!) Bowie Wright share a hug while cheering on the Titan football team.
PHOTO: LIZ ORD



EDITOR'S NOTE



Full disclosure: I have been listening to Christmas music on and off for probably the last three months. There's just something about a familiar tune that can make all the day's drama fade away.

This December, we included a plethora of holiday happenings within our pages – I might have been able to fill the first half of the paper with all the events going on, but I reined myself in because we've also got lots of neighborhood news to share.



Middle-school students Giovanni Santora and Cooper O'Clair attended the US National Rotax GoKarting Race in Indiana, where they won first and second place. Cooper then headed to Portimão, Portugal, to compete in the Grand Finals against 400 drivers from around the world.

Juniors at Veritas Prep celebrated a rite of passage when they attended the Blazer Ceremony, a school-wide assembly where the students received – you guessed it – blazers embellished with the school logo.

Skyler and Elle Fields attended the Arizona Children's Business Fair last month and learned the ins and outs of the industry: creating, setting up, and selling their products, called Calm Bottles and Marvelous Marshmallows.

We hope this season is filled with all the love, laughter and joy – happy holidays to you and yours and thank you for reading Arcadia News. See you next year!

Mallory

— Mallory Gleich

UPCOMING THEMES:

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Fitness	*History*	*Spring / Home & Design*

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE MCGEOUGH

Tanner McGeough.

Troop 6 awards its latest Eagle Scout

By Mallory Gleich

Arcadia's Boy Scout Troop 6 recently recognized member Tanner McGeough for earning Eagle Scout, the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts program. The designation, which only 4 percent of Scouts achieve, requires years of hard work and dedication.

Tanner is a senior at Veritas Prep. He's been in Scouts since sixth grade, thanks to his friend, Peter, who was already in the organization. Tanner's parents thought it would benefit him, and it turns out, they were right.

"Scouting has provided me with so many great lessons and experiences. Being a scout has helped me develop the ability to be a leader, introduced me to older scouts and adults whom I was able to look up to as a younger scout, and helped me form new friendships," Tanner said.

For his Eagle project, Tanner led Troop 6 in building and installing two message chalkboards at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church while also landscaping the nearby areas.

"Prince of Peace has provided a location for Troop 6 to hold meetings and awards ceremonies, so I wanted to give something to the place that has supported us for as long as I've been involved," Tanner said. "The project went smoothly, but planning was stressful and took a lot of work. Prince of Peace was very helpful throughout the process."

"Adults and Scouts worked together to build a lasting improvement in the church," Tanner's dad, Mike, said. "Like many Scouts before him, Tanner's road to Eagle was not easy, which made his accomplishment particularly satisfying."

His Eagle Scout ceremony was held on September 15, surrounded by peers, family and friends.

"When Linda and I were on stage with Tanner during the ceremony, we both reflected on the hard work he put in to make the moment happen," Mike said. "As a Scout dad, I was fortunate to share Tanner's journey over the years through many memorable experiences, like camping and backpacking trips, and many service projects that benefited the community."

"Becoming an Eagle Scout was the culmination of years of participation in Scouting, and it was rewarding to see the hard work I put in pay off. I was supported by so many; it was great to share this award with them," Tanner said.

Outside of Scouts, he enjoys reading, spending time with friends and family, and playing tennis. After graduation, Tanner plans on attending an Arizona college and finding a career "that will allow me to have a positive impact in the world."

Tanner is the 223rd Eagle Scout to come out of Arcadia's Troop 6 since it was founded in 1934. Nationwide, more than 2.5 million Scouts have earned the Eagle rank since 1912.

Troop 6 meets at Prince of Peace Church regularly throughout the school year. For more, contact Troop 6 Scoutmaster Matt Keeler at keeler.matthew@gmail.com.

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4837 E Palomino | **$3,200,000** | 4 bedroom | 3.5 bath | 3,370 square feet

CAMELBACK MOUNTAIN VIEW LOT



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TOMMY ATKINSON
Walt Danley Realty
602.625.6020

Arcadia Real Estate Stats

2022 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/01/2022-10/31/2022)

Active Homes -	98 homes
Homes Sold -	207 homes
Average Sale Price -	$2,484,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$676
Average Days On Market -	41 days

There is currently 3 months of home inventory. (based on 2021 sales results)
2022 home sales have decreased 28% this year. (based on 2021 sales results)
2022 home prices have increased 15%. (based on 2021 sales results)
2022 $ Per Square Foot prices have increased 19%. (based on 2021 sales results)
2022 homes are taking 29% less time to sell. (based on 2021 sales results)

2022 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/01/2022-10/31/2022)

Active Homes -	52 Homes
Homes Sold -	154 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$1,221,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$505
Average Days On Market -	38 days

There is currently 3 months of home inventory. (based on 2021 sales results)
2022 home sales have decreased 21% this year. (based on 2021 sales results)
2022 home prices have increased 19%. (based on 2021 sales results)
2022 $ Per Square Foot prices have increased 19%. (based on 2021 sales results)
2022 Homes are taking 8% more time to sell. (based on 2021 sales results)

TOMMY ATKINSON

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WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

HOLIDAY DRIVES

The Brokery (4546 N. 40th St., Phoenix) has partnered with Arizona Helping Hands to host a "Stuff the Sleigh" toy drive on December 2, from 2-5 p.m., to collect donated holiday gifts for teens in foster care. Items needed include personal care, insulated water bottles, clothing and books. There will also be an appearance by Santa, live entertainment, vendors and more. Register for the event on Eventbrite.

thebrokery.com

Koibito Poke is partnering with the Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children to hold a toy drive benefiting families managing the health and well-being of a loved one with pediatric cancer. December 1 through the 20th, the eatery will accept new, unwrapped toys at all of their Valley locations. Customers will receive $3 off their bill following their donation.

koibitopoke.com

Jewish Family and Children's Service is hosting an Adopt-A-Family holiday program to provide families and teens in Maricopa County with gifts for both Hanukkah and Christmas. All gifts and donations received will be distributed to disadvantaged families currently receiving services from JFCS. Each donor receives a family profile, a wish list and drop-off information. JFCS will also host its annual gift-wrapping event on December 1.

jfcsaz.org

Duet presents a holiday toy drive to help grandparents raising grandchildren in Arizona. The community can donate until Saturday December 3, by bringing new toys or gift cards to the office at 10000 N. 31st Ave., Phoenix. Duet also has an Amazon Smile Charity Wish List. Children up to 12 will receive toys, and teenagers will receive gift cards.

duetaz.org



Phoenix Rescue Mission is looking for volunteers for the December 17 Winter Wonderland Community Event. The Mission is collecting new, unwrapped toys, nonperishable foods and toiletries. Then, on the 17th, the organization will hand out the collected items to families in need via this annual event.

To volunteer, sign up at phxmission.org/volunteer.

Arizona's Children Association has launched its holiday campaign, Gifts of Hope, an opportunity to bring together organizations, offices, or family members to make the holidays special for children and families in need. The nonprofit will help match donors with a child or family and provide them with a list of their needs and wishes. Online donations are also accepted.

arizonaschildren.org

On December 6, Barro's Pizza will host the 11th annual Doran Barro **Holiday Hunger Fight** benefiting St. Mary's Food Bank. From open to close at 46 locations across the Valley, the restaurant will donate 100 percent of proceeds from all sales to help those in Arizona facing hard times during the holidays. Last year's donation provided 2,310,000 meals to Arizona's hungry during the holiday season.

barrospizza.com



BRIEFS

A new "Arcadia family destination" has opened at the corner of 48th St. and Indian School in the former Taberna de Arcadia building. **The Spot Arcadia** is a restaurant/sports bar/arcade with something for everyone: various televisions, video games, board games, an ice cream shop and marketplace, special menu items (like lobster rolls and the Arcadia Monsoon drink) and membership perks.

Learn more on Instagram @thespotatarcadia



A new massage therapy studio has opened in the Biltmore Salon Building at 24th St. and Indian School Road called **Shanti Massage Therapy**. Opened by Arcadia native Holly Miller Clement, Shanti offers signature massages, seasonal specials, packages and gift certificates.

shantimassagetherapy.com

From December 10-30 (4-8 p.m.), **Frasher's Smokehouse** and **Desert Tails Shelter** will host holiday events on the weekends, including hot chocolate and s'mores, fire pits, carolers and adoptable puppies. There will be a family night event on the 17th, with Santa making an appearance, plus gift wrapping services and Christmas trees for sale.

frasherssmokehouse.com

Fox Restaurant Concepts opened its third **Fly Bye** location in November on 40th St. and Camelback Road. Fly Bye is a to-go style eatery with a menu that boasts Fox Restaurant creations like Detroit-style pan pizzas – meat lovers, specialty pies with parmesan cream sauce – chicken tenders and sandwiches, and house-made sauces.

flybyetogo.com

On Saturday December 10, the **Arizona Cantilena Chorale and Orchestra** will perform Handel's Messiah at 3 p.m. at Dayspring Arcadia, 3530 N. 32nd St. After the concert, guests can enjoy a dessert reception. No admission required, but donations are appreciated.

arizonacantilenachorale.org

Registration for **Arcadia Little League** is open. From December 1-January 15, registration is $195. Late registration is from January 16-February 4; cost is $215. All registration after February 4 will be placed on a waiting list, with a fee of $225. From the website: "Division placement is determined by a combination of player league age, skill level, prior league experience, coach recommendation, league guidelines and parent input."

arcadialittleleague.com

Abrazo Arizona Heart Hospital (1930 E. Thomas Road) will offer heart attack and stroke risk screening assessments on December 13, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The screenings check blood flow in carotid and ankle arteries and includes a simple EKG for heart rhythm, a blood pressure check and an overall fitness assessment. A clinician will review results. The assessment is $59 and takes 10 minutes. Registration is required.

abrazohealth.com

A new senior living center has opened on 32nd St. between Campbell and Camelback Roads. **Clarendale Arcadia** features 248 units, including 40 memory care apartments and views of Camelback Mountain. The six-acre facility will also have a swimming pool/spa, a putting green, athletic amenities, a dog park and a salon.

clarendalearcadia.com

EVENTS

THURSDAY 12/1

Christmas at the Princess

5 p.m. at the Scottsdale Fairmont Princess, 7575 E. Princess Dr. The resort has been transformed into a holiday haven for the 13th annual Christmas at the Princess. Guests can go ice skating or slide down snow mountain, take photos with Santa and his elves, sip cider or cocoa and send Christmas wish off with special wish paper. New this year are the Chateau Champagne, Make-A-Wish playhouse and Christmas Quest Bubble Wand Adventure. Tickets are $25 for an individual, $80 for a family of four.

fairmontscottsdaleprincess.com

Immersive Nutcracker

12:30-2:30 p.m. at Lighthouse Artspace, 4301 N. Scottsdale Road. Immersive Nutcracker features whimsical animated characters alongside footage of professional ballet dancers. This 30-minute experience is an immersive display that relays the tale of The Nutcracker from opening to finale. Guests will also hear familiar holiday songs like "The March of the Toys" and "The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy." Tickets are $30.

immersive-nutcracker.com

FRIDAY 12/2

Rock the Rooftop

7 p.m. at the W Hotel, 7277 E. Camelback Road, Scottsdale. This inaugural concert will feature up-and-coming artists, including Bailey Zimmerman, Nate Smith and a late-night performance by Canada's Loud Luxury. Proceeds from the event will benefit Make-A-Wish Arizona and Riot Gives Back. General admission is $80; VIP packages start at $150.

rocktherooftopfest.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

Scottsdale Sparkle

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Arizona Boardwalk, 9500 E. Vía de Ventura, Scottsdale. The Scottsdale Sparkle Christmas boutique – with gifts made by the women of the Wounded Women Warriors organization – is free to attend and showcases homemade wares like holiday décor, clothing, treats and more. Kids can also enjoy face painting and glitter tattoos. This event is free.

azboardwalk.com

SATURDAY 12/3 - SUNDAY 12/4

Tempe Festival for the Arts

10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. in downtown Tempe, 660 S. Mill Ave. The streets will be bustling with friends and fun this weekend at the festival for the arts. Local and national music acts, a Kids Block, including the young artist exhibition + competition, various food options, featured artists and a wine tasting are all on the docket. Admission to the festival is free. Wine tasting is $10-$25.

tempefestivalofthearts.com

SATURDAY 12/3

Phoenix Electric Light Parade

7 p.m., starting at Central and Montebello Aves. For more than three decades, the APS Light Parade has delighted the public with a two-mile long illuminated event featuring musicians, marching bands, trucks, floats, balloons and performances. After the parade, children can take pictures with Santa, partake in workshops and engage in other fun holiday activities.

phoenix.gov

Christmas Pudding Fundraiser

7 p.m. at the Celebrity Theatre, 440 N. 32nd St., Phoenix. Alice Cooper's 20th annual Christmas Pudding fundraising event is back again. This year, guests will jam out with Alice, Sammy Hagar, Rob Zombie, Gin Blossoms, SIXWIRE, Wally Palmar of The Romantics and comedian Jim Breuer. This event benefits Cooper's Solid Rock Teen Center. Tickets are $40-$300.

celebritytheatre.com

Scottsdazzle Stroll

6-9 p.m. starting at the Scottsdale Waterfront, 7135 E. Camelback Road. Take a stroll along the canal banks surrounded by the sights and sounds of the season. Guests can enjoy live music while checking out public art installations, holiday décor and a 40-foot Scottsdazzle tree that lights up the night with holiday spirit. Keep warm with a cup of hot cocoa, coffee, and a seasonal treat from local food vendors, then wander through Old Town Scottsdale's winter wonderland. This event is free.

scottsdazzle.com



The Nutcracker *at Orpheum Theatre in Phoenix.*

SUNDAY 12/4

Sit Stay Brunch

10 a.m. at the Scottsdale Resort, 7700 E. McCormick Pkwy., Scottsdale. Benefiting the Lost Our Home Pet Rescue, the 13th annual holiday champagne brunch and auction is back. This event raises funds needed to support services and programs for pets and people in the community. Guests can enjoy drinks and brunch, take photos in the photo booth, hang out with adoptable pets, and participate in the silent auction. Tickets start at $165.

lostourhome.org

TinyFest Southwest

10 a.m.-6 p.m. at WestWorld, 16601 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale. This event is dedicated to "tiny living." Guests can tour various tiny houses, including those on wheels, vans and school bus conversions, shipping container homes, backyard cottages and more. Learn about tiny living from speaker presentations and panel discussions. There will also be a vendor marketplace, live music and a food court. Tickets start at $20 per person.

tinyfest.events

FRIDAY 12/9

The Nutcracker

7 p.m. at the Orpheum Theatre, 203 W. Adams St., Phoenix. The Nutcracker is one of the most well-known ballets, and now, families can see it brought to life thanks to the Phoenix Ballet Company. Audiences will watch famous scenes set to Tchaikovsky's familiar songs, complete with snowfall on stage, dancing mice, the Sugar Plum Fairy and the "Waltz of the Flowers." Tickets start at $20, and this production is open until December 23.

phoenixballet.org

Breakfast with Santa

10 a.m. at Scottsdale Fashion Square Neiman Marcus, 6900 E. Camelback Road. Who wants a chance to have breakfast with the man in red? Well, now you can. At the Neiman Marcus café, guests can enjoy a breakfast buffet, morning sips (including mimosas for the grownups) and a chat with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Registration is $65 for adults, $55 for kids.

fashionsquare.com

SATURDAY 12/10 – SUNDAY 12/11

Phoenix Festival of the Arts

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

phoenixfestivalofthearts.org

Pueblo Grande Indian Market

9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Pueblo Grande Museum, 4619 E. Washington St., Phoenix. The 45th annual Indian Art Market at Pueblo features over 100 artisan booths, traditional Native American performances, demonstrations, Native foods and hands-on activities for the whole family to enjoy. The museum and park will also be open during this event. Admission is $5.

phoenix.gov

MONDAY 12/12

ZooLights

5:30-10:30 p.m. at Phoenix Zoo, 455 N. Galvin Pkwy. ZooLights returns bigger and brighter than ever with new animal lanterns, light displays, and a music-in-motion light show. Guests will also be able to check out the zoo's latest exhibit, Dinosaurs in the Desert, and enjoy photo booths, hot cocoa and snacks, and a brand-new Santa experience. During a special evening on January 9 guests can expect the same great ZooLights experience with some modifications to make it more sensory friendly, including smaller crowds, quieter music, reduced flashing lights and more. The exhibit is open until January 15, 2023. General admission is $30.

phoenixzoo.org

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WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

WEDNESDAY 12/14

Enchant Scottsdale

5:30 p.m. at Salt River Fields, 7555 N. Pima Road. Enchant is an immersive walk-thru light maze created from over four million sparkling lights. This event includes a 100-foot-tall holiday tree, ice-skating trail, live entertainment, Santa visits and a village marketplace with crafts, festive treats and cocktails. There will also be a "Hallmark Cozy Christmas" lounge, photo opportunities, wine tasting and a chance for guests to win a visit to a Hallmark movie in production. Tickets start at $20.

enchantmagic.com

Fine Wine and Art Pairing Experience

6 p.m. at Anticus Fine Art Gallery, 3922 N. Scottsdale Road. LDV Wine and Anticus present an experience showcasing some of the finer things in life! Attendees can sip wine, view artwork and snack on light appetizers. The event pairs five LDV wines with five fine art pieces. Registration is $50 per person.

ldvwinery.com

WED. 12/14 – THURS. 12/15

Phoestivus

5-10 p.m. at 720 N. 5th St. Downtown Phoenix presents the 13th annual Phoestivus holiday craft market, presented by Community Food Connections. The two-day outdoor event will feature 200+ small business vendors, music, live art, food and Phreddie the Yeti. The free event is open to humans – and pets – of all ages. Donations to Community Food Connections will also be accepted.

phoestivus.com

THURSDAY 12/15

Las Noches de las Luminarias

5:30-9:30 p.m. at Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N. Galvin Pkwy. A Valley tradition for over 40 years, Las Noches de las Luminarias is an event the whole family can enjoy. Stroll among thousands of twinkle lights and 8,000 hand-lit luminaria bags. Grab a cup of cocoa or cider and listen to music provided by various musical groups. Guests can also grab a bite to eat at the café. Tickets are $40 for adults and $17 for children.

dbg.org



Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer *at the Herberger Theater in Phoenix.*

SATURDAY 12/17

Santa Soiree

4-6 p.m. at Uptown Plaza, 100 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. A day of shopping PLUS pictures with Santa! At this event, guests can enjoy holiday-themed crafts and festive tunes in the courtyard. There will also be live entertainment hosted by Funergy. The first 150 guests get to decorate an LED glow tree ornament to take home. This event is free.

uptownplazaphx.com

A Chorale Christmas: Navidad

7:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 100 W. Roosevelt St., Phoenix. This year, the Phoenix Chorale will perform a wealth of Spanish and Hispanic music that commemorates the 150th anniversary of composer Ralph Vaughan Williams, including Fantasia on Christmas Carols, among other holiday favorites. Admission is $45 for adults, $23 for kids.

phoenixchorale.org

A Merry-Achi Christmas

8 p.m. at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, 7380 E. Second St. A fifth-generation mariachi musician, Maestro José Hernández and his platinum-selling Mariachi Sol de México will head to Scottsdale to perform various treasured holiday classics and favorites from the mariachi songbook – if you feel like dancing, no one will judge! Tickets are $39-$59.

scottsdaleperformingarts.org

Chanukah Sing-A-Long

5:30 p.m. at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center, 122 E. Culver St., Phoenix. Hosted by the Arizona Jewish Historical Society, this fundraiser features the cantors and soloists of Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Or Tzion, Temple Chai, Temple Kil Ami and Temple Solel in live performances. There will also be a silent auction. Proceeds benefit The Center for Jewish Philanthropy Camp Scholarship Fund. Tickets are $36.

azjhs.org

THURSDAY 12/22

Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer

1 or 4 p.m. at the Herberger Theater, 222 E. Monroe St., Phoenix. One of those childhood classics, this musical adaptation of the television special is filled with holiday hits like Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Holly Jolly Christmas. And, of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus, Hermey the Elf, Bumble the Abominable Snow Monster, Clarice, Yukon Cornelius and Rudolph will make an appearance! Tickets start at $15.

childsplayaz.org

THURSDAY 12/29

It's a Wonderful Life

7 p.m. at the Don Bluth Front Row Theater, 8989 E. Via Linda, Scottsdale. This treasured American holiday classic comes to life on the stage. Based on the 1946 film, the story of George Bailey unfolds one fateful Christmas Eve. His guardian angel descends to save him from despair and to remind him that his has been, after all, a wonderful life. The perfect way to kick off the new year! Tickets are $32 for adults, $27 for kids.

donbluthfrontrowtheatre.com

SATURDAY 12/31

Gatsby's House New Year's Eve Party

8 p.m. at Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel, 100 N. 1st St., Phoenix. Get ready to celebrate New Year's Eve – 1920s flapper style! Guests will enjoy hand-passed appetizers, two DJs, 2023 party favors, drinks, surprises throughout the night and casino gaming, finished off with a midnight countdown. This is a 21+ event. Tickets start at $69.

marriott.com

Midnight Madness Run

10:30 p.m. at the Rose Mofford Sports Complex, 9833 N. 25th Ave., Phoenix. Kick off the new year with a 5K! The 33rd annual Midnight Madness run will have pre- and post-race snacks, plus a sparkling cider toast when the clock strikes midnight. Runners will receive a finisher's medal and custom pullover. There will be an awards ceremony, too! Registration starts at $35.

raceroster.com

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Provide an assistance dog for a disabled child or adult.

