ARCADIA NEWS

VOL. 31 NO. 08 ARCADIA/CAMELBACK CORRIDOR NOVEMBER 2023

SEE INSIDE!

HAPPY TURKEY DAY

People are gearing up for that big meal in November – why not add something new to your holiday traditions?

SOLDIER'S BEST FRIEND

This Arizona organization's uplifting mission focuses on pairing service dogs with Veterans.

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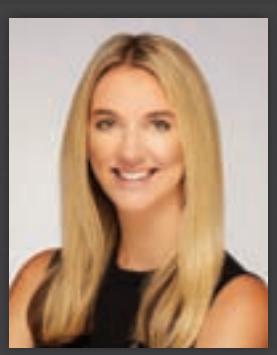

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Publisher: *Greg A. Bruns*
greg@arcadianews.com

Editor: *Mallory Gleich*
mallory@arcadianews.com

Designer: *Gabe Turner*
gabe@arcadianews.com

Advertising: *Roni Mier*
roni@arcadianews.com

3850 East Indian School Road
(602) 840-6379 • arcadianews.com
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NOVEMBER

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Brophy senior Sebastian Reddy partnered with Of One Heart, an organization that focuses on helping refugees prosper in a new place and home.

18 Bring on the art
Shemer Art Center is hosting its 35th annual Shemer Arizona Arts Festival that will support local artists and provide two days of fun, food and art to all who attend.

25 Happy anniversary, POP
Prince of Peace Church celebrates its 65th anniversary this year – and what's more, Pastor Rick is celebrating his 25th anniversary with the institution, too!

The Phoenix Turkey Trot is an annual event that invites Arizonans of all ages to a 5K on Thanksgiving Day. Attendees are encouraged to dress up in their Turkey Day best – and this young lady understood the assignment!
PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOENIX TURKEY TROT

EDITOR'S NOTE

The other day, I wrote down ten things I'm grateful for and shared them with my little brother. He read the list and laughed when he got to #10. "Your vacuum?" He said. "Who writes down 'vacuum'?" I laughed then, too, but it's true. I love vacuuming my house, and I'm grateful for the device that allows me to do so!

Our November edition features an array of things focused on 'thanks' – spots to share Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends, donation drives that are kicking off this month and a soldier whose life changed, thanks to a Valley nonprofit.

Lance Tudor spent four years with the United States Army. He witnessed unspeakable acts of horror and found himself in multiple close calls, events that eventually led to bouts of anxiety, anger and nervousness. Thanks to urging from Lance's wife, he reached out to Soldier's Best Friend, an organization that pairs service dogs with Veterans.

Lance and his pit bull, Maggie, spent nine months in training – and now, Lance is thriving as a husband and a professional welder.

Be sure to check out our Fall edition of Arcadia Home & Design inside. This issue of our seasonal, home-centric magazine features architect Al Beadle and tips for building your own wine cellar from area food and wine superstar Mark Tarbell.

Happy Veterans Day, Happy Thanksgiving – and thank you, as always, for reading Arcadia News and Arcadia Home & Design,

Mallory

– Mallory Gleich

UPCOMING THEMES:

DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
Season of Giving	*Health and Fitness*	*Events and Adventures*

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"I come from a family where gravy is considered a beverage." *– Erma Bombeck*

ARCADIA'S PETS

1. I'm Grey! I am six years old and 95 pounds of love. I demand to be the center of attention at all times. My favorite hobbies include whining until I'm sitting in between my parents on the couch and squeaking my rubber chicken toy right when mom is on a phone call.
– Meghan M.

2. This is our standard poodle Abigail. She is 2.5 years old and we have had her since she was a baby. Our family got Abigail during the pandemic, and could not imagine life without her. She is super smart and fancy and makes our family complete!
– Kelli M.

3. Roland is a cream and gold golden retriever. He was bred at Guide Dogs for the Blind in California and was not 100 percent at graduation time, so he was "career changed." We were blessed to adopt him. He is currently a therapy dog at Alliance of Therapy Dogs. Roland participates in a 15-year cancer study at Morris Animal Foundation, hoping to find a cure for all breeds. He is a very chill golden and loves his walks and quiet time.
– Valerie C.

4. Pippin is a six-month old orange tabby, and is the sweetest little kitten around! He loves to cuddle and is quite a chatty lad. He loves attention, and is known to make an appearance on every zoom call in this house. His best friend is a golden retriever named Dakota. We love our sweet Pippy Boy!
– Mackenzie H.

Would you like to share your pet? Send a photo and a description (50 words max) of your pet to ***editor@arcadianews.com****. Include your pet's name and age, along with any fun facts about them you'd like to share. All animals are welcome!*

Turkey drive and pickleball tourney fight food insecurity

By Claire Patena

This year, 1,000 Valley families will receive Thanksgiving dinners, thanks to local nonprofit Feeding Students USA. The organization aims "to bring community resources together to implement a sustainable, nutritious food source for hungry families."

"We provide for families who are identified and qualified through the school district who do not qualify for state-mandated programs," Board Member Ashley Staples said.

For over 11 years, the organization has helped families in Scottsdale Unified, Creighton, Washington, and Balsz School Districts with Thanksgiving meals through donations from community members.

"The first year, we fed ten families; the next year, we fed 25. Then, we held the drive at Ingleside Middle School and fed about 250. Since then, it has grown incredibly, and we have consistently served about 1,000 families," Founder Joni Sucato said.

Feeding Students is currently collecting donations. Requested items include turkeys, dried and canned goods. However, anything that will go toward filling a plate is needed, according to Sucato.