OUR MISSION: To provide highly skilled assistance dogs to people with disabilities, education, and continuing support for working assistance dog teams, and to be a resource in the community for people with disabilities.

WHO WE SERVE: Disabled children and adults with Type I Diabetes, PTSD, and Mobility Challenges. We also provide Facility dogs for victims advocate programs.



Power Paws
ASSISTANCE DOGS

DONATE TODAY:
www.azpowerpaws.org/donate/arizona-tax-credit

ARIZONA CHARITABLE TAX CREDIT (CQO 20717)

Dear Neighbors...

As a local business, we could not be more appreciative of the neighborhood support that we continue to receive year after year. We opened The Brokery's Arcadia branch office in 2017 with 7 real estate advisors. Today, we are home to over 50 advisors and currently transact more than $340,000,000 in real estate annually. Our growth has been fueled by neighbors like yourself who have referred and championed our business from day one. We are truly humbled by the support and we will continue to keep our promise of being "Relentlessly Local."

In 2023, we expect to see a robust 1st quarter that will be punctuated by the Phoenix Open and Super Bowl which takes place on February 12th. Further into the year, we believe that the market will continue its normalization especially into the summer months where we will experience more seasonality than we have recently. Additionally, good inventory will remain sparse.

As this "new normal" evolves, the market will prove to be difficult for those that aren't armed with up to date trends, data, and sales tactics at a hyperlocal level. At The Brokery, we have all of the marketing firepower and local knowledge to help you beat the market. We are as local as it gets. If you have any questions going in to 2023, we are always around and ready to assist.

Thank you again for a phenomenal year and we look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood in 2023.



OLEG BORTMAN
ASSOCIATE BROKER
& CO-FOUNDER
602.402.2296

TUCKER BLALOCK
MANAGING BROKER
& CO-FOUNDER
602.561.0445

THE BROKERY

LOCAL REAL ESTATE BROKERS

OUT OF THE AREA, *BUT WORTH THE DRIVE*

SATURDAY 12/2 – SUNDAY 12/3

Winter Artisan Market

9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Holland Community Center, 34250 N. 60th St., Scottsdale. The Holland Community Center and Sonoran Arts League present the second annual Winter Artisan Market. This juried show will feature 75 regional artists showcasing their handmade creations, including jewelry, painting, photography and more. Attendees can shop for holiday gifts while meeting the artists and learning about their creative process. Admission is free.

hollandcenter.org

SUNDAY 12/3

Holiday "Open Barn"

8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Desert Mirage Alpaca Ranch, 19007 W. Roadrunner Road, Wittman. Desert Mirage has a lot of holiday spirit going around – and this is made even better with one thing: alpacas. Guests can spend time with the fluffy animals, browse through local vendors and take care of Christmas shopping at the alpaca store. The man in red will also be making an appearance! This event is free.

desertmiragealpacaranch.com

SAT. 12/10 – SUN. 12/11

Olivepalooza Harvest Festival

8 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, 5 p.m. Sunday, at Queen Creek Olive Mill, 25062 S. Meridian Road. Guests can enjoy two days of live music, tastings, and tractor tours. Witness olive pressing and harvesting, take an olive oil 101 class, visit the vendor alley, play games in the grove, watch live cooking demos, and maybe grab a bite to eat and a little something to sip while enjoying that Queen Creek scenery. Admission is free.

queencreekolivemill.com

SATURDAY 12/10

Christmas & Holiday Spectacular

6 p.m. at Bell Bank Park, 1 Legacy Dr., Mesa. With over six million lights and various interactive displays, this holiday event is everything merry and bright. Guests can enjoy a three-story gingerbread house, snowfall and bubbles, Santa visits, Mrs. Claus cookie decorating, a 360-degree light show with pyrotechnics and the Miracle Market with holiday gifts. Tickets are $15 per person.

prattbrotherschristmas.com

Christmas Hike

9 a.m., starting at 26802 N. 102nd Way, Scottsdale. Put on your favorite holiday outfit and head to Pinnacle Peak Park for a festive hike with a surprise guest at the top. Participants will receive a bell at check-in that will jingle all the way to Santa. There will be coffee, cocoa, sweet treats, interactive storytelling, crafts, and face painting. This event is free, but registration is required.

scottsdaleaz.gov

Fuelfest

1-8 p.m. at Wild Horse Pass, 20000 S. Maricopa Road, Chandler. Fuelfest boasts all things auto, with more than 600 custom, exotic, rare, and exclusive cars and trucks. There will also be car exhibits, drag racing, drift exhibits, food, drinks and live music. The event will also combine with Radford Racing School to let fans go-kart around the track. A portion of proceeds benefits Reach Out Worldwide, the nonprofit charity founded by actor Paul Walker. Tickets start at $35.

fuelfest.com

SUNDAY 12/11

Winter Pet Adoption Event

10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Floor & Décor, 5880 W. Bell Road, Glendale. The Phoenix Metro Chamber Foundation and PACC911 will host its seventh Pet Adoption Event at the Glendale Floor & Décor store. The public is invited to enjoy raffles and prizes, a vendor village, a silent auction, and the best part? Adoptable pups! Please bring a toy or pet food for donation.

pmc.foundation

FRIDAY 12/16

Home for the Holidays

4-8 p.m. at Taliesin West, 12621 N. Frank Lloyd Wright Blvd., Scottsdale. Celebrate the season with various decorations and displays, storytelling, crafts such as gingerbread houses, paper house ornaments, and music by local artists. There will be refreshments and treats available for purchase. Guests can also finish their holiday shopping at the Frank Lloyd Wright Store. Tickets are $25 for adults, $15 for kids.

franklloydwright.org

The Doo Wop Project

7:30 at the Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N. Arizona Ave. The boys of the Doo Wop Project know how to get into the holiday spirit! Guests can hear classics like White Christmas, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Santa Claus is Coming to Town, along with "Doowopified" hits like This Christmas. Tickets are $32-$52.

chandlercenter.org

SATURDAY 12/17

Howliday Celebration

6 p.m. at the Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center, 27026 N. 156th St., Scottsdale. Guests of this family-friendly event will be able to take a self-guided tour of the sanctuary and enjoy family-friendly activities, including a holiday-themed knowledge hunt (with prizes!), a visit and photo with Santa Claus, games, hot cider and cocoa, and Christmas cookies. Tickets are $30 per person.

southwestwildlife.org

Christmas through the Ages

7 p.m. at All Saints Lutheran Church, 15649 N. 7th St., Phoenix. Get ready to hear some holiday classics and, performed for the first time, "Jesus, Radiance of the World," the earliest known Nativity text stemming from 368 A.D. The All Saints Bell Choir and the Handbell Ringers of Sun City will also perform. Tickets are $27.50 for adults and $12 for kids.

pmaz.org

SUNDAY 12/18

Santa Hustle 5K

7 a.m. at Westgate, 6751 N. Sunset Blvd., Glendale. Now's the time to run off all those calories from Thanksgiving to make room for Christmas dinner! The Santa Hustle race offers a half-marathon, 5K and Kids Dash. Dress in your best Santa-themed outfits, enjoy the race and then head to the post-race party for the awards show – there's even an award for best costume. Registration is $50 for the 5K and $70 for the half-marathon.

santahustle.com

FRIDAY 12/23

Lights at the Farm

5:30 at Vertuccio Farms, 4011 S. Power Road, Mesa. There are so many options for fun; it'll be hard to decide what to do first. Guests will find over two million twinkle lights and holiday displays, plus a synthetic ice skating rink, visits with Santa, a petting zoo, lawn games, a sweets shop (cocoa and kettle corn!), fire pits with s'mores and a craft area. Tickets are $20 per person – skating rink is a $10 add-on.

lightsatthefarm.com

SATURDAY 12/31

Rockin' Christmas

6 p.m. at Hurricane Harbor, 4243 W. Pinnacle Peak Road, Glendale. Welcome 2023 in this mile-long "symphony of sight and sound." Guests will see everything from life-sized musical notes to a retro Santa. Grab friends and family, hop in the car and drive through the world's largest animated light show, featuring millions of colorful lights and hundreds of animated displays. Tickets start at $40.

worldofillumination.com





Scottsdazzle

NOV 26 – DEC 31

Enjoy a month-long holiday extravaganza featuring stunning décor, the best in dining and shopping, and more than 45 incredible events, including:





CELLAR ROOM WINE & BITES

Kazimierz Wine & Whiskey Bar · 7137 E Stetson Dr

Wednesday, December 7, 14 | 6:00 PM

Enjoy a special pairing of four specific wines with a delightful small bites menu.

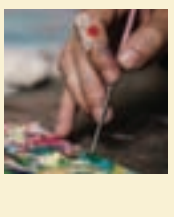


SCOTTSDAZZLE STROLL

Scottsdale Waterfront · 7135 E Camelback Rd

Saturdays; December 3, 10, 17 | 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Wander through Old Town's winter wonderland and enjoy live music, public art, décor, and the 40-foot Scottsdazzle tree.



GOLD PALETTE ARTWALK

Art Galleries along Main St & Marshall Way

Thursday, December 8 | 6:30 PM

Join for a special holiday-themed ArtWalk with strolling carolers and hot cocoa.

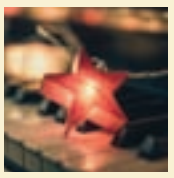


FESTIVE FLORAL WORKSHOPS

Flower Bar · 4200 N Craftsman Ct

Friday, December 9, 16, 30 | 6:00 PM

Get in touch with nature while creating a stunning floral work of art to serve as a seasonal centerpiece.



SPIRITED DUELING PIANO SHOWS

Belle's Nashville Kitchen · 7212 E Main St

Friday, December 9 | 6:45 PM & 9:00 PM

Two musicians share the stage engaging in sing-, clap-, and dance-along song requests from the audience.



DAZZLING MAGIC SHOWS

Marshall Way Bridge · 7124 E Stetson Dr

Saturday, December 10 & Sunday, December 11 | Various times

See magician Craig Davis deliver a fun-filled and highly entertaining show packed with audience involvement.



FESTIVE FOOD DEMONSTRATIONS

Various Locations

Saturday, December 10 & 17 | Various times

Guests will watch chefs prepare special holiday meals, enjoy samples, and leave with a custom recipe card.



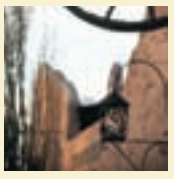
CANDLE MAKING CLASSES

Noriega Livery Stable · 3806 N Brown Ave

Saturday, December 17 & Sunday, December 18

Various times

Learn how to blend and pour your own scented soy wax candle!



THE DAZZLE OF HISTORIC OLD TOWN

Noriega Livery Stable · 3806 N Brown Ave

Saturday, December 17 & Sunday, December 18 | Various times

Guests will learn about Historic Old Town, it's iconic locations, and Scottsdale's rodeo history.



LIVE NATIVITY

Old Adobe Mission · 3817 N Brown Ave

Saturday, December 17 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Pay homage to the birth of Christ with a live nativity scene featuring real performers and animals.

Check out the dazzling event lineup

SCOTTSDAZZLE.COM

oldtownscottsdale • #SCOTTSDAZZLE

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE | Old Town SCOTTSDALE

These are my Christmas wishes

Merry Christmas to your friends and my friends and people with no friends. To those who debate, create, grate, orate, and illustrate. To banjo plunkers and donut dunkers. And math test flunkers. To those who are nervous and those in the service. To professors, hairdressers, confessors and assessors. To candy stripers and runny nose wipers.

Merry Christmas to fathers and mothers and sisters and brothers. To musicians, physicians, beauticians, morticians, electricians, mathematicians, obstetricians and politicians. And those who go on dangerous missions. To the singers of songs, the ringers of gongs and the righters of wrongs. To home run hitters, infinitive splitters and babysitters.



The Lowe Road

BY SAM LOWE

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

To the strong and the agile, the weak and the fragile. To little kids and circus clowns who help us through our ups and downs. To reporters and writers, recorders, and crime fighters. To free-throw shooters, tuba tooters, kids on scooters and non-polluters. To flag wavers, stamp savers and those who do favors. To the tellers of tales, the protectors of whales and the makers of sails. To wide receivers and basket weavers. To artisans and drafters, to toymakers and lawn-rakers.

To the builders of towers and the singers in showers. To mayors, surveyors and pickle-ball players. To good deed-doers and bubble gum chewers. To tap and clog dancers and people who know all the answers. To actors, benefactors and contractors. To the long-haired, the short-haired, the curly-haired and the no-haired.

To careful drivers, scuba divers and 9-to-5ers.

To transients and shut-ins, to the easers of pain. To those who make mud pies and walk through the rain. To those who sail boats in bathtubs, puddles and oceans. To those who do something, not just go through the motions. To golfers, anglers, and all other liars; to those who conduct church and symphony choirs.

To those who send birthday cards and those who forget; to those who remember but ain't done it yet. To grandmas and grandpas and nephews and nieces, to silver-haired aunties who hug us to pieces. To snowbirds and Zonies; to real folks and phonies; to those who make hot dogs, bratwurst and bologna. Merry Christmas.

To meter readers, garden weeders and homeless feeders. To Frisbee throwers, elm tree growers, trivia knowers and ho-ho-hoers. To table setters and puppy petters, to rock and rollers and kids in strollers. To channel flickers and field goal kickers. To friars and fryers, hoofers and roofers, bikers and hikers and volleyball spikers.

To winners and sinners, to all who like pets. To those who grow stronger, the tougher it gets. To those who fly kites and to those who fly jets. To the plump and the slender, the tough and the tender, the saver and spender. To the authors of rhymes, to harpists and mimes.



PHOTO COURTESTY OF SAM LOWE

For a spell in 1973, Sam played a mall Santa.

> ***To snowbirds and Zonies; to real folks and phonies; to those who make hot dogs, bratwurst and bologna. Merry Christmas.***

To pizza flingers and second stringers. To those who philosophize, romanticize and fantasize. To storytellers and flower sellers. To those who fight fires and those who fix tires. To strummers and hummers, late-comers and plumbers. To referees, those who sneeze, and those who try hard to please. And kids who miss in spelling bees.

To the protectors of eagles, the trainers of beagles and the watchers of seagulls. To those who run in races, to those who save us places. To guitar pickers and ice cream lickers. To veterinarians, octogenarians and librarians. To sleepwalkers, soft talkers and leak caulkers. To the shooters of pars and explorers of Mars. To those who work late, deal with fate, procrastinate, delineate, hyphenate and matriculate.

To Lyn, my wife, the joy of my life. To those who dry tears; to those who ease fears. And those who brew beers. To the readers of books, the catchers of crooks, to chefs and cooks. To antique collectors and movie directors. To those who wash dishes, catch fishes and grant wishes. To those who make fudge, that is simply delicious.

To those who grow oats, feed goats and quote quotes. To carpoolers and preschoolers. To tailors and sailors. To TV repairers and soldiers and airmen. To kids in their teens, homecoming queens, cowboys in jeans, clerks and Marines. To those who use a computer and those who make things with pewter. To people who help others find where their niche is, to people who don't mind if you scratch where it itches. To those who get flustered, to those who like mustard.

Merry Christmas to putters and putterers, thinkers and tinkerers. To rip-snorters and porters. To kneelers, healers and glockenspielers. To the friends of the zoo and police officers in blue. And policewomen, too. To first-year students and seniors who are still in their teen years. To our sons and our daughters, to our moms and our pops. To the dispensers of flu shots and anti-cold drops. To homeowners and blood donors. To those who like ham, jam and Spam.

To people who vote, float, tote, dote and sing the right note. To touchdown scorers and midnight snorers. To auctioneers, volunteers and engineers. To those who are down with the flu, to those who can play a kazoo. To basket makers and ticket takers. To teachers and preachers and those who sit in the bleachers. To camel tamers and picture framers. To elephant huggers and Little League sluggers.

To peacekeepers and street sweepers. To bookworms and law firms. To those who cry out and those who try out. To the planters of corn. The old. The newborn. Merry Christmas to shut-ins and sick, the aged and nurses. To those who give love with their hearts and their purses. To lovers whose touch brings a joy and a tingle. To Santa, St. Nick, the elves and Kris Kringle.

To tenors and baritones, altos and monotones. To quiz show panelists and computer analysts. To pickers and choosers, to nappers and snoozers. To broken dreams and those who mend them. To the old and infirm and those who tend them. To sandwich fixers and 6-foot-6ers. To the inspired. To the retired. To the lovers of kittens, to the knitters of mittens.

And you. Most of all, Merry Christmas to you.

RentsPHX.com

Ann Gregory
Broker
Property Management
Tenant Rental Locator
602-989-3411
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Gregory Real Estate and Management, LLC

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	17	$5 Off Select Creatine	Free Shake w/coupon	20
Free Shake w/coupon	Free Shake w/purchase of Protein	23	$5 Off Select Amino Acid Powders	Holiday Gift Cards Available

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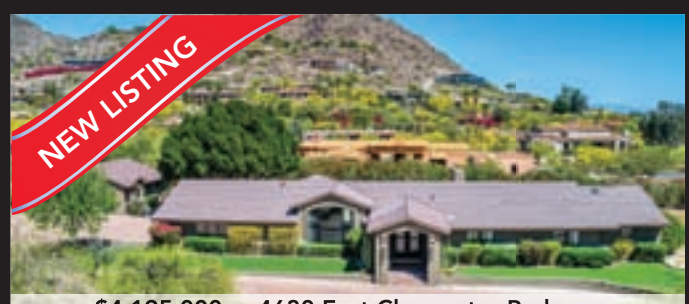
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Nobody Sells More Homes in Arcadia Than The Joffe Group



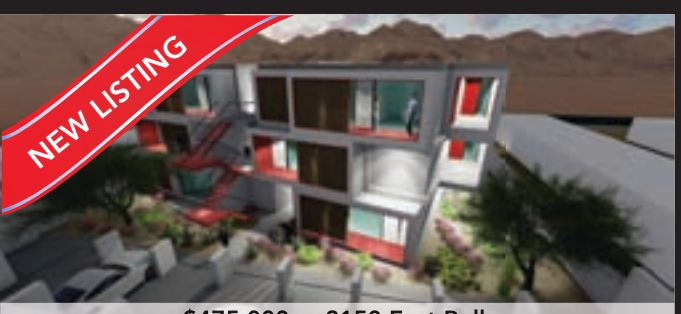
$3,276,556 4615 North 61st Place
3 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,980 square feet



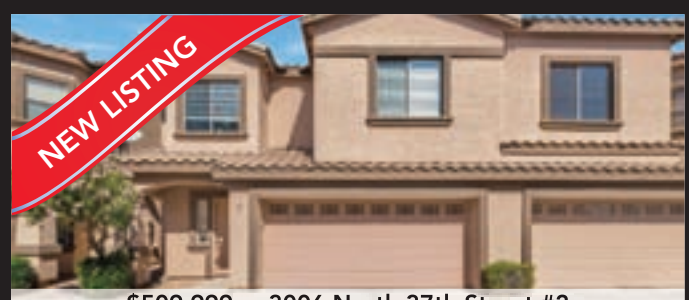
$4,195,000 4630 East Clearwater Parkway
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 4,602 square feet
4630Clearwater.com



CALL FOR PRICING 4409 North 66th Street
6 bedrooms, 7 baths, 6,800 feet
4409north66thstreet.com



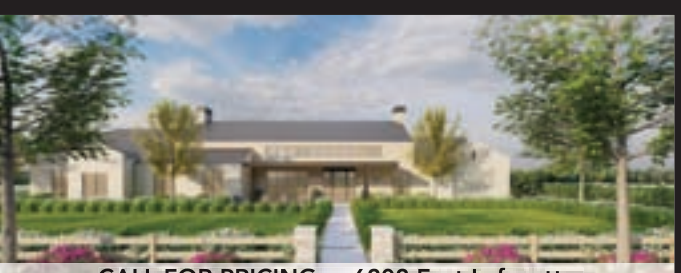
$475,000 2150 East Polk
Great Investment Opportunity – CALL FOR INFORMATION



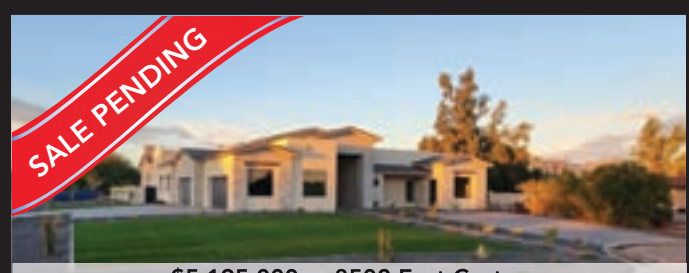
$509,999 3006 North 37th Street #2
2 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1,554 square feet
3006north37thstreet.com



CALL FOR PRICING 3375 North 55th Place
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 4,000 square feet
3375north55thplace.com



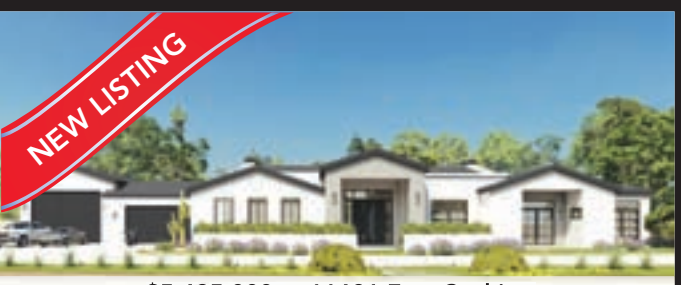
CALL FOR PRICING 6202 East Lafayette
6 bedrooms, 7 baths, 6,200 square feet
6202lafatyette.com



$5,195,000 8502 East Cortez
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 6,460 square feet
8502cortez.com



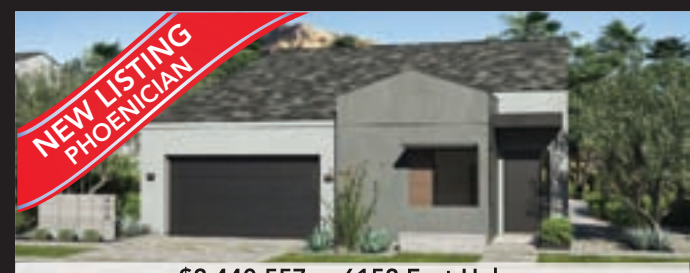
5323 East Royal View
Excellent New Build Opportunity
CALL FOR PRICING AND INFORMATION



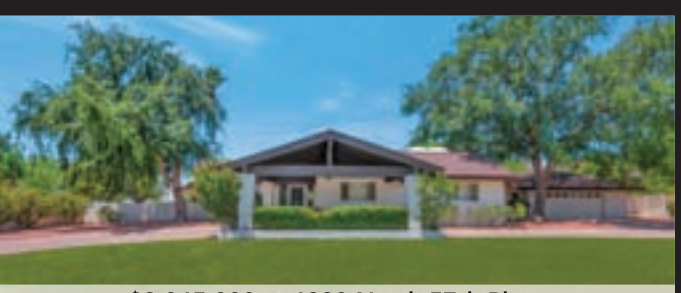
$5,495,000 11681 East Cochise
6 bedrooms, 6 baths, 7,166 square feet



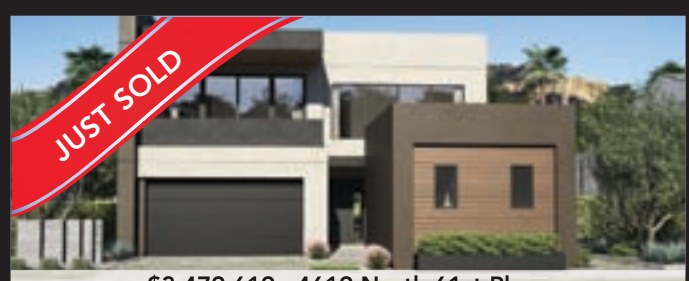
$2,995,000 4642 North Alta Hacienda Drive
3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,815 square feet



$2,440,557 6152 East Helen
2 bedrooms. 2.5 baths, 2,263 square feet
thephoenicianshea27.com



$2,045,000 4220 North 57th Place
CALL FOR PRICING AND INFORMATION



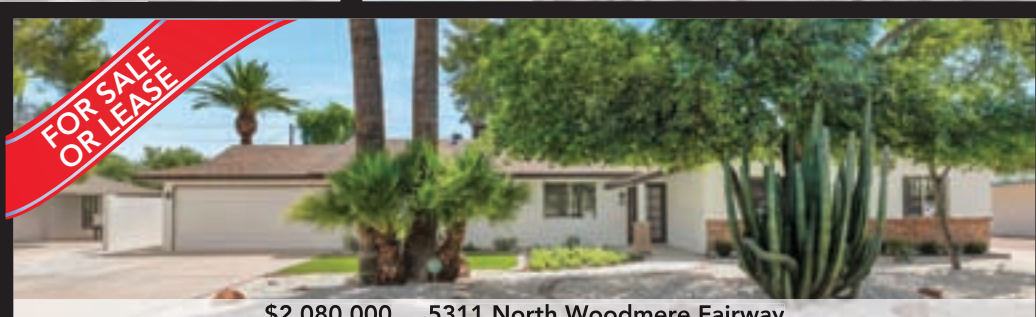
$3,479,619 4619 North 61st Place
3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3,980 square feet
thephoenicianshea24.com



$2,595,000 4450 North 53rd Street
Just under an acre lot with outstanding
Camelback Mountain Views



$445,000 7520 East Earll Drive, Unit 45
2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,413 square feet



$2,080,000 5311 North Woodmere Fairway
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,989 square feet
5311woodmere.com

602.989.8300 | robert@thejoffegroup.com | TheJoffeGroup.com



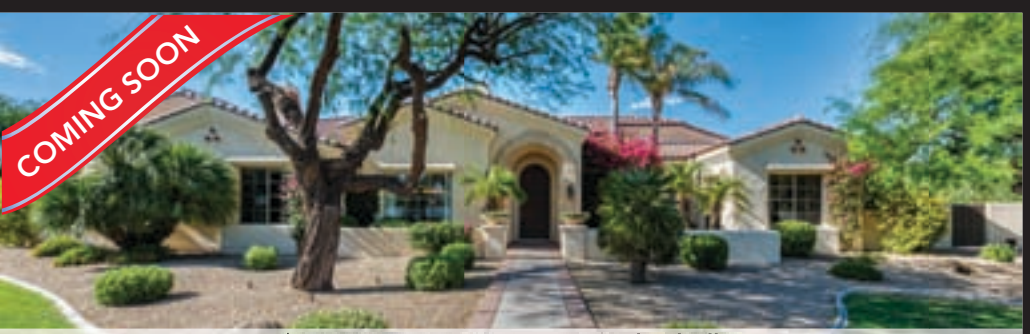
$359,995 9115 East Purdue
2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,157 square feet
9115purdue.com



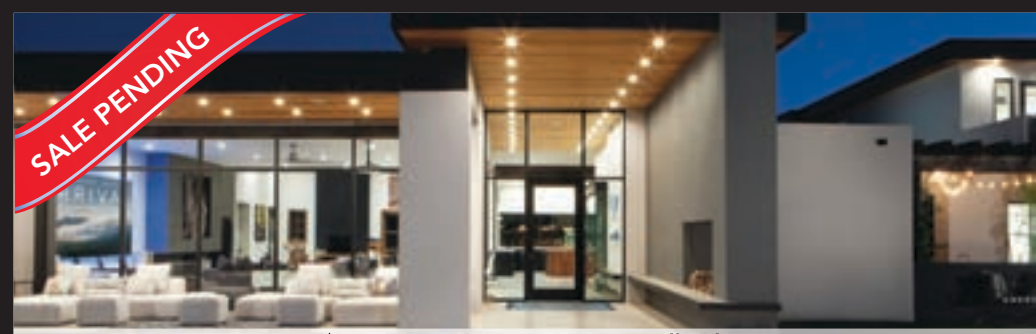
$5,750,000 4642 North Alta Hacienda
Exceptional 2.6 acre lot with Camelback Mountain Views
4642altahacienda.com



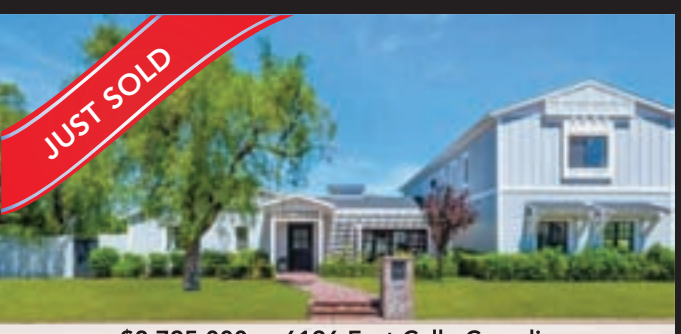
5330 East Palomino
Excellent New Build Opportunity
CALL FOR PRICING AND INFORMATION



$4,200,000 7010 East Avenida El Alba
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 5,287 square feet
7010avenidaelalba.com



$3,995,000 4621 East Camelback
4 bedrooms, 7 baths, 7,554 square feet
4621camelback.com



$2,795,000 6196 East Calle Camelia
6 bedrooms, 6 baths, 4,200 square feet
6196callecamelia.com



$12,000-$15,000 seasonally 8350 East Via del Sol
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,783 square feet



5115 East Exeter
CALL FOR PRICING AND INFORMATION



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



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



Andrew Mehlman, Jen Sheedy, Robert Joffe, Meredith Lane, Jonah Joffe

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with George Frasher, owner of Frasher's Smokehouse

3222 E. Indian School Road • frasherssmokehouse.com

As a self-proclaimed "restaurant junkie," George Frasher (sounds like Frazier) has tasted cuisines from all over the country – but his favorite (if the "smokehouse" didn't give it away) is barbecue. For the past 20+ years, he's been sharing his recipes with the Arcadia area. Read on to learn where and how Frasher became a "bringer of barbecue" to Phoenix.

Where are you from originally?

I grew up in St. Louis. I could smell the Anheuser-Busch brewery from my house and hear the barge whistles going up and down the Mississippi River. I was very much a city kid. I went to the University of Missouri-Columbia [go Tigers!] and have a four-year hospitality degree with an emphasis on culinary.

How did you get into the industry?

I started out as a dishwasher and worked my way up to being a cook – basically worked my way through the back of the house. Right out of college, I started working for K.C. Masterpiece. They had six restaurants in the Midwest, so I worked at one there and then opened a new one in Kansas City – that's where I learned how to do barbecue.

I went back to St. Louis and ran a fine dining steakhouse for a couple of gentlemen, one of which was Denny Long, the president of Budweiser for 25 years. He took me under his wing and taught me all the business acumen. I had a lot of mentors teaching me the inner workings of restaurants, from meat purveying to wine, produce, and all that stuff.

And then you came to Arizona?

My old boss from K.C. was running a barbecue chain in Phoenix called El Paso Barbecue, so he talked me into coming out here. I worked for them for three years and then opened my own place.

Have you always wanted to open your own restaurant?

Ever since I was a kid! My father and uncle were in the restaurant business. My mother was a teacher, and she didn't want me to go into restaurants because of the long hours and uncertainty in the industry. When I was five years old, I tried cooking breakfast in bed for my parents, and I set off the smoke alarms [*laughs*].

I was raised to be very independent, and I've always loved cooking. For my birthdays, we got to go to "special occasion" places, and the one that stands out still is Tony's in St. Louis, where I went for my 16th. It's a jacket and tie-required place and just being there, it was like, "yeah, this is what I want to do."

You didn't go to culinary school?

No – I went through the business part of the education, with an emphasis in culinary. I would be the equivalent of a cook. I develop our recipes. I mean, I'll throw down against anybody [*laughs*]. I didn't go to culinary school, but I'm continually learning! I put myself through baking school three years ago. While I was in Minnesota taking care of my dad for a few months in 2018, I went through three cookbooks, just learning techniques and baking different recipes.

What is the toughest part of being a business owner?

Balancing the business and inner workings with what I call the fun part, which is actually running the restaurant. Paying the bills and payroll – the paperwork is the toughest part.

...your favorite part?

The people! I've had people get engaged or share their first kiss at my restaurant. I've catered people's weddings. It's a great feeling. I also love team building and the lifelong friendships I gain with my employees. I'm fortunate to have an amazing staff. My newest cook has been with me for nine years; Ramon has been with me for 22! Also, creating new recipes and dishes. I'm always traveling and educating myself.

Before the smokehouse, there was a steakhouse, right?

Frasher's Steakhouse opened in 1999. It was on Scottsdale Road between Thomas and McDowell. Before Frasher's was the Smokehouse, it was a place called Chuy's. My landlord had passed away, and I knew I needed a place to land if things didn't work out with the Steakhouse. Well, they didn't work out, so I figured I could open a barbecue joint and operate both of them. Frasher's Smokehouse opened in 2015.

The steakhouse had steaks and St. Louis-type dishes, including the gooey butter cake. I didn't create the cake, but I'm the first to have it be a dish in a restaurant. It was invented in St. Louis, and up there, it's known as a breakfast dish. I made it into a dessert. You either got it in the bakery, or your mom made it. It wasn't on a menu until I put it on a menu.

Where did the idea for a barbecue joint come from?

In St. Louis, barbecuing is your dad, outside, grilling. It's not the barbecue we know today. Kansas City, Texas, Memphis, and the Carolinas have their own styles.

When I got to Arizona, I really got into barbecuing. I judged the Jack Daniels competition, Memphis in May, and the American Royal in Kansas City. I did that while I was opening Frasher's Tavern in Old Town Scottsdale. Another reason I got into it was meeting Sweet Baby Ray [of the barbecue sauce fame]. He came into the smokehouse the second day we opened and left a business card. I said, 'who's trying to sell me sauce?' and realized it was the man himself. I called him back, and we've been friends ever since.

Out of all of the places you've tried barbecue, which was your favorite?

Kansas City is my bread and butter – what I grew up on. However, during a trip to Texas, I ate 50 briskets in search of the holy grail, and I found it at Franklin's in Austin. That's the place where you wait five hours to get your meal.

Explain the expansion of your restaurants.

We opened in 1999 – three concepts under one roof. I broke off the barbecue and opened the smokehouse in 2015. Two days before the Jack Daniels competition in October 2017, the landlords of a building near 32nd St. and Indian School contacted me and asked if I was interested in opening another restaurant – at first, I said no, but I think it willed itself into my life. It reminds me of an old ice cream parlor, which is what it was originally built for back in, like, 1958.

I took a trip to Nashville after hearing about the Nashville hot chicken sandwich. I'd never had it before, so I went there and fell in love with it. I developed my own recipe and brought it back to Arizona – this is how Mrs. Chicken came to be. We were the first to bring the hot chicken sandwich to the area in 2018.

Frasher's Tavern came about after a friend of mine told me about this empty building in Old Town. I told him I wasn't interested but went and took a look anyway – two months later, the tavern opened. That was 2019, a few weeks before the pandemic.

What's the most popular item at the smokehouse?

Our number one selling item here is the burnt ends, but they sell out so quickly that you can't compare them to the ribs and brisket. Those two are right up at the top.

What about the sauces?

We have three staple sauces: sweet, which is influenced by Sweet Baby Ray – I'd never tried his until I met him! Our Tennessee tang is modeled after what I grew up using. It was called Maull's and was made in the 1800s and was the first one sold to the public. The third is a Texas-style spicy sauce.

On Saturdays, we do a pork steak, which is indigenous to St. Louis, and that's the only thing we put sauce on here. We don't put it on anything else. Phoenix is made up mostly of transplants, right? Barbecue means something different to everybody, whether you're from

South Carolina and use mustard or northeastern, where they use vinegar, so we let people choose their own sauce.

We have a South Carolina golden sauce that's also used at Mrs. Chicken in the coleslaw. For my girlfriend's birthday, I made tiramisu – with the leftovers, I made a coffee-based barbecue sauce. I've also made a hatch chili and a huckleberry sauce.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to try their hand at barbecuing?

Have fun with it! Do what you like for your own palate. For me, I love the history of it, and I wanted to do an homage to the varieties of barbecue and what reminds me of my childhood.

Tell me something that would surprise readers to know about you.

I'm writing a cookbook! I started writing it right as the pandemic happened, so it's been on hold for a bit. The name is going to be "Work Hard, Play Harder." Now that restaurants are getting a little more leveled out, I can start getting back to writing. I mean…after spring training [*laughs*]. We have a lot of holidays and stuff coming up.

I also learned during the pandemic that I am really good at cutting my own hair. And – I call my mother every single day.

What's a fun memory you have of your time in the industry?