A neighborhood collection day will take place on Saturday, November 4. Homes in the Valley will set up as food collection sites for drop off items. Volunteers will be working these stations to sort and transport the food. On November 19, Feeding Students will accept turkey donations at Arcadia City Church (3313 N. 40th St.) from 1-5 p.m.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ASHLEY STAPLES

FSUSA Board Members Ashley Staples, Angela Woudenberg and Katherine Polachek.

Arizona has climbed to one of the top five states dealing with food insecurity among children, according to St. Mary's Food Bank. Feeding Students collaborates with schools and other nonprofits to provide year-round assistance to about 3,000 children and families – not just during the holidays.

With donations and aid from the Midwest Food Bank, Feeding Students runs a food pantry and supplies emergency food boxes to students. School community specialists collaborate with the nonprofit and other families, helping them form good relationships and get the support they need.

"We count on teachers, the community and community specialists. We want to ensure that no child is hungry at school," Sucato said.

Arcadia City Church, Christ Lutheran Church, and hundreds of community members have helped sustain and grow Feeding Students in its effort to fight food insecurity.

"Our objective is to provide these families some holiday joy with a nice Thanksgiving dinner," Staples said.

Those interested in setting up a donation site can contact Ashley Staples at amgstaples@me.com.

feedingstudentsusa.org

FSUSA THANKSGIVING PICKLEBALL FUNDRAISER

FSUSA is also hosting the Pickleball Tournament Turkey Classic.

Funds will go toward a Thanksgiving event on November 20.

WHEN: November 5, from 2-5 p.m.

WHERE: Picklemall, 5000 S. Arizona Mills Cir., Tempe.

PRICE: $200 per team.

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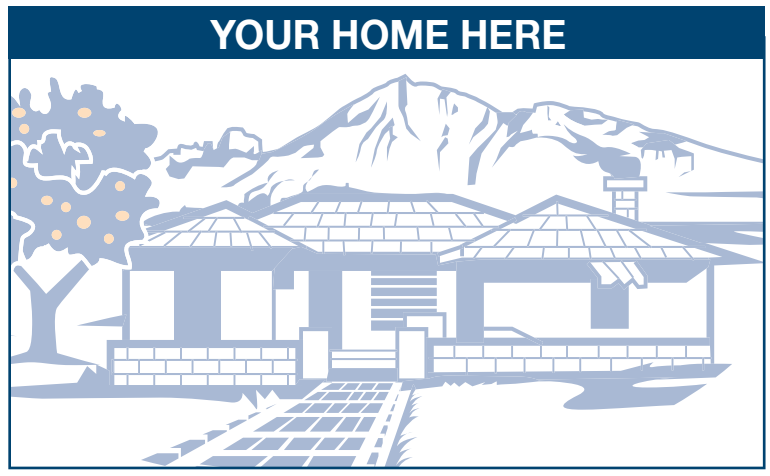

TOMMY ATKINSON
602.625.6020

Arcadia Real Estate Stats

2023 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/01/2023-9/30/2023)

Active Homes -	84 Homes
Homes Sold -	157 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$2,537,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$671
Average Days On Market -	76 days

There is currently 4 months of home inventory. (based on 2022 sales results)
2023 home sales have decreased 15% this year. (based on 2022 sales results)
2023 home prices have increased 2%. (based on 2022 sales results)
2023 $ Per Square Foot prices have decreased 0%. (based on 2022 sales results)
2023 homes are taking 43% more time to sell. (based on 2022 sales results)

2023 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/01/2023-9/30/2023)

Active Homes -	66 Homes
Homes Sold -	114 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$1,302,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$492
Average Days On Market -	85 days

There is currently 3 months of home inventory. (based on 2022 sales results)
2023 home sales have decreased 38% this year. (based on 2022 sales results)
2023 home prices have increased 6%. (based on 2022 sales results)
2023 $ Per Square Foot prices have decreased 2%. (based on 2022 sales results)
2023 Homes are taking 53% more time to sell. (based on 2022 sales results)

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WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

BRIEFS

Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association is hosting a **Camelback Clean-Up** event on Sunday, November 12, from 8-10 a.m. to pick up trash and debris along Camelback Road. ACMNA will supply water, gloves, garbage bags and safety vests to volunteers. Those who want to attend will meet at Shemer Art Center, 5005 E. Camelback Road, on November 12.

acmna.org

The Arcadia Osborn Neighborhood Association is hosting its **GAIN Fall Festival** on Saturday, November 11, from 1-4 p.m. at Arcadia Park, 56th St. and Osborn Road. This free event will have games, activities, bounce houses, a face painter, a balloon artist, Phoenix PD reps, lunch and ice cream.

arcadiaosbornphx.com

Christ Lutheran School (3901 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix) will hold its annual **Veteran's Day Parade** on Friday, November 10, at 9:30 a.m. The parade starts at 40th St. and Picadilly Road. Veterans, active military and their families can drive through and be greeted by signs, balloons and cheers from CLS students, honoring them for their service. **Hopi Elementary** will hold a candy drive to donate to Veterans overseas from November 1-6.

Soldier's Best Friend *(see page 20)* is hosting the inaugural Soldier's Best Friend 6K Run and Walk on November 4 at O.H.S.O. (4900 E. Indian School Road) from 7 a.m.-12 p.m. Entrants can run the two-mile or 3.7-mile route. Attendees will receive a race bib, t-shirt and finisher's medal. All proceeds will benefit Quality Resilience Fitness and Soldier's Best Friend. There will be a dog-friendly after-party with drinks, brunch and raffles. Registration starts at $50.

soldiersbestfriend.org

Village Health Clubs debuted an environmentally-conscious clothing line called **Village Sustainable Threads**, made in Arizona with fabric sourced from post-consumer recycled plastic bottles. The line "ensures that buyers can embrace sustainable style without compromise." Village Sustainable Threads can be found at the boutiques inside all locations of the Village, including Camelback Village Racquet & Health Club (4444 E. Camelback Road).

villageclubs.com

Jewish Family & Children's Service debuted its annual **Adopt a Family** program, which matches families and teens receiving care at JFCS clinics with sponsors who provide holiday gifts. One hundred percent of donations go directly to families. The deadline to participate is December 10, with a goal to adopt 200 families and raise $8,000.

jfcsaz.org/adopt-a-family

Arcadian Katie Wilson started **Your Strength Movement Coaching**, located inside Your Strength Gym at 7575 N. 16th St., Phoenix. Your Strength offers corrective exercise, personal training, small group strength and mobility classes and nutrition coaching. Consultations are free, private sessions start at $75.

yourstrengthaz.com

The first Net Zero Energy community in Arcadia is now leasing. **Arcadia Views Lofts** (2640 N. 52nd St.) was established by developer Ed Gorman of MODUS Companies, a leading national NZE developer. Arcadia Views Lofts is a multifamily project in Phoenix that features solar panels, advanced home automation, and a community pool/spa; each unit has a backyard with a pet door.

arcadiaviews.com

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EVENTS

THURSDAY 11/2

Noche para los Niños

6-10 p.m. at the Arizona Heritage Center, 1300 N. College Ave., Tempe. The fifth annual Night for the Children is here. Attendees will find live music, contortionists, jugglers, tarot card readers, and local restaurants' food and beverage stations. There will be two auctions and a display of photographs created by at-risk kids from the Kids in Focus program, the beneficiary of the evening. Tickets start at $200.

kidsinfocus.org

Be the Impact Happy Hour

4:30 p.m. at The Grove, 4300 E. Camelback Road. Phoenix nonprofit St. Joseph the Worker will hold its first annual Be the Impact sunset happy hour event. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with community leaders and advocates, enjoy beer, wine and small plates and support a good cause. Guests can also try their hand at a golf simulator for a chance to win various prizes. Tickets are $50 and funds will support St. Joseph.

sjwjobs.org

FRIDAY 11/3

Lady Day at Emerson's Bar

7:30 p.m. at Phoenix Theatre Company, 1825 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. In 1959, Billie Holiday performed for one of the last times before her death. In this haunting and humorous cabaret, the vocalist weaves personal and professional anecdotes with familiar songs like What a Little Moonlight Can Do, Strange Fruit, and Ain't Nobody's Business If I Do. Tickets start at $55.

phoenixtheatre.com

FRIDAY 11/3 – SATURDAY 11/4

Dreamy Draw Music Festival

1-11 p.m. at Scottsdale Civic Center, 3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd. If country music is your favorite genre, you might not want to miss this concert. Music artists like Luke Grimes, Hailey Whitters, Breland, Stephen Wilson Jr. and Pony Bradshaw will hit the stage while guests enjoy the cooler temps and maybe a snack and beverage from onsite vendors. Tickets start at $80.

dreamydrawfest.com

FRIDAY 11/3 – SUNDAY 11/5

American Lebanese Festival

5-10 p.m. at the St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church, 5406 E. Virginia Ave., Phoenix. The 22nd annual Lebanese Festival means lots of food and fun. Attendees can sample authentic Lebanese dishes like kafta, falafel, hummus, grape leaves and homemade baklava. There will be a hookah bar for the grown-ups, traditional dance performances, and a children's play area. Attendance is $5.

stjosephphoenix.org

SATURDAY 11/4

Condors and Cocktails

4 p.m. at Liberty Wildlife, 2600 E. Elwood St., Phoenix. Liberty Wildlife is on a mission to promote the care and protection of endangered California condors. The nonprofit is hosting this inaugural event with live music, raffles, demos, wildlife presentations, food trucks and specialty cocktails. This party is for grown-ups only, and tickets start at $55.

libertywildlife.org

Corks and Collars

4 p.m. at Hunkapi Farms, 12051 N. 96th St., Scottsdale. Desert Labrador Retriever Rescue is hosting its 15th annual Corks and Collars event to benefit the nonprofit. The festivities include food, drinks, live music, a silent auction, raffles, grab bags, arts and crafts and other activities. Tickets start at $75.

corksandcollars.org

Arizona Fall Festival

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Margaret T. Hance Park, 67 W. Culver St., Phoenix. Local First Arizona's Fall Festival is back for the 17th year. A celebration of all things Arizona, this event features beverages from local wineries and breweries, 200+ vendors, various food trucks and restaurant tents, games, entertainment and a kids' zone. Admission is free.

localfirstaz.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

Bentley Scottsdale Polo Championships

10 a.m. at WestWorld, 16601 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale. This famed event is celebrating 12 years with even more fanfare than before! Along with polo matches, guests will find live music and performances, human and canine fashion shows, a car show, DJs, food, beverages and an all-around good time. General admission starts at $45.

thepoloparty.com

Runway for Success

6 p.m. at Warehouse 215, 215 E. Grant St., Phoenix. Find all the glitter and sparkles at the Runway for Success Sustainable Fashion Show and Designer Sale, celebrating Dress for Success Phoenix's 15th anniversary. Students from ASU's Herberger Institute for Design will highlight sustainable fashion. There will be a pop-up boutique, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, food stations and entertainment. Proceeds benefit Dress for Success Phoenix. Tickets are $250.

runwayforsuccess.org

SATURDAY 11/4 – SUNDAY 11/5

Shemer Arizona Art Festival

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Shemer Art Center, 5005 E. Camelback Road. Patrons can revel in two days of holiday shopping with more than 40 artists selected from across Arizona showcasing their works. There will also be demonstrations, kids' activities, live music, food and beverage vendors and a silent auction. This event is free.