We've had a lot of celebrities come through our doors – here and at the tavern. One of my servers at the old Frasher's met her current husband while working there. He played for the San Francisco Giants. I've got a lot of stories, but that's a good one.

Other than meat, what do you like to cook?

Desserts. Our chocolate decadent cake at the tavern was inspired by a former Arcadia restaurant where Nook is now. It was an Italian place [La Fontanella]. I went in there and had dinner, came back to my chef at the time and said, "we're going to change our dessert to something light and fluffy and deep and thick and rich." He said, "those things contradict each other!" But we pulled it off. Our tiramisu is also super popular. I love inventing new ways of old staples.

Who is a big inspiration in your life?

Right now, it's Mack Newton – he's my workout guru. I never realized how mental everything was and how much stress affects your weight. The restaurant industry is stressful, and even though I feel I handle it well, I noticed the times I was heaviest were when I was stressed. Mack is an eighth-degree black belt. He's just…an inspiration.

What's next for George Frasher?

Working on opening the patio for weekends at Frasher's now that the weather is nice. I anticipate growth for Mrs. Chicken, whether that's expanding or franchising. At the tavern, we're working on getting things back up and running. We actually just got the Wine Spectator Award of Excellence over there, so that's exciting. Continuing education and focusing on personal health and growth!

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Over 140 Future Titans participated in a clinic to learn dance and cheer skills from Arcadia High School's Spiritline.

Arcadia students inspire school spirit in future Titans

By Jennifer Marshall

This November, from the gym and field at Arcadia High School, neighbors could hear cheers from near and far as the AHS community hosted its annual Future Titan Night. This event gives kids from Arcadia's feeder schools the opportunity to come out, visit and participate in a spiritline routine, which they perform during a varsity football game later that evening.

While the event's exact origins are unknown, according to Arcadia mom Liz Ord Future Titan Night has been a long-standing tradition.

"Many of the Arcadia cheerleaders who taught the little cheerleaders attended this event when they were younger," Ord said. "It was a fun, full-circle moment for them. The kindness these high school girls showed the younger cheerleaders was the same love that was once shown to them when they were participants at Future Titan Night."

The event is separated into two parts. They begin the evening with a cheer skills clinic where members of the Arcadia Cheer and Pom Spiritline teach the future cheerleaders a dance and cheer routine. Then, performing alongside their big "cheer sisters," the littles show off their newly learned moves in their own show held during the game.

This year, the Titans played the Apache Junction Prospectors. While Arcadia lost the game 21 to 42, plenty of fun and excitement was still palpable from the sidelines.

"I loved getting to know so many amazing little girls around Arcadia. Watching them learn and perform made me so happy and proud to be cheering with them," varsity Cheer Captain Maddie McGrath said.

"It was really fun being with the big girls," Hopi Elementary first grader Dylan Davis said. "I got to cheer right next to them, and my whole family was there to see me. I even got to fly in the air two times!"



PHOTOS: LIZ ORD

Future Titan cheerleaders learning how to do a toe touch from varsity Spiritline members Lily Ord and Ryan Michaelree.

This year's Future Titan Night brought in over 140 participants. According to Ord, it was the highest attendance they have ever had.

"How fun it was to look down during the game at a red and blue sea of enthusiastic girls cheering on the Titans," Ord said, mentioning that Future Titan Night is one thing that makes the Arcadia community strong.

Varsity Pom Captain Allie Logan echoed that sentiment: "I love Future Titan Night. I remember going when I was in elementary school and looking up to all the Spiritline girls and thinking how fun it looked and how sweet they all were. Now that I have the opportunity to teach the girls, it is even more fun."

"We loved seeing the older cheerleaders connect and serve the younger girls. I think there were a lot of special friendships made between the big and the little cheerleaders!" Ord said.

Juniors become 'student ambassadors' at this Veritas event

By Jennifer Marshall

It's become a rite of passage for students at Veritas Prep: The Blazer Ceremony, an important moment where the 11th-grade class receives a blazer with the Veritas logo and pin during a school-wide assembly held in their honor.

"The blazers honor their maturity and encourage them as leaders within the academy," Assistant Headmaster David Nydegger said. "Our hope for each of our students, and the reason our academy exists, is for them to become good men and women both intellectually and morally."

Nydegger said that the belief is that students have the capacity and desire to be trained in all the arts and sciences, can read the very best texts and participate in seminars at a high level. For juniors and seniors, the blazer is an outward sign of their capacity and desire to participate in this effort.

According to the headmaster, these ceremonies are a tradition at schools around the globe. At Veritas, the junior class is comprised of 87 girls and boys.

"The Blazer Ceremony is monumental because, as a junior, you are welcomed into the ranks of upper-level students by both the teachers and the senior class. Your blazer is a mark of accomplishment, signifying that you have made it this far," junior Jude Tawney said.

"As a recent arrival to Veritas in the last three years, the ceremony stands as a sort of 'coming of age' event while also becoming an ambassador of the school mission: to seek the true, good and beautiful. It was an honor to share this moment with my friends," student Peyton Jones said.

The mood of the assembly was jubilant from the beginning, according to Nydegger.

"We started with a rousing recitation of our school poem, 'The Windhover' by Gerard Manley Hopkins and ended with a full-throated singing of our school song, '*Gaudeamus Igitur,*' which means 'therefore, let us rejoice," Nydegger said.

Within the framework of the Great Hearts Schools, "the reception of a blazer, which signifies a special position as leaders within the academy, comes with additional privilege and responsibility," Nydegger said.

"After the Blazer Ceremony, I looked at the man in the mirror and made a change. I became more formal and felt intellectually smart," Sebastian Riano said.

In the coming months, juniors will work on perfecting their craft in drama or the studio. They will study the beauty and harmony of the laws of nature. They will discuss literature in French or Spanish or continue studying Greek as a third language, according to Headmaster Theresa Weiland.

"Most uniquely, they will look around their Humane Letters classroom and marvel at how they and their peers, some of whom have known each other since kindergarten, are discussing the *Nicomachean Ethics* and Plato's *Republic*. These are two of the most influential works of philosophy. Knowledge of them is our birthright," she said.



PHOTO: VIRGINIA CARDENAS

Jaz Cobb, Cruz Hastriter, Peyton Jones, Sydney Mishkin, Gio Guido and Noah Zook.

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Peppermint cupcakes from Eat by Stacey Weber.



Tomaso's seafood medley cioppino.

The Dining Scoop

By Mallory Gleich

If you're hoping to stay out of the kitchen this December – or prefer someone else do the cooking – a few area eateries are offering holiday and New Year's Eve specials.

Guests can pick up **Pie Snob** pies any day before December 24 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. For New Year's, pick up pies on December 28, 29 and 30. Flavors include apple crumb, caramel apple, green chile apple crumb, chocolate pecan, pumpkin praline, pumpkin cheesecake and razzleberry double-crust. Prices vary from $26-$48.

piesnob.com

On New Year's Eve, **Postino** is offering the Boujee Board & Bottle, featuring a board of bruschetta and bottle of premium bubbles for $75 from 5 p.m. to midnight.

postinowinecafe.com

Beckett's Table will be running chef's specials on Christmas Eve as well as a prix fixe dinner on New Year's Eve.

beckettstable.com

Chula Seafood will also have a holiday menu option. Visit the website for more.

chulaseafood.com

Lon's at the Hermosa Inn will have Christmas Eve and Christmas Day menus this year. On December 24, guests can enjoy brunch from 7 a.m.-1:30 p.m., with dishes like monkey bread and gruyere and fine herb quiche. Dinner will be held from 4-8 p.m. on Christmas Eve and 12-7 p.m. on Christmas Day. Items include smoked corn agnolotti, smoked prime rib, Chilean sea bass and holiday trifle or pie. Lon's will host a New Year's Eve dinner from 5-10 p.m., featuring dishes like duck confit arancino and lamb wellington. The NYE dinner is $195 per person. Christmas Eve/Day, prices are $95 for adults, $35 for kids.

hermosainn.com

Frasher's Smokehouse features smoked turkey and smoked ham meals for dine-in or to-go. Dine-in orders include a choice of acorn squash, stuffing, smoked corn, garlic mashed potatoes, coleslaw, green chili mac and cheese, baked beans, cornbread, homemade gravy, dinner rolls and dessert; $30 for adults, $20 for kids. To-go orders are $60-$100 for turkey, $50-$180 for ham and sides can be ordered individually.

frasherssmokehouse.com

Chef Christopher Collins and **Common Ground Culinary** are offering specialty pies this holiday season! Guests can choose from pumpkin, apple, coconut cream, butterscotch pecan, key lime and chocolate mousse. Prices are $24 for graham cracker crust and $28 for specialty pies.

commongroundculinary.com

Phoenix caterer **EAT by Stacey Weber** is offering two holiday menus. Pre-orders will be available through December 21 until noon and will be ready for pick up on Christmas Eve until 2 p.m. The "southwest" menu includes options like chips, guacamole and fire roasted salsa, pozole, chicken and rice enchiladas and green chili and cheese tamales. Traditional items include lump crab cakes with tarragon citrus aioli, cordon bleu chicken meatballs, orange spiced mixed nuts, as well as various sides and desserts. Items are priced individually. Meals serve four.

eatbystaceyweber.com

Tomaso's will have an exclusive holiday menu with eight appetizers, six handcrafted pastas and six specialty entrees. Guests can choose spaghetti with scallops and shrimp ($29), the seafood medley cioppino ($42) or the veal scaloppine ($36). Tomaso's will be open on Christmas Eve from 3-9 p.m. and Christmas Day from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

tomasos.com

Phoenix City Grille (5816 N. 16th St.) is hosting Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve dinners. On December 24, guests can enjoy dishes like New England clam chowder, surf and turf with wood-grilled beef tenderloin over organic mushroom risotto, gulf shrimp, and crab crusted Chula Seafood bluenose. New Year's Eve's menu features smoked prime rib, gorgonzola smashed potatoes, slow-roasted leg of lamb with bourbon bacon sweet potato hash, apple mint slaw, and pan-seared pesto-crusted sea bass. The restaurant will be open from 4-9 p.m. on both days.

phoenixcitygrille.com

STK Steakhouse (7134 E. Stetson Dr.) is offering Christmas dinner from December 23-December 25, which includes roasted prime rib, confit fingerling potatoes, green beans, port wine shallots and a black truffle Madeira sauce for $79. Folks can also get this meal to-go: $154 for two and $74 for each additional serving. Pre-order meals by December 15. STK will open at 10 a.m. on Christmas Eve and Day.

stksteakhouse.com

Dad's Modern Cocktails & Eatery (7337 E. Shea Blvd., Scottsdale) has a Christmas menu that includes prime rib, au jus, mashed potatoes and sautéed veggies for $30; wash it down with a Merry Berry Sour cocktail for $13. Specials are available from December

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Salt and Lime's Feliz Navidad Cantina.


Bitter & Twisted Cocktails' Sippin' Santa.

18 through December 23. On New Year's Eve, guests can enjoy an appetizer special featuring fried ravioli, southwest eggrolls, shrimp cocktail and more: three for $30 or five for $50. The drink special of the day is the French 75 for $13. Dad's will be closing at 10 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

dadsmoderncocktailsandeatery.com

Salt and Lime Modern Mexican Grill (9397 E. Shea Blvd.) has transformed into the Feliz Navidad Cantina for the holidays. The restaurant has floor-to-ceiling holiday decorations, a menu of holiday-themed dishes and signature cocktails (Christmas Enchiladas and Mistletoe Martinis), appearances from Santa and the Grinch, and classic holiday movies playing throughout the restaurant. Kids 10 and under eat free on Mondays with the purchase of an adult entrée. The eatery will also partner with Maag Toy Foundation for a holiday toy drive.

saltandlimeaz.com

Bitter & Twisted Cocktails is transforming into a festive tiki hideaway for the holidays. Cocktails like the Island of Misfit Toys (Jamaican rum, chai tea, cream, pumpkin puree, cinnamon, lemon) or the Undertow Toddy (cognac, chartreuse, curacao, chocolate hazelnut syrup) are available. Sippin' Santa will also have a new food menu handcrafted by the Jamaican experts at The Breadfruit. Items include Jerk Pork, Red Stripe Curried Shrimp, Jerk Chicken, cinnamon-dusted Sweet Plantains and Jerk Fries.

bitterandtwistedaz.com

Weft & Warp at Andaz (6114 N. Scottsdale Road) is hosting Christmas Brunch on Sunday, December 25, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Guests can enjoy dishes like raw oysters and Baja ceviche, brown sugar baked ham or roasted garlic and rosemary leg of lamb. Registration is $130 per person. The restaurant will serve breakfast from 7 a.m.-10:30 a.m. and dinner from 5-9 p.m.

andazscottsdale.com

Miracle Mile Deli is offering a special Hanukkah menu this year, with family meals including signature brisket of beef or turkey, potato latkes, applesauce, homemade matzoh ball soup, mac and cheese, coleslaw, challah rolls and a whole pie for $225. They're also offering individual entrees for $19 and a la carte servings. Pies are $16 and include apple, cherry, pecan, plus doughnuts or cheesecake. Orders should be placed by December 12 for pick up by December 17 between 11 a.m-7 p.m.

miraclemiledeli.com

Talking Stick Resorts' various eateries will host both Christmas and New Year's dinner specials. At **Orange Sky**, guests can celebrate with a sunset view from 4-9 p.m. The Christmas menu will include items like roasted butternut squash soup, crème fraiche, bourbon maple syrup, pistachio crusted Chilean sea bass, balsamic glazed Cipollini or veal chop. Dessert includes spiced apple and blackberry crumble. On NYE, starting at 5 p.m. guests at **Tash** can enjoy Dijon-crusted prime rib with dried tomato Greek yogurt sauce, wood fired potatoes, and garlic fontina baked asparagus. For dessert, enjoy a Nutella mousse cup, served with candied hazelnuts and a shortbread cookie. Prices vary; make sure to check out to check out Ocean Trail or the Blue Coyote Cantina for other specials.

talkingstickresort.com

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"Meet Mr." | Ray Artigue

Jess Roman

Once a commercial banker, Jess Roman has gone from serving financial solutions to business owners to serving food and financial support to those most in need: the homeless population.

He began volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul more than 20 years ago, but in 2016, Roman hung up his three-piece suit and went to work for the nonprofit agency as a senior development officer.

"It is such a blessing to work at St. Vincent de Paul and have the opportunity to give back," Roman said. "I get such satisfaction and gratitude, and it provides me with balance and perspective."

> ***Be good humans. Live boldly but with humility.***

Roman is a second-generation Arizona native who grew up in a tight-knit Hispanic family. He and his sisters attended Catholic schools, and the church was significant, but family was always what mattered most.

"Growing up, we experienced a fair amount of prejudice, and that's just how it was," Roman said. "My dad taught us to look past that stuff and just outwork everybody, adding 'be humble and be nice to people.'"

Roman has taken that advice to heart because his reputation precedes him as a caring and compassionate man with a devotion to the word of God.

"Jess is a true servant leader and someone who always puts others ahead of himself," Steve Zabilski, long-time St. Vincent CEO, said.

Jess enjoys reading, citing that he likes to tap into the wisdom of great thinkers. One of his favorite books is by Joseph Campbell, who wrote, "If you are on your own path, things are going to come to you. Since it's your path, and no one has ever been on it before, everything that happens is a surprise and is timely."

In 2018, Jess and his three grown children – Brittany, Jessie and Allison – lost their devoted wife and mother, Beth.

"Beth loved being a mom. She wasn't just a homemaker. She was a curator of the art of serving her family and friends in a special way. But she had done enough being a mother and caring for others, so God decided to take her, promising He would sustain us," Roman said when delivering her eulogy at an overflowing Brophy Chapel.

He admits that life without his wife has been filled with profound grief, but he has leaned into his faith, friends, and the responsibility of leading his children through loss. Flagstaff is their family gathering place, where Roman goes to recharge.

"It's home base for us and a spiritual place to reflect and renew," he said.

When Roman isn't busy raising money for St. Vincent's, he spends time with family and friends or studying the Bible. On Saturday mornings, he holds a "work party" with music blaring while cleaning the house from stem to stern.



"My ultimate advice for my kids and their children is that they be good humans and live boldly but with humility," Roman said, "and for what time I have left, I want to live my best life, healthfully, spiritually and curiously."







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-Debbie

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Keep that holiday spread healthy

Happy Holidays, Arcadia! Even though December tends to be one of our busiest months, it's also one of the most beautiful. Did you know that spending time in nature can improve your mood and reduce stress? And to get an even better bang for your buck, sitting directly on the earth (grass, sand, field, mountain, rock) connects you to the earth and can act as a docking station to recharge the body. This technique is called grounding, and there is lots of research on the benefits – plus, we could all use a recharge around this time of year. Here are some healthy, plant-based recipes you may want to add to your holiday spread!

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

Holiday apple crisp SERVES: 12



Ingredients

- 1 ½ cups coconut sugar, divided
- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour (or gluten-free) divided
- 3 tsp. cinnamon, divided
- ½ tsp. nutmeg
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ½ lemon, juiced
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract, divided
- 1 cup rolled oats
- ½ cup pecans, chopped
- ¾ cup vegan butter, melted

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350F.
2. Peel and chop the apples into small cubes about ½" in size. Put them in a large bowl.
3. Add ½ cup of coconut sugar, ¼ cup of flour, two tsp. of the cinnamon, nutmeg, salt, lemon juice, and one tsp. of vanilla. Stir well, then pour into a 9x13-inch pan sprayed with cooking spray.
4. To make the crumble topping, combine the remaining one cup of flour, oats, the remaining one cup of coconut sugar, the remaining one tsp. of cinnamon, the remaining one tsp. of vanilla, the pecans and butter. Stir well.
5. Spread the mixture evenly on top of the apples to cover all areas.
6. Bake for 45 minutes and let cool 20 minutes before serving.

Maple roasted squash salad SERVES: 4



Ingredients

- 1 cup cooked wild rice
- 6 cups butternut squash, cubed
- 1 tbsp. avocado oil
- 2 tbsp. maple syrup
- 1 tsp. each: pink salt, cinnamon
- 1 bunch Dino kale + lemon & shake pink salt
- 1 large apple, cubed
- ½ cup dried cherries
- ½ cup toasted pepitas

Dressing

- 3 tbsp. olive oil
- 3 tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- ½ tsp. dijon mustard
- ½ tsp. sea salt
- ½ tsp. pepper
- ½ tsp. garlic powder

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400F.
2. Toss squash in the oil, syrup, salt and cinnamon. Bake for 30 minutes, flipping halfway.
3. Strip kale from stems and cut into slivers. Put in serving bowl and squeeze on lemon and salt. Massage to break down.
4. Add the squash to the bowl along with the apple, dried cherries and pepitas.
5. Whisk dressing together, pour over salad and toss.

Vegan cream cheese bruschetta SERVES: 10



Ingredients

- 1 baguette loaf
- 1 tub Trader Joe's Salmonesque Cream cheese
- ½ jar Trader Joe's Fire-roasted red peppers (or substitute diced tomatoes)
- ¼ cup slivered basil

Directions

1. Toast bread under the broiler.
2. Layer with cream cheese, then roasted red peppers.
3. Add slivered basil.

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Trent Martin, Laura Martin and Ed Cox.





Cowtown S.K.A.T.E. provides skateboards, shoes, ramps, education, and support to youth in underserved communities.