shemerartcenter.org

TUESDAY 11/7

Heroes Patriotic Luncheon

10:30 a.m. at the Arizona Biltmore, 2400 E. Missouri Ave., Phoenix. The 21st annual Heroes Patriotic Luncheon is hosted to honor our military heroes. Guests will be served lunch while hearing from keynote speaker Colonel Kim Campbell, a retired Air Force A-10 Fighter Pilot. There will also be a raffle and a ceremony for the Community Heroes Award. Individual tickets are $150.

arizonavmlc.org

SATURDAY 11/11

Phoenix Veterans Day Parade

11 a.m. in downtown Phoenix, starting at Montebello and Central Ave. This event has been happening for over 25 years – and it's all about honoring the veterans. Parade-goers are encouraged to arrive early to find parking. The parade will last for two hours and will feature over 80 participants. This year's theme is "Never Forget. Forever Honor."

honoringamericasveterans.org

Ava's Tree House Gala *at the Omni Resort at Montelucia in Scottsdale.*

Phoenix Pizza Festival *at Margaret T. Hance Park in Phoenix.*

Mimosas and Monet

9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Hermosa Inn, 5532 N. Palo Cristi Road, Paradise Valley. Calling all painters, beginners and experts alike. Hermosa Inn welcomes Carrie Curran Art Studios for a morning of art and mimosas. Carrie will teach with an acrylic on canvas painting of Monet's Guided Path. Enjoy a mimosa and snack on pastries while creating your masterpiece. Registration is $120.

hermosainn.com

Ava's Tree House Gala

6 p.m. at the Omni Resort at Montelucia, 4949 E. Lincoln Dr., Scottsdale. The fourth annual Ava's Tree House Gala will benefit the Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children. Presented by Desert Mountain Health & Desert Cove Recovery, guests start with a cocktail hour, followed by dinner, live entertainment and more. Tickets start at $500.

azcancerfoundation.org

SATURDAY 11/11 – SUNDAY 11/12

Phoenix Pizza Festival

11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, at Margaret T. Hance Park, 1202 N. 3rd St., Phoenix. Head downtown for all the slices your belly can handle at the eighth annual Phoenix Pizza Festival. More than 20 pizza vendors and other food vendors will be onsite, plus beer stations, lawn games, live music and a kid zone. Tickets are $16 per person, with slices from $2-$4.

phoenix.pizza

TUESDAY 11/14

Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable Meeting

6 p.m. at the Scottsdale Public Library, 3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd. The Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable will host Professor John Matteson presenting "The Concord Nurse and the Brooklyn Bard: Alcott and Whitman in Washington." Doors open at 5 p.m. for meeting the speaker, members, book sale, and viewing Civil War videos. This event is free.

scottsdalecwrt.org

SATURDAY 11/18

Local Trade Makers Market

10 a.m. at the Shops at Town & Country, 2021 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. The fifth annual Makers Market boasts goods from local artisans, creators, and entrepreneurs showcasing their crafts, handmade goods, and innovative products, from jewelry and artwork to homemade treats. Santa will be there, and there will be a raffle benefiting Phoenix Children's Hospital. This event is free.

localtradeaz.com

SATURDAY 11/18

Arizona Barrels, Bottles & Brews

2-5 p.m. at Salt River Fields, 7555 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale. This event is the only one in the country to feature samples produced exclusively in the Grand Canyon State. Brew lovers can sample new releases from over 25 Arizona breweries, wineries and distilleries. There will also be various food trucks. Tickets start at $60 for general admission, with VIP packages available.

azbottlesandbrews.com

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WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

Festival of the Arts *at Herberger Theater Center in Phoenix.*

Enchant Scottsdale *at Salt River Fields.*

SATURDAY 11/18

Festival of the Arts

11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe St., Phoenix. An outdoor, admission-free event that celebrates the art community! Patrons will find performances by more than 35 local dance groups, including Furious Styles Crew, Roman Orona, Ballet Theater of Phoenix, and more. There will also be art demos, live music, activities for kids, a vendor market, food and drinks.

herbergertheater.org

THURSDAY 11/23

Phoenix Turkey Trot

6:30 a.m. at Wesley Bolin Plaza, 1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix. Work up that turkey day appetite at the Phoenix Turkey Trot. Runners, walkers and joggers of all ages can check out the 10K run, 5K run or walk, or 1K gobbler dash. Post-race, there will be an awards show and snacks before you head out for the big meal. There will also be a costume contest, so dress in your turkey best. Registration is $20-$45.

phoenixturkeytrot.com

SATURDAY 11/25

Phoenix Flea

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Heritage Square, 115 N. 6th St., Phoenix. Phoenix Flea is "not your typical flea market," according to the founders. This event is a modern market showcasing Arizona's makers, curators and beyond. Guests can check out small businesses showcasing handcrafted goods, fine art, curated vintage, modern fashion and design, and food and beverages. Tickets are $12 per person.

phoenix-flea.myshopify.com

THURSDAY 11/30

Enchant Scottsdale

6:30 p.m. at Salt River Fields, 7555 N. Pima Road. Enchant is an immersive walk-thru light show created from over four million sparkling lights. The event includes a 100-foot-tall holiday tree, an ice skating trail, live entertainment, Santa visits and a village marketplace with crafts, treats and cocktails. There will also be a "Cozy Christmas" lounge, wine tasting and an all-new Mischievous Elf light maze. Tickets start at $30.

enchantmagic.com

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Arcadia Real Estate: *A Bubble?*

"This year there have been 32 sales over $2,500,000 *in Arcadia Proper. Out of those 32 sales,* 18 closed using cash."

With that kind of title, you are probably wondering when the real estate bubble will burst. Luckily, this isn't the flimsy soap bubble that your kids are blowing in the backyard or the 2007 housing bubble for that matter. This is the kind of bubble that you want to be in when things get real. Good schools, A+ location, great restaurants, and defined boundaries that insulate your home values when others get battered and bruised.

While Phoenix as a whole is in a good place overall and resilient up until this point, I'm definitely seeing some cracks in the ice. Buyer demand in the lower and middle tier price ranges ($500,000 - $2,000,000) is soft and under serious pressure due to inflation and 8% interest rates. For example, a $500,000 mortgage at 7.75% is now around $4,100/month with insurance and taxes. Stack that mortgage with your average car payment of $729 for a new car and that is far too high for most Americans at this point.

The story on the luxury side of the market feels a lot different though. Buyers of properties in and around Arcadia seem to be more cash heavy and less reliant on rates. This year there have been 32 sales over $2,500,000 in Arcadia Proper. Out of those 32 sales, 18 closed using cash. For that reason, I see the Arcadia market in a bubble of its own and one that I would want to be invested in if things start to deteriorate elsewhere.

As always, we are around if you want to chat about the market.

Give me a call or text anytime at 602.561.0445!

OLEG BORTMAN
ASSOCIATE BROKER
& CO-FOUNDER
602.402.2296

TUCKER BLALOCK
MANAGING BROKER
& CO-FOUNDER
602.561.0445

THE BROKERY
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OUT OF THE AREA, *BUT WORTH THE DRIVE*

WED. 11/1 – SUN. 11/5

North American Fall Classic

Times vary, at Legacy Park, 6321 S. Ellsworth Road, Mesa. The California Police Athletic Federation, a nonprofit committed to promoting sport and physical fitness among first responders, introduces the North American Fall Classic. The event features Olympic-style games (think dodgeball, rowing, track and field) for first responders. First event is $90. Additional events are $15.

cpaf.org

FRIDAY 11/3

Runways for Rescues

6:30-8:30 p.m. at Desert Ridge Marketplace, 21001 N. Tatum Blvd., Phoenix. Desert Ridge is teaming up with Rolling Rack Boutique to host Runway for Rescues, a fun event for four-legged friends. This show allows pups to trot down the runway in the latest doggie fashion while their humans enjoy the show with an outdoor pop-up bar. All donations will benefit Friends for Life Animal Rescue.

shopdesertridge.com

A Midsummer Night's Dream

7:30 p.m. at Arcosanti, 13555 S. Cross L Road, Mayer. Shakespeare's well-known comedy about two pairs of star-crossed lovers is being presented among Arizona's spectacular desert scenery at this evening's event. A Greek-themed dinner, including spanakopita and baklava, is available for purchase. Tickets start at $35.

arcosanti.org

FRIDAY 11/3 – SATURDAY 11/4

Downtown Mesa BBQ Classic

Friday, 5-9 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. in downtown Mesa, 100 N. Center St. This event is a Kansas City Barbeque Society-sanctioned competition with pitmasters from across the country, including a one-meat challenge and a four-meat master series competition. Teams will compete for a $10,000 prize, and you can sample all the dishes for $20. There will also be an art exhibit, live music and cooking demos.

downtownmesa.com

SATURDAY 11/4

Shakespeare in Love

7:30 p.m. at Fountain Hills Theater, 11445 N. Saguaro Blvd., Fountain Hills. Young Will Shakespeare has writer's block. The deadline for his new play is approaching, but he's in desperate need of inspiration – which comes in the form of feisty, beautiful Viola. Will's love for Viola quickly blossoms, helping him to write his greatest romantic masterpiece. Tickets are $35 for adults, $18 for kids.

fhtaz.org

East Valley Veterans Day Parade *in downtown Mesa.*

SATURDAY 11/4 – SUNDAY 11/5

Festival of the Arts

9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Litchfield Park, 101 W. Wigwam Blvd. This festival features more than 250 fine artists and artisans from around the country, plus various eateries and a wine garden showcasing Arizona wineries, breweries, and distilleries. Grab a glass of vino, check out some art and listen to live music during the 53rd annual event. Admission is free. Beer and wine packages start at $15.

vermillionpromotions.com

SUNDAY 11/5

AZ Asian Cultural Festival

11 a.m. at the Glendale Civic Center, 5750 W. Glenn Dr. Immerse yourself in the vibrant cultures of Asia with a day of tradition, food, music, and performances. This festival brings together different parts of Asia under one roof. Sample authentic cuisine, check out the vendor village or try your hand at a cultural activity. Admission is free.

azacf.com

FRIDAY 11/10 – SUNDAY 11/12

Fountain Festival of Fine Arts

10 a.m. at 16705 E. Avenue of the Fountains, Fountain Hills. One of the largest festivals in the southwest is back, with hundreds of art exhibit booths in every medium – including food. Along with the art, there will be various eateries available to purchase from, plus live music to complete the day. This event is free.

experiencefountainhills.org

SATURDAY 11/11

East Valley Veteran's Parade

11 a.m. in downtown Mesa on Center St. The annual East Valley Veterans Parade's theme for 2023 is "Vietnam Valor," a recognition of the 50 years that have passed since the conclusion of the war in Vietnam. The parade will be held in its traditional format on Veterans Day. More than 100 parade entries and aerial demonstrations of vintage aircraft are planned.

evvp.org

THURSDAY 11/16

Fall Breakfast

9 a.m. at The Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, 7575 E. Princess Dr. notMYkid, a nonprofit that ensures "every kid thrives by inspiring positive life choices," and Meadows Behavioral Health will host an educational breakfast with a presentation led by Dr. Bruce D. Perry. Guests can network with community leaders, advocates and youth mental health resources from across the state. Tickets start at $100.