Grab your boards, it's time to skate for the kids

By Mallory Gleich

In the early 90s, if you were looking for teenagers Trent Martin or Ed Cox, you'd probably find them cruising around town on their skateboards. The pair loved their hobby so much that, as adults and after meeting Laura Martin, who advocated for Phoenix's first skate park – they decided to create a nonprofit centered around skateboarding.

Cowtown S.K.A.T.E. is a Phoenix organization "dedicated to expanding access to the social, health, and other benefits of skateboarding." They provide boards, shoes, ramps, education and support to youth in underserved communities.

"Our retail shop, Cowtown Skateboards and skate brand, has played an integral role in the Arizona skateboarding community for 25 years. We've hosted events, given away products, worked with cities on skate park projects and more," Board Member Charles Darr said.

The nonprofit officially opened its doors in 2018 to "pay forward the enjoyment we have experienced through skateboarding and guiding youth toward a better tomorrow."

Darr explained that there's a game called SKATE that is similar to HORSE in basketball – that's where the nonprofit got its name.

"There was no real reason other than the game is fun, and what we are trying to do is spread the love and fun of skateboarding," Darr said. "Leaving it open allows people to come up with their own ideas…it could be Spreading Kindness Around To Everyone."

According to Darr, S.K.A.T.E. has five areas of action: Opening the Door, Safe Skate Spots, community, fundraising and partnerships.

Opening the Door provides gear directly to kids in need, so they have their own equipment: skateboards, shoes, helmets, etc.

Safe Skate Spots works with cities to make skate-able features standard in city parks so that kids everywhere can access a safe place to skate.

Community focus includes events such as contests, art shows and skate jams.

"Our focus on fundraising and partnerships keeps work sustainable. We design programs that address all five areas," Darr said. "For instance, our Rides for the Res, Tohono O'odham project involved fundraising to provide kids with new complete skateboards, shoes, and safety gear, as well as their own ramp, which created a safe place for them to learn how to skate."

The kids got to help volunteers construct the ramp, and they, in turn, taught the kids how to ride it on their new boards.

The founders have been involved in skate park development for over 25 years. Laura organized the building of Desert West Skate Park in Maryvale in the 90s, which Darr said helped create a template for others.

Since that first park, various cities have utilized the organization's skills regarding skate park development and helped provide maintenance and upgrades.

"Now that there are parks throughout the state, our nonprofit is working on pivoting development from large, Olympic-style skate complexes to focusing on hyperlocal skate-able features throughout existing parks, supporting our mission to increase accessibility," Darr said.

Cowtown S.K.A.T.E.'s main goal, of course, is to continue providing access to skateboarding.

That is where Skateboard Angel, their annual holiday donation drive, comes in. Donations provide a new skateboard to a child in need. The drive is in its sixth year and is open until December 31.

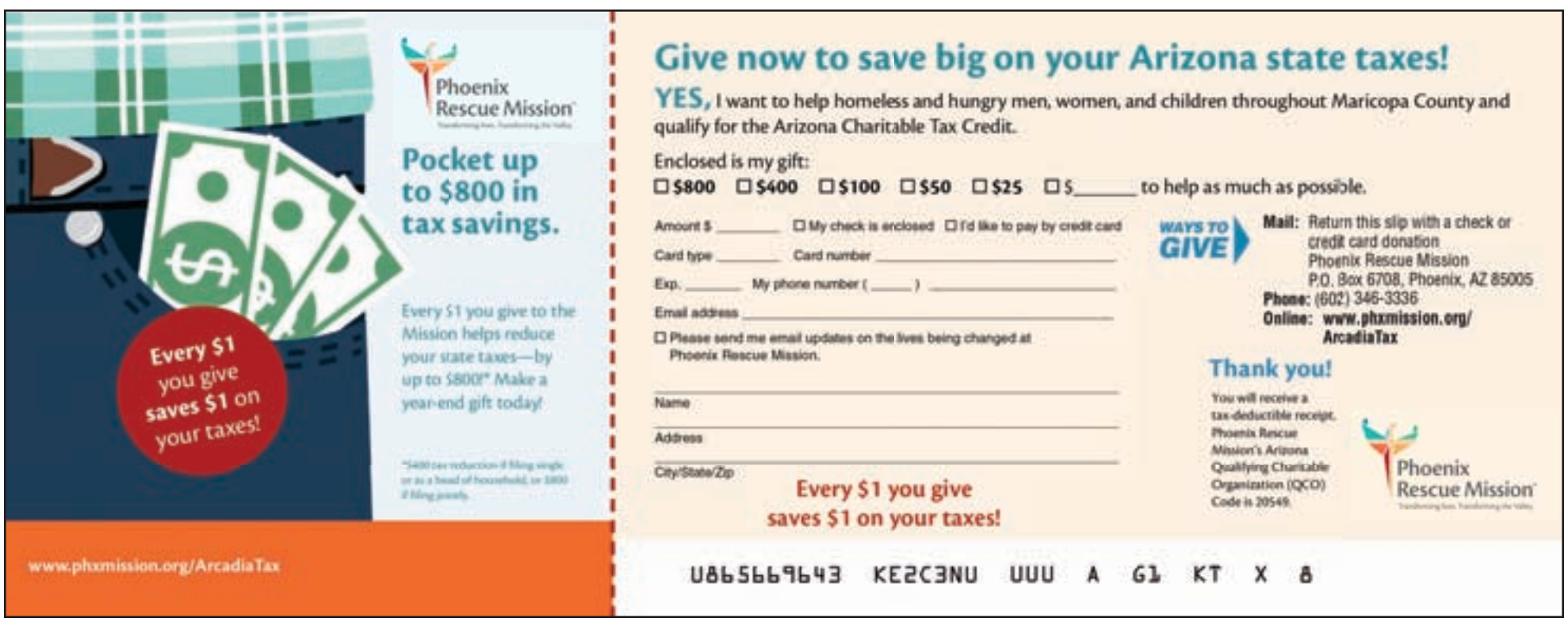
The 2022 event marks the inaugural nationwide expansion of the Arizona-based project as they partner with community skate shops around the country.

"The program raises contributions to cover the cost of brand-new, professional-grade skateboards. Those are then distributed to beneficiary youth-serving nonprofits that deliver them to the kids they serve," Darr said. "Skateboard Angel unites people from around the U.S. to work toward a shared goal of providing a gift to kids who otherwise may never have the chance to experience the joys of learning to skate."

Cowtown S.K.A.T.E. hopes to eventually own a facility with an indoor skate park and adaptive workspace. The facility will allow them to host lessons and events, plus workshops for filming, editing, photography, graphic design, art, music and healthy living.

"We learned first-hand that skateboarding promotes an active lifestyle and develops balance and coordination. It creates supportive and diverse communities and offers refuge from the stress and other negative influences that people have to navigate throughout life," Darr said. "It is our goal to make sure that every child has the option to experience these benefits, just as we have."

cowtownskate.org





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NEST REALTY

Showcasing America's heroes through essay contest

By Melissa Hirschl

Experiencing history through the perspective of a seasoned veteran can be eye-opening and even life-changing. Brophy junior Iain Lanphier, president of the Veteran Heritage Project (VHP), had that opportunity when he recently interviewed 79-year-old Naval war hero Captain Larry L. Ernst, a Vietnam veteran.

During the interview, Iain said he was captivated by awe-inspiring stories of bravery and fortitude and those describing the challenges of being in the Navy. Iain was also enlightened about the facets of Ernst's exemplary career: his status as a naval aviator, Top Gun instructor and last commanding officer of the Midway aircraft carrier.

"There is no doubt I was seated across from a great man, pilot, and leader during our time together," Iain reflected.

VHP's mission is to connect high school students with veterans to honor them and learn more about America's history. Students interview veterans, take photos and put them in a book each year. The books are then sent to the Library of Congress.

Through his association with the VHP, Iain heard about and entered an essay contest sponsored by Honoring America's Veterans, a nonprofit organization that hosts the Phoenix Veterans parade each year. The title of his essay was "Liberty, Honor and Sacrifice," which was the theme of this year's parade.



PHOTO COURTESY OF IAIN LANPHIER

For his winning essay, Brophy junior Iain Lanphier interviewed Vietnam War Navy veteran Larry Ernst.

Iain compiled his thoughts about the interview with Ernst and won the contest, receiving a $250 prize.

"The organization's goal is to honor veterans, preserve American heritage and develop future leaders," Executive Director Paula Pedene said. "We are looking at the time and effort the students put into focusing on veterans, the wars they fought in, and their hardships. The parade we put on is another avenue to provide a way to honor and recognize our veterans; they tell us it means so much to them, and it helps them heal."

According to Pedene, the essay contest is offered to high school students throughout the U.S. and is based on a different theme each year, such as "Waving the Flag of Freedom" and "Freedom Isn't Free."

An excerpt from Iain's essay provides a window into his thoughts: "The sacrifices by veterans and their families that enable liberties often go unrecognized. There is the ultimate sacrifice of death in the line of duty, personal safety, time with loved ones, personal comfort, and even silence as some veterans cannot share their experiences."

"I'm glad I was able to bring attention to veterans and their service," Iain said. "We want to see veterans as real people and reflect on their vital role in society. This contest allowed me to achieve these goals, and I feel incredibly grateful for having won."

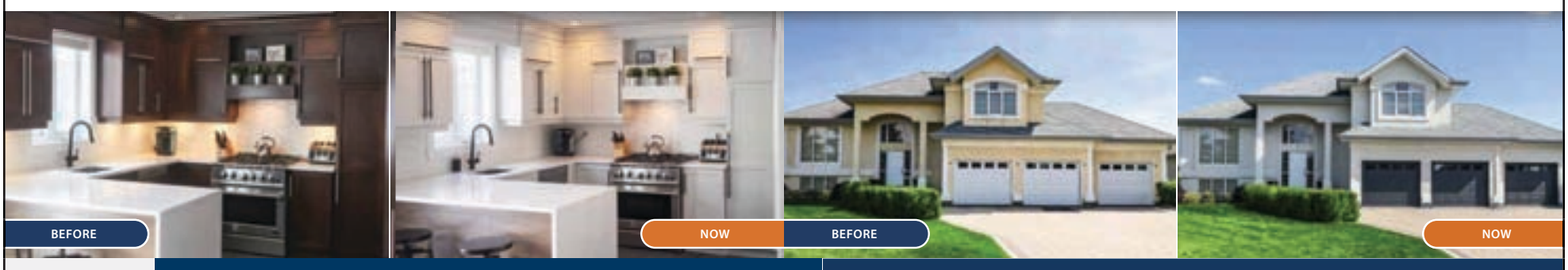
Iain's career goals parallel Ernst's: serving in the military as a pilot.

"Following graduation, I plan to pursue university with a military service academy," he said. "I am also exploring universities with ROTC programs and aeronautical engineering majors."

honoringamericasveterans.org or veteransheritageproject.org

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A sea of pink at Herberger Park

By Mallory Gleich

The Tutu Project, a breast cancer-focused nonprofit that offers financial and emotional support to patients receiving care, didn't actually start as a nonprofit.

In 2003, Arizona photographer Bob Carey began a "self" project where he would don a pink tutu and take self-portraits worldwide – in Arizona, Colorado, Michigan, even as far as Colombia and Greece. According to his wife, Linda, it was his way to express himself after learning of Linda's breast cancer diagnosis. She beat it, only for it to return in 2006.

"He started photographing himself in a pink tutu to bring levity into our life when I was diagnosed. We had just moved from Phoenix to Brooklyn, were self-employed and had a small support system," Linda said. "It was an enormous challenge. My diagnosis was only eight months after our move, and to say that this was overwhelming is an understatement."

It was then that the Tutu Project became so much more than fun pictures. The couple took Bob's photos and put them on social media platforms. They were an instant hit, and the nonprofit started in 2012 as an offshoot of The Carey Foundation, which "raises funds for women, men and their families to ease the financial burdens that come with breast cancer diagnoses."



PHOTO COURTESY OF DINO PAUL

(back) Karen Greenwood, Kim Krogh, Saville Levy, Dino Paul, Matt Benson and Craig Mikkelson. (front) Terri Malenfant and Rosanne Collins.

"This work now gives hope to others fighting breast cancer, as his photos have become an art and philanthropic phenomenon," Linda said.

#Dare2Tutu is a fundraising campaign that uses Bob's tutu to "cheer up people living with breast cancer." Individuals or groups can purchase a tutu and share their tutu photos with the nonprofit's Instagram page. This is where the Herberger Pickleballers come in.

Phoenix-based artist and former art director Dino Paul worked with Bob back when Dino owned a graphic design firm. He's donated to the organization since it started, but when the #Dare2Tutu project happened, Dino decided to wear his tutu when he played pickleball. The trend grew, and this fall, over 30 people from the Herberger Pickleballer group showed up to play a few games and raise money for the organization.

"Our group has a logo and t-shirts. I don't think half the people know each other's last names. It's just a group who love to play pickleball at Herberger Park," Dino said.

The group grew over the past two years. At the event, each of the pickleballers donned tutus to play – and despite the rainy weather that day, the enthusiasm never wavered.

"We had people who have been personally affected by breast cancer out there. I was expecting maybe a dozen, so it was awesome when 30-plus people showed up. We had so much fun supporting a great cause and a wonderful small nonprofit organization," Dino said. "I really think people mostly got a kick out of adults playing around in pink tutus."

The Tutu Project has helped a global community of nearly 250,000 people with financial assistance, emotional healing, education and resources.

thetutuproject.com

Veterans with a sweet tooth will enjoy these deliveries

By Mark Hays

Late-night television host Jimmy Kimmel has a segment during early November where parents tell their kids they ate the rest of the Halloween candy and film the reactions. While this is one way to get rid of the leftover Snickers and Kit-Kats, a few of our area schools had a better idea.

In November, Hopi Elementary, St. Thomas and Christ Lutheran School held drives to donate their Halloween candy to active-duty soldiers, veterans and first responders.

Hopi sent their collection to Packages from Home, a charity that supports soldiers and veterans by providing them with food, hygiene and entertainment items to boost morale and quality of life. These drives are a long-running tradition at the school, which PTA member Kyle Christensen has run since 2013. This year, though, PTA President Anna Zollman took the reins.

"It started before I arrived in 2013, so I'd think it's safe to say the drive has been going on for at least ten years," Christensen said.

Hopi collected twelve landscaping-sized bags of candy, and the fourth graders decorated mailers with messages of support. The altruism of the drive is an important feeling for participants.

"I've delivered candy before. It is a wonderful feeling to arrive at the facility so weighed down with offerings. I am constantly in awe of – and so proud of – the generosity of the Hopi community," Zollman said.

At St. Thomas, the theme of giving was also in full swing, with students collecting candy throughout the first week of November. The school offers various collections throughout the year, all geared toward helping students give back.

"In the case of the candy collection, we do not want parents to go out and buy it. We ask the students to practice generosity and share the candy they have collected with others in need," Coordinator Pam Hudgins said.

The students responded generously to this call. Sixth-grader Michael said, "If it helps other people, it makes me happy. I like the feeling you get when you know that you have done something good."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Christ Lutheran students Ashlyn Hackett, Carina Compagno, Brooke Walker, Camille Read, Hollyn Gardner and Abby Bergeson.

In total, 742 pounds of candy were collected by St. Thomas and sent to AZ Helping Hands, Ronald McDonald House, Valleywise Health Medical Center, Phoenix Police Department, Phoenix Fire Department, St. Vincent de Paul, several military units and local nursing homes.

Christ Lutheran holds a candy drive run by sixth-grader Brooke Walker and her mom. They've hosted the drive for the last five years. After Brooke felt a calling to help out veterans in her own family, she expanded it to include the school and veterans around the world.

"We thought growing the drive would be exciting and fun," Brooke said. "The more candy for our troops, the better."

And the recipients' appreciative reactions have shown the drive's positive impact:

"Veterans have told us that they thought it was very cool that we are sending candy to troops and that they wish they had received candy when they were overseas. When we drop the candy off at Packages from Home, everyone appreciates it," Brooke said.

Do less, not more

How do you react when you're behind at work? So often, when this happens, it feels like the answer is to do more. Roll up your sleeves, work harder, push through it, stay up late and get up early. This can be effective if you're doing something mindless, like unpacking boxes after a move. But if you're doing work that requires thought and concentration, doing more may not actually work. In fact, it could have the opposite effect.

Overworking will wear you out. It will zap your creativity and mental energy. Your work will take longer, and it is more likely that you'll make mistakes. Pushing yourself too much is one of the behaviors that can ultimately lead to burnout, which takes time and energy to recover from.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not suggesting that we all begin checking out. It's also not an effective strategy to do nothing.



Career Corner

BY ANGELA COPELAND

Career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching. copelandcoaching.com

But when you're tight on time with a to-do list that seems too long, take a minute to reprioritize. Rather than try to accomplish everything, decide which of your things is most important. One exercise is to try cutting your to-do list in half. If you could only accomplish half of the things on the list, which tasks would you begin with? Which tasks must be completed now versus later? Which tasks are quick, and which are long?

Focusing on fewer things allows us to do those things better. It allows us to clear our minds of the worry of having to complete too many tasks. For the items you do complete, you'll have the time to do the best possible job on each task. Of the tasks you focus on, you'll actually complete them. You'll do a better job.

If you're squeezed at work, you'll probably find this advice is the opposite of how many leaders think of getting things done. So often, prioritizing what is important seems like an impossible task. Everything is important. How can we possibly pick specific tasks over others?

But again, trying to accomplish too much is not a good long-term strategy. It can work once in a while, but not normally. There's a saying that if everything is important, nothing is important. When you try to do too much, you may find yourself completing very little of your list.

Both at work and home, make your goal to do fewer things better. You'll find that this strategy will improve your mood. And your quality of work will improve overall. You will ultimately accomplish more.

At work, this strategy will force you to have tough conversations about which projects take priority. But over time, the process of reprioritizing your work will become easier.



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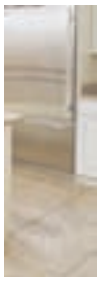
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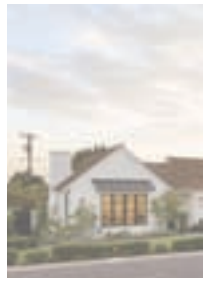
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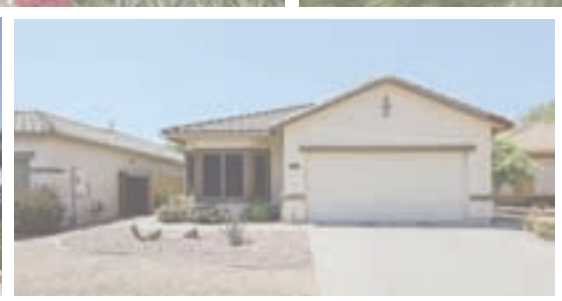
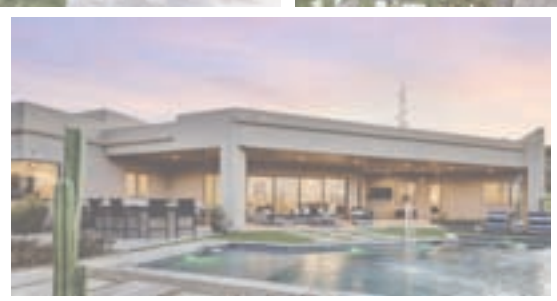
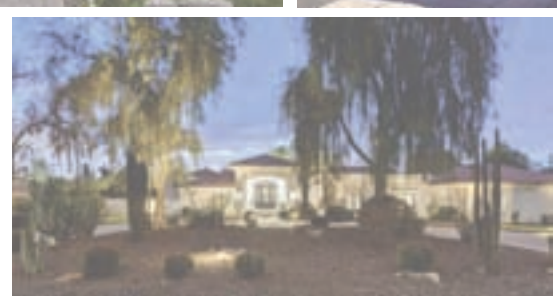

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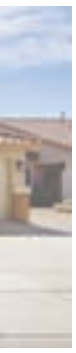












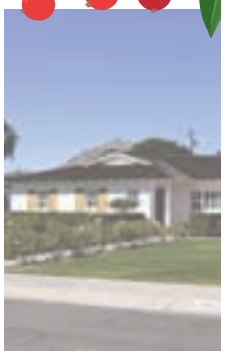


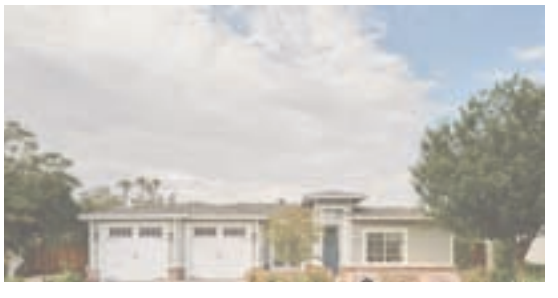



Happy Holidays
FROM OUR FAMILIES TO YOURS!