notmykid.org

SATURDAY 11/18

El Tour de Tucson

7 a.m. starting at the Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Ave., Tucson. El Tour de Tucson is a fundraising ride that captivates nearly 7,500 cyclists of all ages. Participants ride either the 102-, 62- or 32-mile rides. A Fun Ride with shorter distances is also available. Cyclists can attend the post-ride party with music, food vendors, activities, and an award ceremony. Registration starts at $15 for the fun ride and $40-$175 for the longer rides.

eltourdetucson.org

SUNDAY 11/26

Nightfall Guided Tour

5 p.m. at Taliesin West, 12345 N. Taliesin Dr., Scottsdale. If you love a good sunset, this event is for you. Guests will spend 60 minutes with a knowledgeable guide while exploring outdoor spaces at Taliesin West's Historic Core, discussing living in harmony with the natural environment and learning more about the history of the World Heritage Site. Tickets are $49 for adults and $24 for kids.

franklloydwright.org

Arcadia High hosts its annual community builder event

By Amy Carney

Future Titan Night has been a longstanding tradition for Arcadia High to strengthen its learning community within the neighborhood and the Scottsdale Unified School District. Students from Hopi, Tavan, Echo Canyon and Ingleside gathered for the annual Arcadia get-together on September 15.

"Offering events like a Future Titan Night is a great opportunity to invite all of our school communities to come to support our Titans, but also have fun and mingle with other families before a football game," Nicki Ess, President of the Arcadia PTO, said. She also stated that this year's event was highly successful, with over 500 people attending throughout the evening's festivities.

The Arcadia Dads Club, PTO, and various Booster Clubs sponsored the gathering. Future Titan Night allows elementary and middle school students to see what lies ahead in high school by participating with the Titan cheerleaders and football players.

"This year, the band boosters brought together members of the Arcadia complex school bands to play at the football game. The Arcadia Dads Club also hosted a great tailgate BBQ dinner and inflatables before the game," Ess said.

Each school mascot was also in attendance, while Arcadia's student government offered face painting for the younger kids.

"Future Titan Night is an event our entire community can participate in, as we are all Titans," Tavan PTO member Carrie Diekmann said. "As the world around us becomes even busier, there's never been a more critical time for us to be a part of a community that supports our children's young minds. This will pay dividends far beyond our neighborhood."

Diekmann also stated that since Tavan shares a fence with Arcadia, they work with the high school campus more frequently.

"Our PE department has a Super Bowl football event in November and a March Madness basketball event where our fifth-grade students participate in a sporting competition on Arcadia's fields. Tavan's entire student body is invited, and the kids look forward to it every year," she said.

The Arcadia PTO, Dad's Club, and Booster Clubs are currently planning additional Future Titan Night events for the community to come together and celebrate other sports this school year.

"I hope we continue participating in events like Future Titan Night to build positive relationships between Arcadia, Echo, Hopi, Ingleside, and Tavan and create a sense of belonging to a larger whole," Diekmann said.

PHOTO: CARRIE DIEKMANN

Some of Arcadia's Junior Titans with Tavan's Wonder the Wildcat at Future Titan Night.

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Placement evaluations are mandatory for upper Baseball and Softball divisions.
Practice will begin in February. Season runs from early March until May.

Register at www.ArcadiaLittleLeague.com

And now, a few words for crossworders

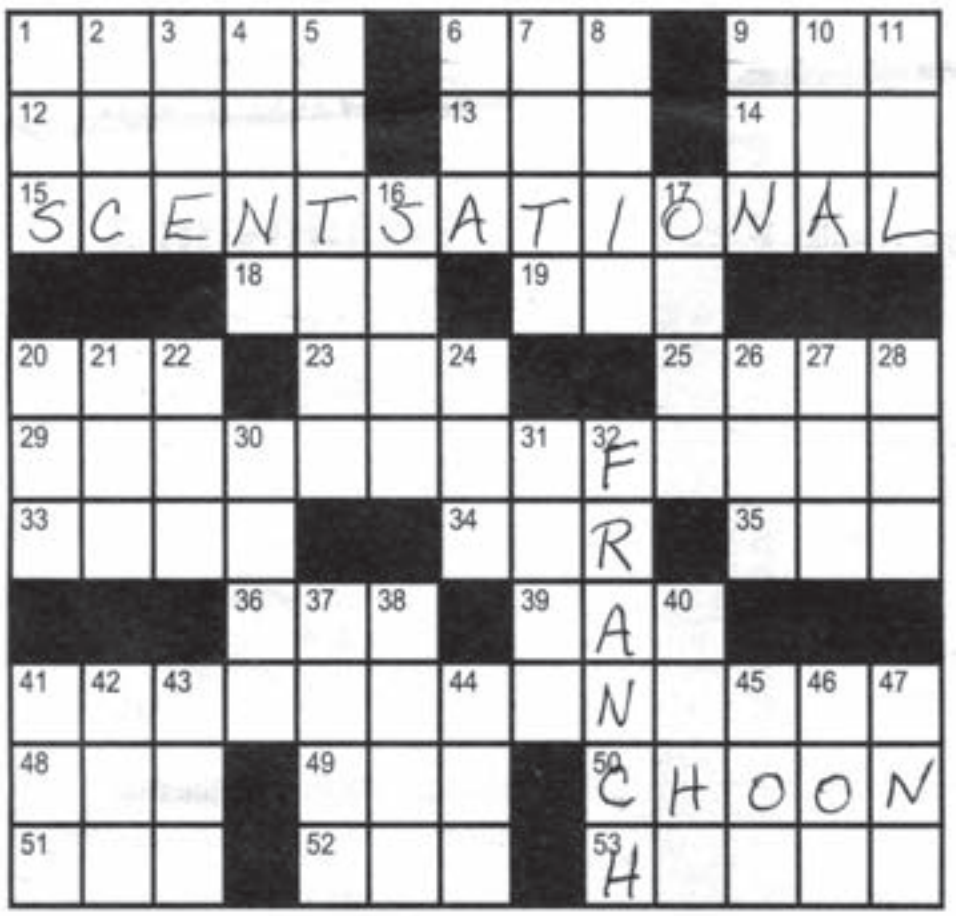
The Lowe Road

BY SAM LOWE

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

This is one of life's great unfairnesses (if there is such a word): I sincerely believe that the people who create crossword puzzles make up words to make them fit into their puzzles. For example, how am I, a skilled wordsmith, supposed to know that an "anoa" is, according to the clue given, a "celebes ox"? How many times a day does someone ask, "So what are you feeding your anoa?"

Unfortunately for the oppressed and under-dictionaried, there is no real solution, but there is a method of revenge: Make up your own new words. And so, let us proceed with this new volume of lexicon that will not only amaze but completely befuddle those tyrants who cram definitions into little squares and expect us to figure them out.



Nudespaper—a publication that prints only the bare facts

Berglar – a thief who specializes in glacier chunks

Burglard – a thief who steals only rendered fat

Eggstacy – getting overly excited about an omelet

Altornado – a female choir member whose singing starts windstorms

Eggzagerate – fibbing about a hen's production

Newdle – fresh pasta

Burgerlar – a thief who only steals fast food

Buglar – a thief who steals only creepy crawly things

Blunch – a noontime embarrassment

Choon – an answer to "whatcha doon'?" when put to a person with a mouthful of tobacco

Carniburp – a stomach expulsion that occurs at the county fair after eating a bale of cotton candy.

Glackernick – a small facial wound inflicted while shaving with a dull glacker.

Ginberg – the result of leaving 500,000 gallons of martinis sitting outside during January in North Dakota

Fruitile – trying to make a hybrid by crossing an orange with a banana

Gnudle – pasta made from an African member of the antelope family

Garbonzorro – a masked bean hero

Cartoona – a comic strip drawn by a fish

Franch – a cattle operation on several hundred acres just south of the Louvre in Paris

Shampoodle – a dog bred for washing hair

Oscarp – an Academy Award for the best fish movie

Fizzician – a carbonated doctor

Braggage – boasting about how many shirts and pants and neckties your suitcase can hold

Terriyakima – a Japanese sauce manufactured in central Washington

Roofian – there's a rowdy guy on top of the house

Astronaughty – messing around in outer space

Pelicantina – a hangout for large Mexican birds

Graphitti – spray painted scrawls using lines and arrows

Kenturkey – a state of perpetual Thanksgiving

Plantlers – deer horns grown in garden soil.

Matadork – an inept bullfighter

Mooscatel – a cheap wine favored by large-antlered animals

Clamdestine – something sneaky in the shellfish beds

Scentsational – going nutso over a perfume

Newslyweds – two reporters get married

Lobsturkey – seafood Thanksgiving dinner

Oathmeal – breakfast for trial witnesses

Knockle – the finger joint used when tapping on a door

Cornfession – admitting that you ate the last kernel

Floorist – someone who sells and installs linoleum

Auntiepasta – spaghetti, linguine or noodles prepared by your dad's sister

Pawper – a very poor dog

Platuna – a fishy military outfit

Sacksophone – a musical instrument made of brown paper grocery bags

Shamepoo – an embarrassing hair rinse

Cornductor – someone who guides you through the maize maze

Crowbard – a large tool used by poetry-writing birds

Hocktober – National Pawn Your Jewelry Month

Magmazine – a publication for lava fans

Soaprano – a female choir member who sings arias in the shower

Calfeteria – a place where young cows go to eat when they don't like the menu at that udder place

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DISTRICT 6 UPDATE

KEVIN ROBINSON

Councilman District 6

602-262-7491

District6@phoenix.gov

It's important for voters in Phoenix to vote "yes" on all four bond measures on November 7 – for safer neighborhoods, better parks for our families to enjoy, improved roadways and more.

Phoenix residents will see many projects and improvements in their neighborhoods with this bond package, all without an increase in tax rates. It's a win for taxpayers. Ballots were mailed on October 11, so be sure to look in your mailbox for yours.

After my time serving with the Phoenix Police and now on the City Council, there is no greater priority to me than public safety. I'm proud to be joined by my friends from the United Phoenix Fire Fighters Association, IAFF Local 493, in support of the GO Bond. Specifically in District 6, we will see improvements made at Fire Station 13 and road safety enhancements near South Mountain.

This bond will also provide critically needed resources to:

- Reduce response times by investing in new technologies, upgraded police stations, and new fire stations.
- Address homelessness by adding affordable housing and investing more in mental health services like the Community Assistance Programs.
- Upgrade our libraries, parks, and senior centers.

Please join my wife, Michele, and I in voting "yes" for Phoenix this November. Thank you!

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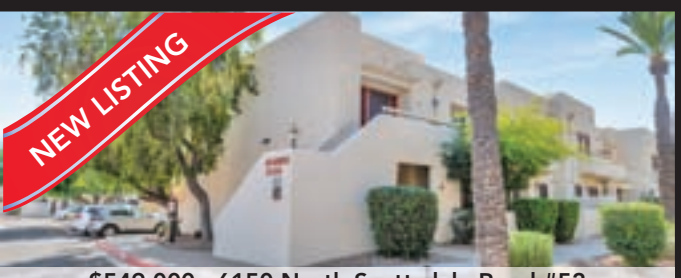
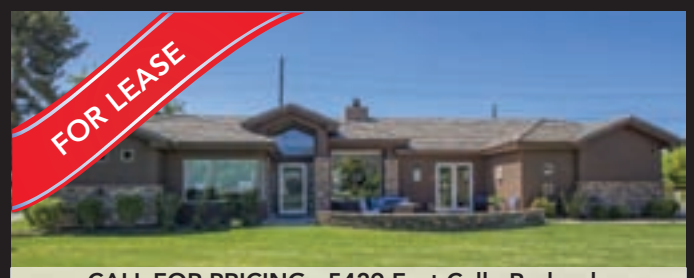