Gio Santora, Cooper O'Clair and Ben Hernandez took the top three spots at the New Castle Race.

PHOTOS COURTESTY OF GEORGE SANTORA

FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

ARCADIA DUO WINS U.S. GO-KART NATIONALS

By Mallory Gleich

October in Indiana was cold this year. Really cold. Just ask two Arcadia middle-schoolers – Giovanni Santora and Cooper O'Clair – who happened to be in New Castle that month, competing in the US National Rotax Junior Max GoKarting Race.

That Saturday, it was 34 degrees. On Sunday it was 38. At 70 miles an hour in an open-aired go-kart, the wind chill will make it feel 20 degrees colder. Undeterred, Gio and Cooper donned their extra layers and took to the track, with Cooper winning first and Gio second out of 16 competitors from around the world.

Because of those placings, Cooper traveled to Portimão, Portugal, over Thanksgiving weekend to represent Team USA at the Rotax RMC Grand Finals. As first alternate, Gio was on standby to see if he would join Cooper on the track.

"When we found out our placings, we were super excited and knew all of our hard work had paid off," Gio said.

"I was just relieved. I've done it before, and I know I've put in more work than anyone else there, so I headed into the event knowing what I needed to do with one goal," Cooper said.

The finals host 400 drivers from over 60 countries who race with equal equipment. Drivers in each category are on the same chassis, engine, tires, etc. Every driver has earned a ticket to the race in their respective country.

This is how the race works, according to Cooper:

Seventy-two drivers are separated into groups of even and odd racing numbers in their qualifying session, and are then split into groups A, B, C and D. Each group has 16 drivers and competes in races like A vs. D, B vs. C until all groups have raced one another.

Points for each driver are tallied and the 42 drivers with the most points will compete in a last chance qualifier, with the top six getting to start the final and the remaining 36 going home.

In the early days, family outings at CrackerJax found four-year-old Gio on the go-kart track more often than not. That love grew, and as he got older, he began indoor racing at K1 & Octane in Scottsdale. Now, at 12 years old, Gio races there – against adults – and is ranked number six out of 1,146,502.

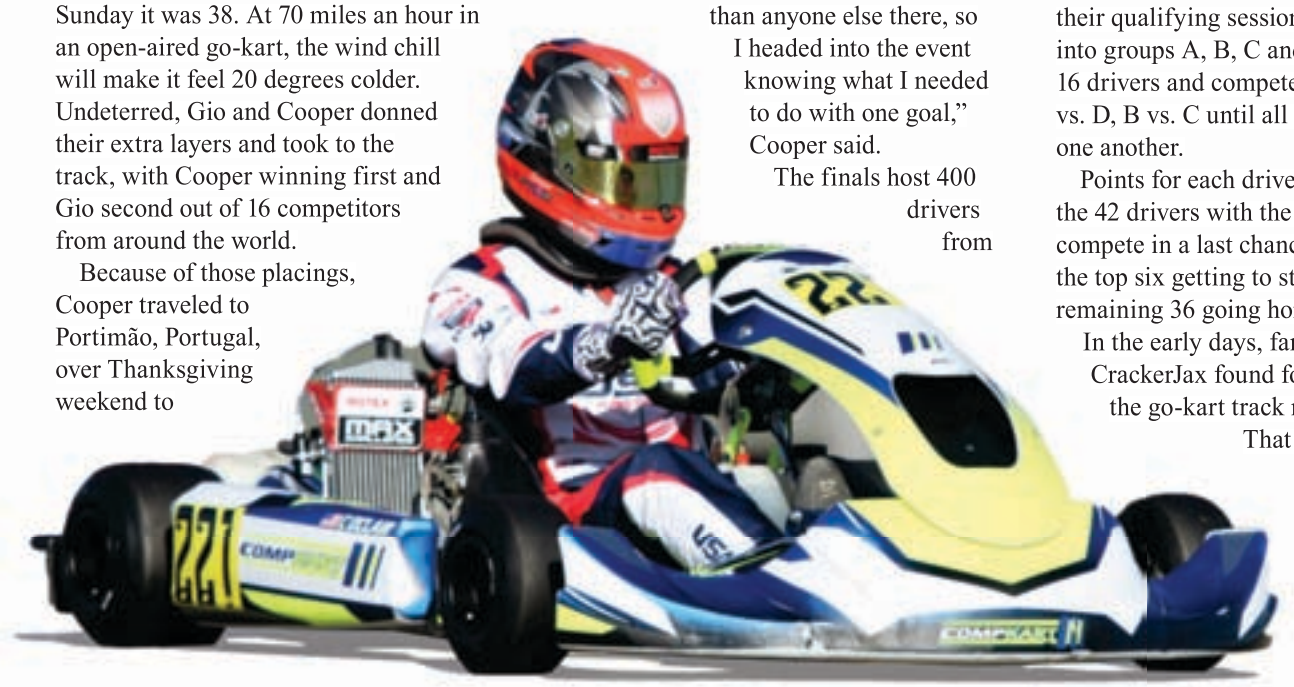
The boys have trained under London's Oliver Hodgson, a three-time world champion in karting along with J3 and CompKart (a competitive racing company).

"I feel comfortable around Ollie. I don't see him as this big-time driver whose only purpose is to make me better. I see him as a big brother I'm eager to learn from and be like one day. We are a family," Cooper said.

In October, after extensive practice and training, the boys and their team headed to New Castle, Indiana, to compete in the US Nationals. Within the race were drivers aged 12-15 from the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Spain.

The New Castle track runs clockwise around the original course, and drivers can reach top speeds of up to 75 mph. The national race consisted of six practice sessions on Thursday, six on Friday, five on Saturday (including a pre-final race of 16 laps), and Sunday was the final competition.

"My favorite part of the sport is seeing all the hard work, focus, bonding, and every other piece of the puzzle come together," Cooper said.



Cooper O'Clair's Compkart runs a 125cc Rotax Max engine. Top speeds in the junior classes vary, but run up to 75mph.

"For me, the best part is the speed, and the worst was racing in cold weather," Gio said.

To help with the grueling sessions, the boys go to the gym and work out regularly, practice with their coaches three times per week and get plenty of rest.

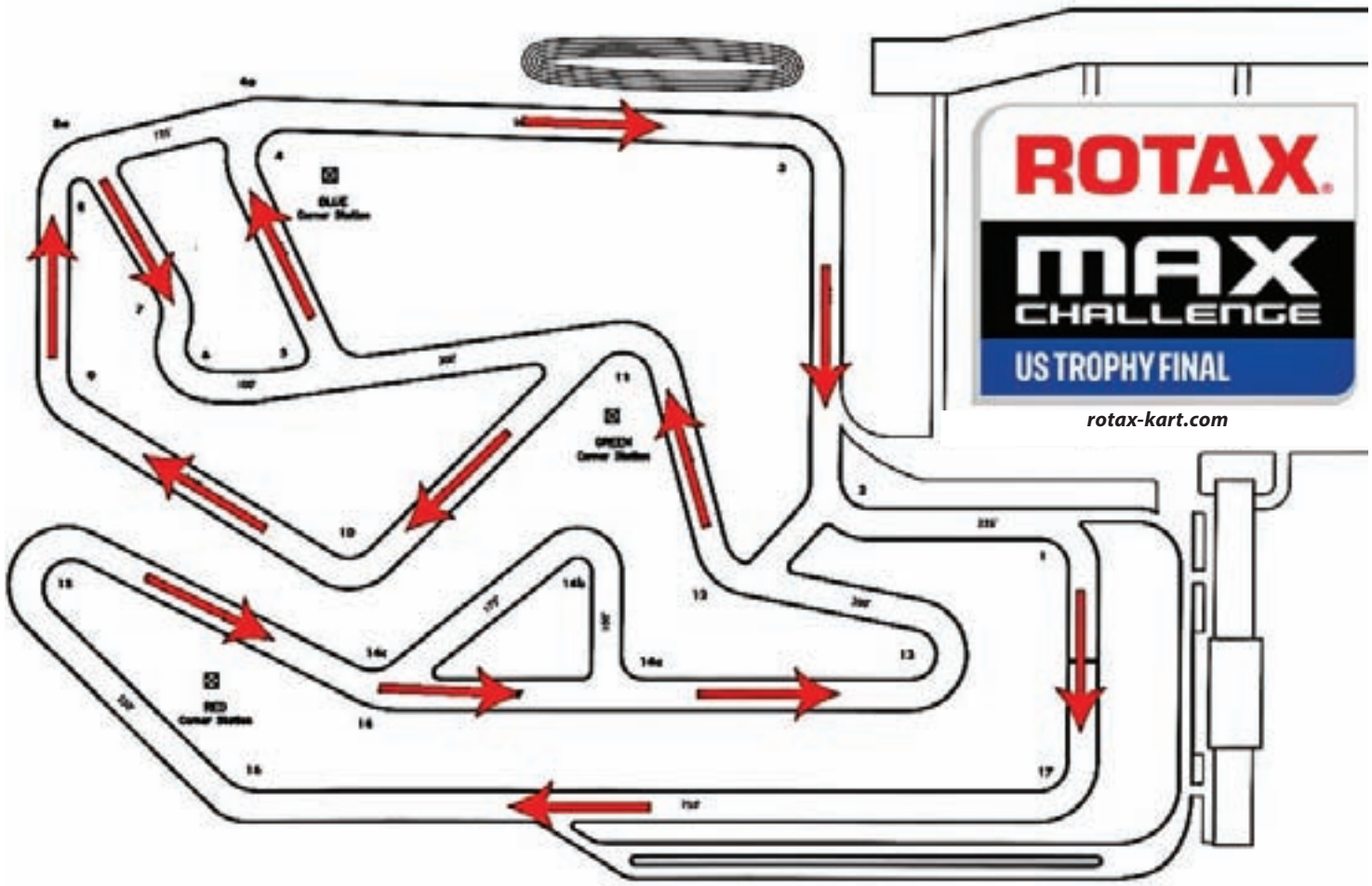
Once nationals were over, the boys were right back on the track, with Gio racing at the Phoenix Kart Race Associates (PKRA) Winter Series #1 Race in Glendale where he finished first. Cooper competed in the Rok Cup USA in Las Vegas in November, before heading to the World Finals.

Although there are risks within this sport, there are also myriad benefits. Gio's mom, Melissa, explained that he's learning real-world skills on and off the track.

"Racing is physical and mental agility; moving on from a crash or a bad start into the next race is important. Racing has taught him how to deal with what life will be like when he's older and coping skills that will take him through his eventual career," she said. "But sometimes it can be stressful knowing he's going so fast, mere inches off the ground, with no seatbelt."

Gio's dad had this to say:

"I am grateful that Gio has found a sport he is passionate about. It's great to see him interact with his friends and competitors, and that the internet takes a back seat to racing," George said. "It gets rough out there, especially with international kids racing, but Gio handles himself in a very confident, humble and kind manner."



The New Castle Motorsports Park located in New Castle, Indiana. The track has 50 different configurations. The US Trophy Finals used this one-mile layout.

After the finals, Cooper will move to the senior division and race in national, regional and international races. Gio will remain in the junior max division and continue running in national and regional races while beginning international courses.

"If you're looking to join the race, first of all, know you can do it," George said. "We found karting and knew nothing of the motorsports world. Get involved with your local tracks, indoor and outdoor. Ask questions. Young drivers are the future of the sport. If you have the passion for it, go for it."



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Local senior named to Ticktocker Advisory Council



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYN DAY

Xavier Prep senior Maryn Day has been involved with the National Charity League since seventh grade.

By Rachael Bouley

You may be asking yourself: what's a ticktocker? No, it's not someone involved with the app. It's not a fun nickname for a clock. It's an advisory council formed by the National Charity League (NCL) and overseen by Xavier Prep senior Maryn Day.

Maryn has been involved with NCL since seventh grade and was selected to join the Advisory Council this fall.

Ticktockers are the youngest members of the league, a philanthropy program for mothers and daughters in grades 7-12. The national nonprofit has over 295 chapters in 32 states, including ten local branches across the Valley.

Maryn's passion for making a difference goes back to her elementary school years in Girl Scouts. Many of her fellow troop members joined the NCL, and she was inspired to do the same.

"I have always loved charitable work, and this presented a unique opportunity to explore new charities with a group of girls and our mothers," Maryn said.

However, she noticed a gap between activities and the challenges facing the younger girls, which inspired her to apply for a national role.

"It allows me to influence change on a broader scale," she explained. "With the council, I have been working with others to create a core curriculum that embraces inclusion and ensures that all voices are heard. Since we all live in different states, we meet every other week to discuss each pillar of the NCL curriculum and collaborate on how they could be updated to be more relevant."

Working with Ticktockers is a welcome experience for Maryn, who says their main focuses are philanthropy and female leadership. They have a calendar of volunteer opportunities to choose from as each grade level meets monthly to discuss topics like driver safety, finance, nutrition and mental health.

Getting the opportunity to volunteer at many different charities helps NCL participants find philanthropies they are passionate about, too.

"I plan on majoring in neuroscience and going to medical school to eventually become a pediatric neurologist," Maryn said. "I became passionate about this through some of the work I have done with children's charities over the years."

She has taken advantage of leadership and public speaking opportunities. Maryn believes the practical skills learned through league activities allows them to impact their community work significantly.

She remembers one of her first volunteer shifts with the league, volunteering at a NourishPHX holiday gift drive where most families only spoke Spanish.

"As soon as the volunteer organizers learned I spoke Spanish, I was whisked away to translate. The organizers needed to understand what the parents were asking," Maryn recalled. "It was so impactful for me to see how I can help the underserved in my community and step into a leadership role, which NCL has certainly prepared me for."

She hopes more mothers and daughters get involved in the league, a bonding experience where they can meet new friends while supporting their communities.

"Leading and representing our chapter has been very fulfilling for me and has also allowed me to give back to others less fortunate," she added.

"Our goal is to make sure that the lessons taught in NCL apply to modern girls so they can take these experiences with them into their future lives. It has been amazing to see how we can help shape the organization. I can bring so many ideas that the other members of the Advisory Council share to improve my chapter."

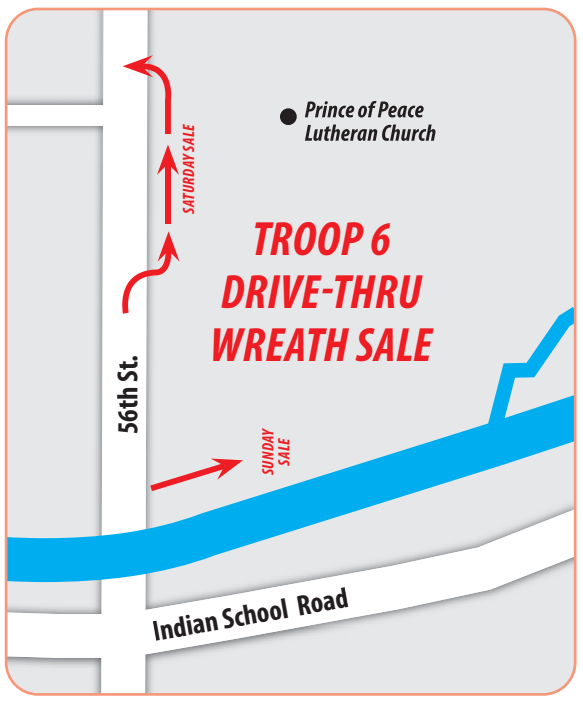
nationalcharityleague.org



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If you're looking for a place off the beaten path to do some shopping and enjoy some down-home holiday spirit, head to Miami, Arizona. About an hour and a half from downtown Phoenix, Miami is a classic Western copper boomtown with a rich mining and ranching history.



Robin's Adventures

BY ROBIN SEWELL

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

Miami is filled with small-town charm, dotted with businesses and eateries, nearly all of which are family owned and have been around for years. The big pink house on Gibson Street is one of those quaint and unique places. A couple of blocks off downtown Sullivan Street, this family home is filled with cherished memories and hometown pride.

Lisa and Denise Zaragosa of My Mom's House DZynes is a mom-and-daughter crafting duo behind many projects sold here. They make everything from personalized shirts, hats, candles, bath salts and bath balms. Another sister bakes delicious treats, and the nephews tie dye socks and make crayons and lip gloss.

However, it's not just a family thing: it's a Miami thing. Ninety-five percent of the items sold here are made right in town. There's no real rhyme or reason for what they sell. It comes down to what the residents want to make.

Another family-owned business is Guayo's El Rey.



Bullion Plaza Elementary is a school-turned-museum that is also on the National Register of Historic Places.



Greg and Dorine Esparza own the Guayo's El Rey Café, which was opened by Greg's Aunt Josephine in 1938.

Greg and Dorine Esparza are the owners, but Greg's Aunt Josephine opened the restaurant in 1938. Many would go so far as saying Guayo's El Rey is the reason Miami is on the map.

It's still located on Sullivan Street, and it's the place to eat, gather and celebrate. Customers come here for birthdays, engagements, family reunions and graduations. Or perhaps, they are just looking for a place that feels like home.

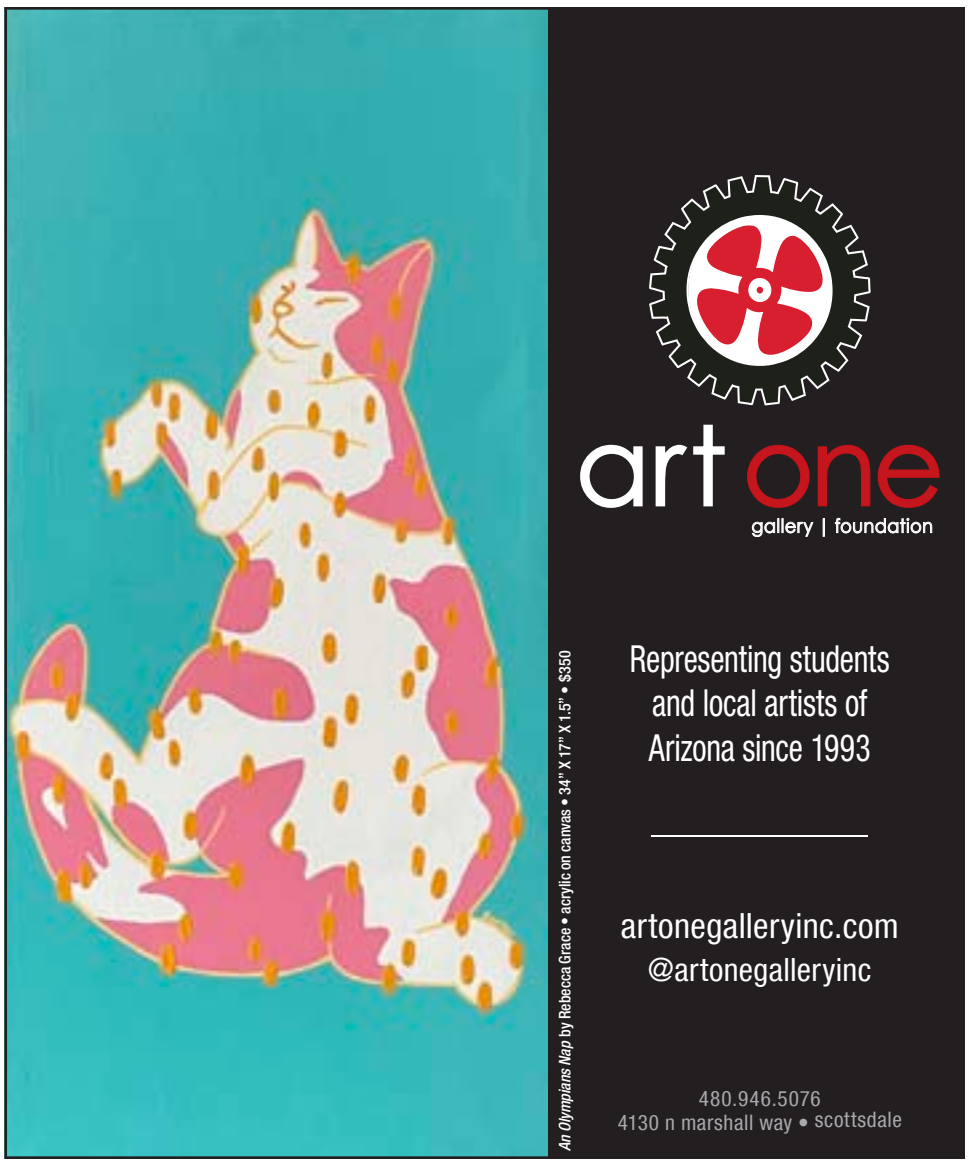
Greg and Dorine have also stayed true to Aunt Josephine's recipes, which have stood the test of time and kept the customers returning. Some of the most popular dishes are the green chili plate, the red chili burro enchilada, the chimichangas, albondigas soup and Menudo. Locals say you can taste the tradition, the love for the food and love for serving people.

Bullion Plaza Elementary School, a monument in Miami, opened nearly a century ago. The beautiful neo-classic building was designed by famous Southwest architect Henry C. Troust and was considered a first-class institution. Bullion Plaza is a place to learn if you are looking for some history.

Now on the Register of Historic Places, the former school-turned-cultural center and museum are dedicated to the area's rich history and Mexican heritage. They also celebrate Native American culture, from the Hohokam to the Salado and the Apache. Most of the artifacts, baskets and photographs are local and regional.

Many mining history and exhibits reflect Arizona's more recent political past, like Governor Rose Mofford, who was born in Globe/Miami.

This town is a hidden gem, filled with artists and makers that add some extra color and sound to an already vibrant community.







Christmas Traditions

Part of the holiday season means celebrating yearly family traditions, so Arcadia News reached out to the neighborhood and asked them to share some of theirs – here's what they had to say!

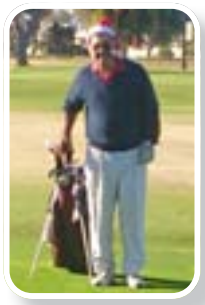


Antonella, Avianna and Angeles Klein put a Christmas tree out in the neighborhood for passersby to decorate. "Each day it's so exciting to see what our neighbors add. The kids draw and create ornaments and even leave special ones that touch our hearts," Angeles said.

"I am 100 percent Polish. My Christmas mornings – as a child and now – are: homemade apple fritters, everyone sitting around the kitchen table peeling and slicing apples. Polish kielbasa from the butcher, not the grocer – the best I've found in Phoenix is Schreiner's. My whole family loves it!" Chris "Skalski" Hain said.

"Our holiday tradition (top photo) for the last 15 years is to go to Maui and enjoy Christmas in the islands," Heidi Staudenmaier said.

"We used to 'Griswold' my house with my dad and now I continue the tradition. My family throws a Christmas party where everyone can wear their best Christmas attire," Christie Demas Crossley said.



"After my dad passed away in 2008, my mom and I established a tradition of playing Coronado Golf Course on Christmas Day. It's our version of the 'Santa Claus Open.' Mom played until two years ago when she was 92. She's still going and serves as my gallery," Kevin Riley said.

"I have enjoyed the same traditions for 45 years. My parents live just down the road, so on Christmas Eve, we pack up the car with our grown children and presents and spend the night. We leave cookies out for Santa. Christmas morning, we wait while my dad 'checks to see if Santa came.' We eat pull-apart sweet rolls each year, open presents, then sit down to egg casserole before preparing Christmas dinner, including the same traditional foods my grandmothers made," Michelle Ganz said.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF PHOENIX ART BATTLE

Each of these pieces were created in under 20 minutes.

READY, SET, PAINT

Phoenix hotel hosts nationally-known art competition

By Rachael Bouley

In November, an action-packed art competition took over FOUND:RE Hotel in downtown Phoenix, bringing the community together to cheer on local artists as they got their creative juices flowing.

The 2022 Art Battle Phoenix showcased speed painting with 12 talented artists participating in a live art tournament.

While the event isn't new to Phoenix, this is the first time FOUND:RE Hotel hosted the competition, connecting guests to the city's impressive arts and culture. The competition was an opportunity to remind the audience that art is for everyone, according to Michele Rykalsky, marketing director of FOUND:RE Hotel.

"We want the community, as well as guests, to feel the vibrancy of the art scene and to see the immense talent that Phoenix has to offer," Rykalsky said. "This event is important to the community because it brings people together despite any artistic background."

Art Battle Phoenix is part of a series of tournaments across the world. It originated in New York City in 2001 as a way for artists to compete in a friendly environment and let the audience decide their champions.

The program has grown considerably since then through collaborations with MTV and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Some Art Battle creators even tour across the country and internationally, displaying their skills for a wider audience.

"We found the event from a Seattle-based battle and thought Arizona artists deserved a bit of the spotlight," Rykalsky explained.

Designed to inspire appreciation for the arts, the fast-paced tournament format included two rounds of six artists. Eleven of the 12 artists were pre-selected, with one wild card name pulled from a hat. The competition was open to all styles and levels of experience, as interested artists only needed to register and provide a few sample photos.

After an appearance by a past Art Battle champion from Arizona to open the night, the battle began. Competitors were given basic acrylic paints and could bring their supplies, like spray paints and pastels. In each round, the artists had 20 minutes to create artwork on any subject they chose.

Despite the challenge, the talented artists delivered, impressing a healthy crowd of over 100 people with their speed and creativity. At the end of each round, the audience voted for their favorite artwork via phone. The top two advanced to a third and final round to compete for the championship, also decided by audience vote.

Bjorn Bengtsson and Chris Vena made it through the first round and were joined by round two finalists Jody Livingston and Douglas Weber. Vena was crowned the overall winner, taking home a cash prize, while Livingston was runner-up.

Not only did the audience have the important task of deciding on a winner, but they also got to bid on their favorite works of art, available for sale through an auction. All artwork was sold throughout the night, a testament to the artists' talent and community support.

"The highlight was experiencing the community's creativity and seeing paintings come to life in 20 minutes or less," Rykalsky said. "The audience enjoyed walking around the easels and seeing the artists' work in real-time. The artists enjoyed the experience and energy the guests brought to their work."

artbattle.com

Fields of Fun makes its debut at AZ Children's Business Fair

By Jennifer Marshall

On a cool Saturday morning in November, Arcadia kids of all ages made their way to the AZ Children's Business Fair, held at Arcadia Park on 56th St. and Indian School Road. This year, 100 youngsters had the chance to turn their creative ideas into a reality.

The annual event is hosted by New Learning Ventures, the Acton Academy, Phoenix Modern, and the Acton School of Business, along with support from area residents and businesses.

According to the AZ Children's Business Fair website, "Kids develop a brand, create a product or service, build a marketing strategy and then open for customers at a one-day marketplace. Visitors observe the opportunity for children to launch their startup business."

Two of Arcadia's young residents joined this year and showcased their business. Nine-year-old Skyler and his sister, six-year-old Elle, named their business Fields of Fun to pay homage to their last name.

"We wanted to make business products people would have fun buying," Skyler said. "This is the first year for our business, but I have lots of experience selling because I used to have a stand by my old house where I could sell cookies, lemonade and painted rocks."




PHOTOS: TERRI FIELDS

Elle Fields

Skyler Fields

Skyler said he used to dance on the sidewalk by the stand, which got people's attention, so they would stop to buy his products.

The duo currently had two distinct product lines offered to shoppers at the November event. The first, called Calm Bottles, are bottles that customers hold when they feel sad, mad, anxious or upset, and when they shake or turn these bottles, they can watch the Calm Bottle and instantly feel more relaxed. These recycled water bottles contain a mixture of food coloring, glitter and dice that mingle in the solution.

They also make two food items: Marvelous Marshmallows and Tasty Necklaces.

"Our food is safe because we wash our hands before making it," Skyler said. "We work on a clean surface and wrap the food in plastic as soon as it's finished. Marvelous Marshmallows, which are marshmallows on a stick, are decorated and taste so good, and Tasty Necklaces are fun to wear and can be a great snack, too."

In deciding what to make, the pair did many hours of brainstorming with their Grandma Terri.

"We wanted products that would look and taste wonderful, wouldn't be too hard to make and wouldn't be like everyone else's," Skyler said. "We made samples of different things, and we liked these the best. We were excited to make a lot of money and make people happy with our products."

"I'm so proud of my grandchildren's creativity and entrepreneurial spirit," Terri said. "It was very exciting to cheer them on at the fair. They did a great job, and they learned so much."

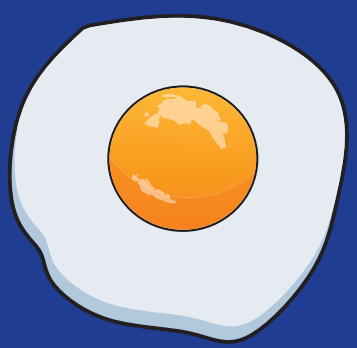
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**SOURCE ARMLS AUG-NOV 2022*



Sage Morganstern, Raya Christiansen, Kimberly Mayorga, Emily Dodd and Mackenzie Yates participated in Club Rush at the beginning of the year to gain more members for Arcadia High's Battered Suitcases Club.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AHS AND VERITAS PREP



The Afternoon Tea Club at Veritas Prep allows student to experience the popular midday ritual, complete with a monthly theme, finger sandwiches, desserts and teas for the season.

Area schools offer innovative clubs to help students thrive

By Luke Chatham and Mallory Gleich

From Afternoon Tea to World Drumming, school clubs have come a long way from the days of Glee Club and Speech & Debate. New clubs of all kinds are formed each year, offering students opportunities to open their world outside of the classroom. We asked some of our area schools to chime in with some of their unique club offerings.

ARCADIA HIGH

The word "suitcase" is usually synonymous with travel, and that's what Arcadia High's Battered Suitcases Club focuses on. Specifically, travel to London.

During spring break, the group flies overseas to experience and learn firsthand about different famous writers and professionals in the art industry. This year, the club has added a second destination: Ireland.

"We go to learn about European writers, compare them to American writers and get a good understanding of where they came from, their culture, and all the stuff that affects their writing and their style of literature," President Raya Christiansen said.

During the trip, the group visits museums that showcase the writers and important monuments mentioned in their books. The club has 41 members signed up and is already preparing the itinerary.

Arcadia also has a club for musicians. The Rock'N'Roll Club was formed after a student from the music program wanted the chance to enjoy music without the obligation of class limitations.

Instructor Richard Maxwell said that students who join attend the once-a-week meetings to discuss different musical genres and aspects.

"It is designed to be a much more casual experience," Maxwell said.

Members enjoy their passion in an environment that doesn't come with the obligation of assignments and grades. One activity focuses on taking different genres of music and critiquing them. One recent meeting had the students listening to the "best and worst Halloween songs."

INGLESIDE

Stephanie Hall and Michaela Rolls started Ingleside's Dungeons and Dragons Club (DnD) together earlier this year and were recently joined by teacher Kevin Chang.

"We have an active membership of 6-10 kids most weeks, but on our busiest day, we saw up to 15 students join," Rolls said.

Instructors run separate campaigns of the massive role-playing game for small groups of members. Ms. Hall's campaign is a dungeon-crawling mission from the publishers of DnD, Ms. Roll's campaign is an investigation into a crime syndicate, and Mr. Chang's is a story he wrote himself.

"The members have the most fun when they get to enter combat during their campaigns. They like thinking about which spell works best in the situation or which weapon they should use based on where their character and the enemy characters are. They also love celebrating when they are the ones to finish a fight," Rolls said.

She explained that DnD is an excellent exercise in critical thinking and thinking outside the box.

"It also can help strengthen basic math skills as players keep track of how many spells they can use, what their health is and how much damage they do during combat," Rolls said.

Also available at Ingleside is the Craft Time Club, which Mrs. Bollhoffer started.

"I started the club with a few of my students," she said. "We enjoyed making things for projects in class, so I wanted to create a place where that creativity could flourish."

Around 17 members create everything from bracelets to blankets. Bollhoffer said it's a great way for members to learn new skills and designs.

"Plus, the students love having time to hang out with their friends and create what they want," she said.

Spanish teacher Gia Perrone wanted to create a yoga class for students but found it wasn't the right time. Instead, she starts class off with a yoga session.

"I teach 170 students, and some of them know I teach yoga and asked if we could incorporate it," Perrone said. "We practice a simple flow and discuss ways breathing can help us with school and emotions."

She said students enjoy fun postures like headstands, crow and Shavasana the most.

TAVAN

Tavan houses a "World Drumming Club" headed by music instructor Joel Brown.

The group of third through fifth-grade students practices different compositions, from African drumming to boomwhackers (lightweight, hollow, plastic tubes tuned to a musical pitch by length). The club seeks to learn and understand different cultures and histories that correlate with the drums.

Brown said the meetings help build relationships with the students and provide them with a place to relax within school walls.

"While a teacher's job is to teach and help the kids learn, the other part of our job is to build those relationships," Brown said. "The club allows us to learn about different cultures."

VERITAS PREP

Veritas' DnD Club gained massive popularity after a silent auction two years ago. Fourth-grade teacher Trevor Guyette hosted a DnD party, and after finding that many students wanted to join, the club was formed.

"The party was a big success. Some people wanted to play but couldn't get in because of the limited seats, so we used that to make the case that we should start a club," Guyette said.

This year, 20 students are participating. The club meets Tuesday afternoons to "run a different adventure each week."

Guyette said that the club is almost like a class in that the teachers share information with the members and help them learn different aspects of the game. Students can be creative in their methods and even have weekend parties that sometimes host other clubs.

Another unique group at Veritas is the Afternoon Tea Club.

"Whenever my family travels, we seek out places to have afternoon tea, so I came up with a plan where students could learn about etiquette, history and literature while enjoying the relaxing ritual," Club instructor Ms. Grimes said.

Sixteen students get together once a month for a themed tea: December is "holiday," January is "travel." Each meeting features different sandwiches, desserts and teas for the season.

"The students start out being guests, but as the year progresses, they will learn how to host. Since questions about literature and history come up naturally in conversation, the kids don't realize they are also learning about that aspect," Grimes said.

Their first meeting was themed around the origins of afternoon tea and how it is sometimes (incorrectly) referred to as "high tea," according to the instructor.

Grimes said that the members enjoy using china and cloth napkins.

"My favorite part of the initial meeting was the gasps of excitement when they walked in and saw what a real afternoon tea entailed," she said. "It's a lot of work to put together, but the point is to relax and wind down."

In the spring, the group will help put everything together and learn how to host a tea.

"At the heart of etiquette is service to others, and there seem to be some misconceptions about afternoon tea: Are fancy hats necessary? No. Must we stick our pinkies out? No. I wanted to convey that a little formality can be fun," Grimes explained.

In the future, the club hopes to have a field trip to an actual tea room.

"Even if we aren't able to, the club members will have learned that, as Henry James said, 'there are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea,'" Grimes said.

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New beer hall marks eighth eatery for Phoenix brothers

By Rachael Bouley

After the success of their Gadzooks Enchiladas & Soup chain, Phoenix brothers Aaron and Jared Pool are excited to open their new venture this winter. The duo has been in business together for nearly a decade and are preparing to open their latest establishment: a beer hall in Park Central called The Green Woodpecker.

"Living in that area, we felt like there was a lack of places to sit outside and enjoy a beer in a nice space," Aaron said. "Woodpecker is different from a traditional beer hall in that we will do some fun things with our limited food menu."

The brothers, already known for their southwest-style cuisine, will offer al pastor tacos daily with fresh yellow corn tortillas from a local partner. Vegan maitake mushroom tacos and complimentary chips and salsa will also be part of Woodpecker's spin on traditional bar food like pretzels and peanuts.

The business will continue to be a family affair, something the siblings are excited about as they've successfully worked together since opening the first Gadzooks location in 2013.

"The beer menu is being crafted by our brother Drew, who is one of the owners of Wren House Brewing Company in Phoenix," Aaron said. "He's a beer geek, and the menu will continually rotate on what he deems beer in its best style."

Refreshing drinks aren't the only thing that locals can look forward to at The Green Woodpecker. The hall will feature carrot cake and other desserts from Mama Linda's Bakeshop, which is owned by their mother.

The combination of beer and carrot cake is a touching tribute to the brothers' source of inspiration for their restaurant business dreams.

"Mama Linda's is always an inspiring place," Aaron explained. "It goes back to the start of it all at Gadzooks. Mama Linda's is an incubator of ideas we want to do with food. We can test recipes there and talk about dishes. It is also a place we want to be, where she is the neighborhood bakeshop. That's the vibe we would like Woodpecker to be."

Although there aren't plans for a grand opening just yet, the Pools look forward to a soft opening before eventually inviting the midtown neighborhoods to come to see what they are all about.

"The best part about being in business with family is accountability and dependability," Aaron said. "We know everyone is going to show up and do great work. Our parents' work ethic was a fundamental principle for us."

Woodpecker will mark their eighth business, with five Gadzooks already open and one more on the way. They also have Poolboy Taco Shop in the works. It's all made possible by the never-ending support of their family, friends and the community.

thegreenwoodpecker.com



Jared Pool



Aaron Pool



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‘Cats for hire’ are the new pest control

By Luke Chatham

Not all cats can be domesticated. Some felines, including many feral cats rescued by the Arizona Humane Society (AHS), are simply not suited for life indoors.

To help those, AHS created the “Working Cats” program, which is dedicated to helping them find a new way of life while helping the environment through pest control.

“This is a great way to save the lives of cats who wouldn’t quite thrive in an indoor environment,” Kelsey Dickerson, spokesperson for the AZ Humane Society, said.

While traditional pest control methods rely on poisonous chemicals and inhumane traps, the Working Cats program uses rescued cats to act as “pest control” by searching out bugs and smaller animals in places like bars, barns, warehouses, workshops, greenhouses and sheds where chemicals could affect the location.

The cats are taken in pairs to their “jobs” and undergo a training program to get acclimated to their new home. They are cared for by the owner of the location.

“It is a great alternative for cats who wouldn’t be quite right for adoption,” Dickerson said.

Laura Worthington lives in Dragoon Mountain Ranch in Saint David, about 65 miles southeast of Tucson. She employs Moon, Grayson and Sherman to help with the rodent population.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ARIZONA HUMANE SOCIETY



Nala, one of Arizona Humane Society’s working cats, in their warehouse.



Simba works hard keeping the AHS warehouse free of pests.

“When we first moved here, we were woken up at night by the sound of rats scurrying around inside the walls. We would find their nests in our vehicles, and various items chewed up and destroyed. We’d set traps for them, but it was ineffective and difficult to deal with,” Worthington said. “A neighbor suggested we hire some working cats to handle the problem.”

The trio came to the Humane Society as a group from a previous home. They had likely spent most of their lives living outdoors without much interaction with people.

Within days of their arrival to the ranch, the family noticed a decrease in the rodent population – apparently, just the scent of cats deters rodents’ presence.

“They are healthy, beautiful cats, who love to live out here, free to come and go as they please. We provide them with a safe and comfortable place to live, outdoor shelter, access to our garage with lots of cat beds,” Worthington said, “we feed them and keep dry food and fresh water available to them at all times, and in return, they handle the rodent population!”

The “cats for hire” are not used to being in a home with other people. Some are rescued from traumatizing home situations. AHS places them in adoption to be cared for while also “working.”

“They thrive while using their instincts to hunt and be indoors and outdoors, or be in a larger space than what a home environment would provide,” Dickerson said.

This natural method of pest control allows businesses that adopt cats to reduce the pest and rodent population in their buildings and surrounding areas and keep it free of chemicals that can affect the animal population.

Poisonous pesticides used on rodents and other pests have already made their way up the food chain, affecting animals like coyotes, bobcats and raptors who prey on them.

Using the natural hunting skills of cats in the program allows for a more environmentally-friendly method of getting rid of pests in the workplace. The Working Cats program has been around since 2014 and continues to thrive as one of AHS’s best rescue programs.

So far this year, the organization has placed 200 cats in business across Arizona, where they work in pest control and get food, water, and shelter as “payment.”

“There aren’t many shelters that offer this alternative for kitties to have an outlet that they normally wouldn’t,” Dickerson said. “Being able to have someone care for them, in an environment they’re comfortable with, while also providing a service to our community is a great way to save hundreds of lives that normally wouldn’t be able to be saved.”

These furry felines have a chance to live their lives in a way that benefits them and many businesses. And just like working from home has become a new normal for many of us, these cats get to do it every day!

azhumane.org

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Crew: not just a sport, but a brother – and sister – hood

By Jennifer Marshall

Did you know that rowing (or crew, as it's known in the United States) for sport began in 1828?

Or that rowing was the first intercollegiate sport held in the U.S.? Harvard and Yale competed in the first race in 1858, and since then, it's become a tradition at many universities and high schools around the country. At Brophy and Xavier Prep, crew is a year-round activity that welcomes students to participate in the fall and winter seasons.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIM SEELEY

Xavier's crew team at the USRowing Southwest Youth Championship in California.

XAVIER

The Xavier Gators are working hard this season. Their team practices on Tempe Town Lake four times a week for three and a half hours, including two morning sessions and one on Saturday. These are all to work on technique and speed. Teammates also spend considerable hours in the gym working out and using the erg machine.

"The sport is an all-body sport that requires well-conditioned athletes to be competitive," Board President David Hertzberg said. "Physically, height is an advantage, but grit, dedication and overall athleticism are the primary determining factors to an athlete's success."

According to Hertzberg, the sport takes place throughout the year, and regattas usually require travel.

"The athletes are very dedicated to the success of their team and give a lot of time to it," he said.

During the 2019 season – and before – many of their athletes placed at nationals, according to Hertzberg. This year, they're hoping to return to those standards and place at regionals and nationals. Ultimately, the team is working on getting better, stronger and more competitive.

"My favorite part about rowing is the sisterhood it fosters along the way. We nurture lifelong relationships as we find the strength in many but the power of one. Our team works on and off the water constantly providing one another support," senior Elyse Gutierrez said.

The Gators participated in the Spooky Sprints at Tempe Town Lake on October 29 with Tempe Town Lake Rowing, the Tempe Junior Crew and Brophy Crew. On December 4, they'll participate in the Christmas Regatta in Long Beach, California.

BROPHY

"Matches are called regattas," Head Coach Peter Cannia said, "and regattas are composed of several events based on boat classification. Each crew races the standard international Olympic distance of 2000 meters (a little over 1.2 miles) on a buoyed course. The first crew across the finish line wins."

Cannia explained that "boat classifications are based on crew size in multiples of two. There are singles, doubles, quads and eights – this includes a coxswain (the steersman of the boat) for a total of nine."

Brophy's 40-man rowing team practices in the afternoon on Tempe Town Lake, where their workouts can range from one-minute sprints to 30-minute drills. In the morning, before classes start, the athletes do morning conditioning exercises using equipment like the erg – also known as a rowing machine.

"Rowing requires a very disciplined athlete," Cannia said. "Especially in the larger crewed boats. Students who succeed in this sport are disciplined and show attention to detail. Managing school and our practice schedule effectively take good time management skills and a strong work ethic to push themselves through the workouts."

"My favorite part about Brophy rowing is that we are a family. We rowers are brothers, and I wouldn't trade being a part of this team for anything. Erg and sprint pieces hurt pretty badly, though," sophomore Jack Gallagher said.

Despite the fun and comradeship between the rowers, their ultimate goal is to win at the national championship regatta, which is held each year.

"Because we are a relatively smaller team compared to some of our California competitors, we don't win many point trophies," Cannia said. "However, Brophy crew has a history of winning medals in our southwestern region and national level."

Last spring, the Broncos had two boats in the under-17 age category win medals at the southwest regional championship, which includes Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah.

"My favorite part of rowing is competing with my brothers. We have to be so in sync that we become the same person. We work, sweat and bleed together. These boys are family," senior captain Stevan Trbovic said.

In the fall, Ian O'Riley, Brophy's Under-17 single sculler, took third place in his division and eighth overall. The Under-17 double entry (Will Carter and Hayden Penn) finished in the top 20 at the Head of the Charles River Regatta in Boston.

"The Head of the Charles is arguably one of the world's most prestigious international rowing events, and our rowers represented Arizona spectacularly," Cannia said. "The U.S. Youth National Championships happen in June, but we have a strong team this year and are working toward another invitation."

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Wine, nosh, rock 'n' roll

By Melissa Hirschl

One could say that Chris French and Pat Jasmin know a lot about wine with both of them having been in the industry for a combined 20+ years. So when they decided to open a business together, they knew that drink would be the focus. Far Away Wine and Provisions, located at 32nd St. and Indian School Road, recently celebrated its first anniversary.

The entrepreneurial "partners-in-wine" met while working at Valley of the Sun Fine Wine distributors. They bonded over their shared vision of opening a unique wine bar.

"We started traveling to big cities and wondered why Phoenix didn't have many wine bars," Chris said. They continued their travels, visiting wineries in California, Oregon and France to deepen their knowledge.

"While we were in France – for a few weeks – we found we could tolerate each other," Chris laughed. "That's how we knew we could run a business together."

Far Away is a mecca for wine enthusiasts who crave a cozy atmosphere and a dazzling selection of 400 local and international wines. Arizona, California, Oregon, New Mexico, Italy, Spain, Portugal and the Canary Islands are just a sampling of the regions showcased.



Chris French and Pat Jasmin

The bottles dutifully stand at attention along an entire wall. For those who choose to linger, the menu includes snacks like artisan cheese, meat, seafood tins of mussels and tuna, salads, sandwiches, and savory desserts such as chive cheesecake from Pie Snob.

The retail area is also chock full of temptations. Patrons can purchase olive oils and other condiments, wine glasses, beer, champagne and gourmet food items such as tuna pate and Italian grilled seabass.

Chris and Pat's vision really came to life in the form of an extensive, eclectic collection of vintage records that they happily play upon request. Fifties-style furniture, fringe, rock and roll concert posters and even a "velvet" Elvis round out the funky and intimate ambiance.

The success of Far Away correlates to the owner's depth of knowledge of fine wine, restaurant ownership and retail distribution. A fine wine and spirits wholesaler, Chris has been in the business since 1996. He was steeped in the food industry because his dad enjoyed cooking for many years.

"After a long career in the computer world, he went to culinary school and became the chef for the Dial Corporation," Chris said.

Pat has been in every facet of the business, from owning a wine brokerage company to running the food and beverage department at the Sanctuary Resort for five years.

Since opening, the duo has been revving the engine of Far Away by continually adding to the inventory and developing imaginative new provisions. An example is "Chive Talking," a savory chive cheesecake drizzled with lavender red-chili honey.

"Sometimes my husband and I order by the glass, and other times we buy a bottle. Pat is amazing. She can always sense my mood and provides the right wine," Patron Natalie Lahr said.

From the Archives

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Vol. 23 No. 9 AWARD WINNING NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS SINCE 1993 December 2015

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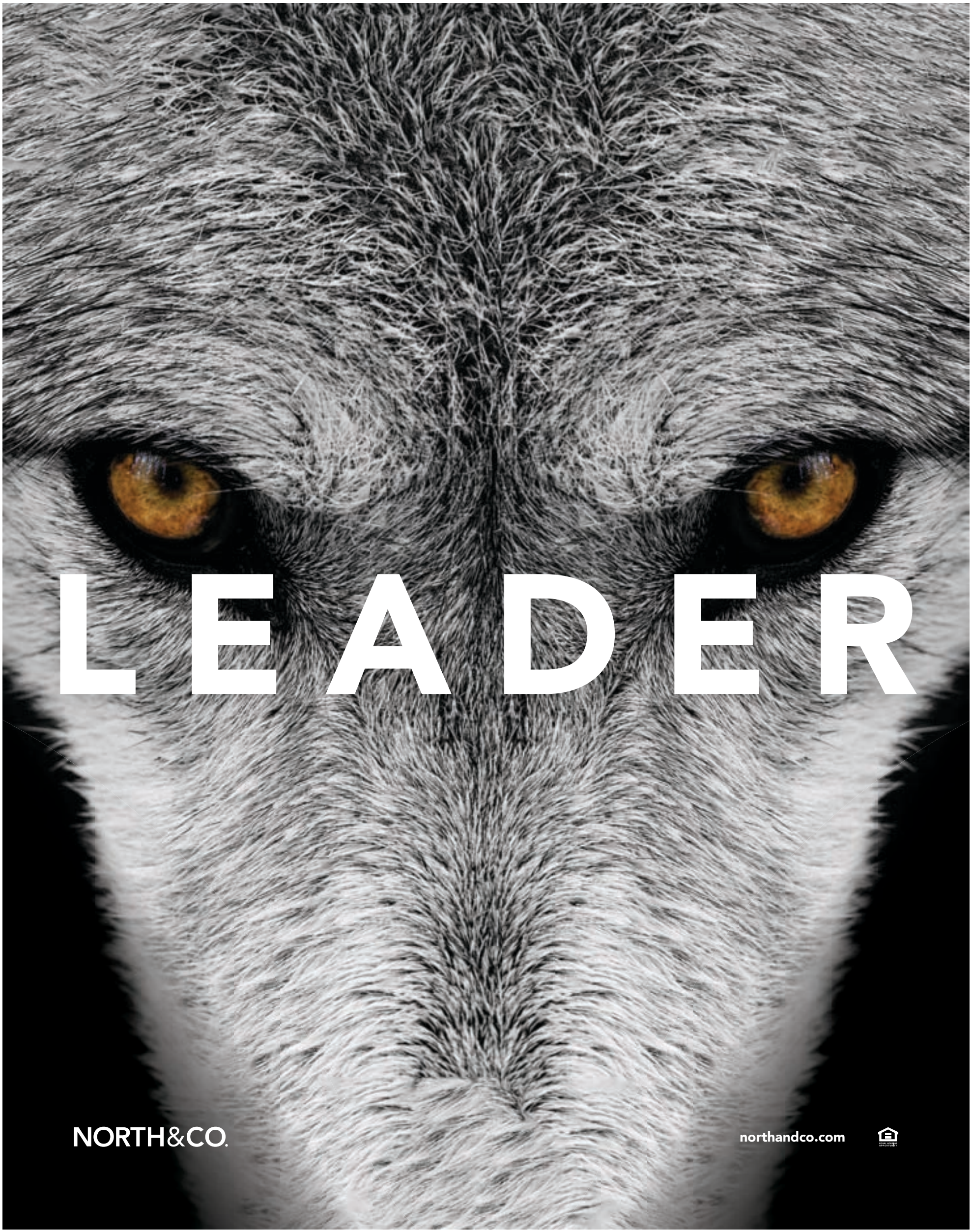


Happy Holidays from all of us at *Arcadia News* (and Patrick and Zack Cheke).

PAGE 20	PAGE 29	PAGE 55
Camelback High students create a drive to replenish the food bank and curb local hunger.	This Hanukkah prepare a three-course feast inspired by the Festival of Lights.	Author, advocate and activist Linda Hirshman to attend Book Club on December 10.

Happy Holidays from all of us at Arcadia News (and a younger Patrick and Zack Cheke)!

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DID YOU KNOW? GINGERBREAD HOUSES

HOW LARGE?

39,201.8 cu. ft.



In 2013, Texas A&M Traditions Club in Bryan, Texas, built the largest gingerbread house in the world for charity. The house was 39,201.8 cubic feet, 60 feet long, 42 feet wide, and 10 feet tall. The home was so big that it could house a family of five and boasted 35,823,400 calories. – guinnessworldrecords.com

HOW MANY?

1,251



The largest gingerbread village consisted of 1,251 buildings. It was constructed by Jon Lovitch and displayed at the New York Hall of Science in Corona, New York on January 6, 2017. At press time, Lovitch is planning to make 1,500 houses to break his own record. – timeout.com

HOW MUCH?

$1.2M



Bailey's Fine Jewelry created a gingerbread house worth $1.2 million, encrusted with nearly 94 carats worth of diamonds and 155 pearls. – abc11.com

HOW LONG?

3,451 feet



The longest gingerbread was 3,451 feet long and was achieved by Stefan Koch and Konrad Friedmann in Ludwigsburg, Germany, on December 18, 2009. The gingerbread was 50 cm wide and was made from single plates of gingerbread, which were glued together with a mixture of icing sugar, water and lemon juice to form one piece. – guinnessworldrecords.com



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DID YOU KNOW? GINGERBREAD HOUSES

GINGERBREAD HOUSE FACTS – justfunfacts.com

Ginger is a plant native to India and China which is prized throughout the world for its culinary and medicinal uses.

To be considered gingerbread, the recipe must feature ginger as a dominant flavor and use either honey or molasses to add sweetness.

Ginger's use in cakes can be traced back to the 11th century when monks began experimenting with spice.

Gingerbread can take forms ranging from soft loaves to the hard biscuits we use for gingerbread houses.



Shakespeare mentioned gingerbread in his play Love's Labors Lost: "An I had but one penny in the world, thou shouldst have it to buy gingerbread."

Legend has it that King Hans of Sweden received a prescription from a doctor to eat gingerbread to cure depression.

The heaviest gingerbread man on record weighed 1,435 pounds and was built at an IKEA store in Oslo, Norway, in 2009.

Gingerbread houses can be traced back to ancient Greece and Egypt.

The gingerbread man can be traced back to the 1800s.

The popularity of gingerbread houses skyrocketed in Germany after the Brothers Grimm published "Hansel and Gretel."

Gingerbread houses are prepared as a part of the Saint Lucy's Day celebration in Sweden.

The Pepperkakebyen (Norwegian for "the gingerbread village") has been made of gingerbread houses by the people of Bergen, Norway, since 1991.

There is a Swedish tradition in which people use gingerbread to make a wish.

Unmarried women in England would often eat gingerbread men for good luck in meeting a husband.

The word "gingerbread" comes from the Old French "gigembras," which means "gingered food."

Nuremburg, Germany has the title of "Gingerbread Capital of the World."

WORD SEARCH

W	T	K	V	V	X	T	Y	S	S	I	T	E	H	A	Q	N	M	G	L	D	R	R	C	N
A	B	I	V	H	R	X	G	K	A	M	L	C	G	Q	A	N	O	R	O	C	A	D	N	I
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF NOAH MAYERS

Eighth grade team: Sam Spiekerman, Michael Swenson, Braxton Tate, Sawyer Reithinger, Cooper Fitzgerald, Roman Vaughn, Brady Lauer, Alejandro Ballesteros, Marco Fissore, Rhett Lindstrom, Coach Mike Lindstrom and Head Coach Dave Swenson.

St. Theresa dominates at the CYAA Football Championship

By Mark Hays

The seventh and eighth-grade flag football teams of St. Theresa Middle School recently played outstanding seasons and capped them off with championship wins.

The seventh-grade team went undefeated all season, and the eighth-grade team went undefeated in the regular season, with some inspiring happenings in the playoffs. When the eighth-grade squad entered the playoffs, they lost to St. Gregory Catholic School in the second round.

However, St. Theresa battled their way back through the double-elimination tournament loser's bracket and made it to the championship, where they once again faced St. Gregory. This time, they took home the win with a score of 27-18.

The seventh-grade team took a direct route to the top, finishing their undefeated season with a 29-20 victory over St. Gregory.

Practice makes perfect, and St. Theresa's flag football teams were no exception. An important part of their success, both teams' practices helped their players constantly refine and improve their skills. Both teams focused on flag football basics, allowing the players to prepare for any scenario. Flag pulling technique is also an important part of the teams' practices.

"We're working on pass routes, pulling flags and defensive zone coverage, main coverage, and things like that," seventh-grade Coach Jeremy Barnes said.

Assistant Coach David Swenson agreed, noting that flag pulling, route running, and timing of offensive plays are all critical parts of practice.

St. Theresa's flag football teams have also seen success in previous seasons. Last year, Barnes' team only lost one game.

"We were probably the favorites to win last year, but there was no sixth-grade tournament, so this was our first time playing in the competition. It was nice to win," Barnes said. "I've been coaching most of these boys since they were five or six, so it was nice to represent the team and get a banner to hang in the gym that the kids can go back and look at."

The eighth-grade team has a similar record.

"They won the league championship in seventh grade, sixth grade they didn't play, and they went undefeated as fifth graders," Swenson said.

Players from both teams were ecstatic about their victories.

"My favorite part was sharing the victory with my teammates and coaches," seventh-grader Andrew Leuer said.

"The win felt great," eighth-grader Michael Swenson said. "It was fun to win a championship with my best friends and my dad since we've played together for so many years."



Seventh grade team: Andrew Leuer, Luke Polachek, Pierce Foster, Drew Ogan, Jedi Lopatin, Jordan Barnes, Bentley Elrod, Carter Manuel, Jake Martone, Patrick Schager, Jackson Keeler, AJ DeMarco, Coach Jason Elrod and Head Coach Jeremy Barnes.

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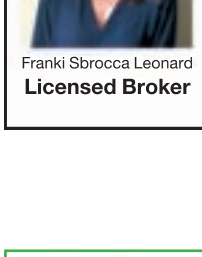
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