$549,000 6150 North Scottsdale Road #52
2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,056 square feet
6150scottsdaleroad.com



CALL FOR PRICING 5429 East Calle Redonda
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,531 square feet
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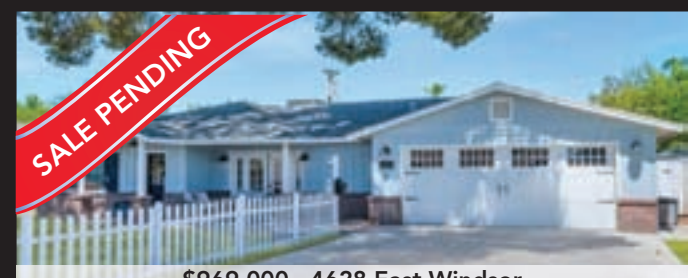
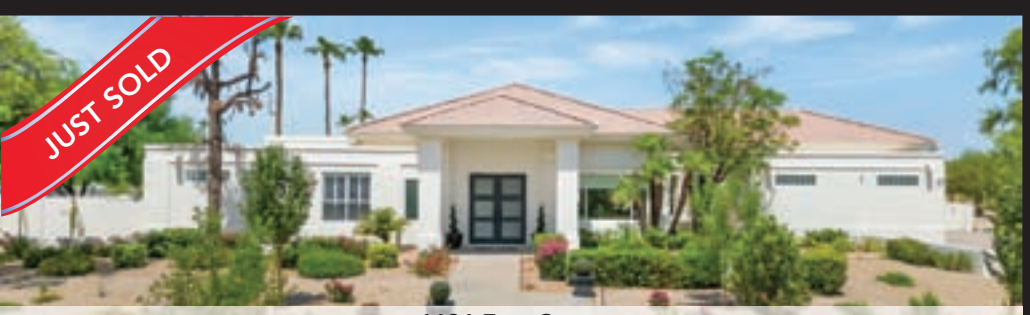
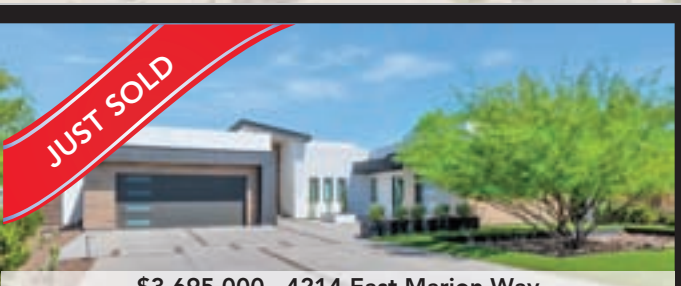


$969,000 4628 East Windsor
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,331 square feet
4628windsor.com

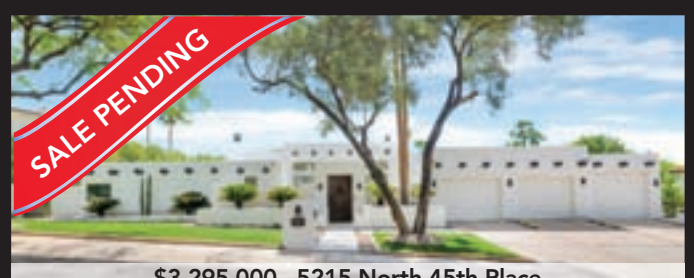


6636 East Caron
CALL FOR PRICING AND INFORMATION.

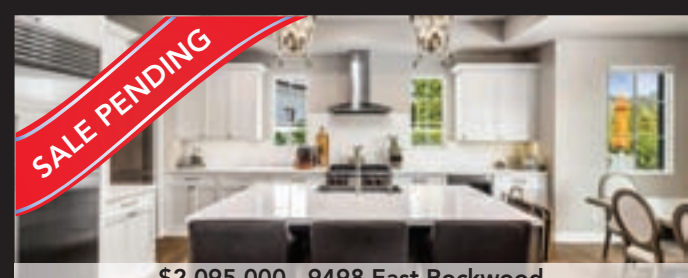
CALL FOR PRICING 6701 East Fanfol
6 bedrooms, 7 baths, 7,011 square feet
6701fanfol.com



$3,695,000 4214 East Marion Way
5 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,406 square feet
4214marion.com



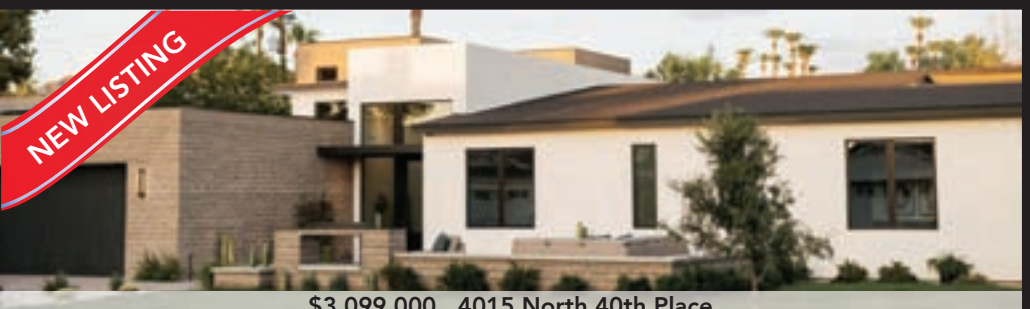
$3,295,000 5215 North 45th Place
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,633 square feet
5215north45thplace.com



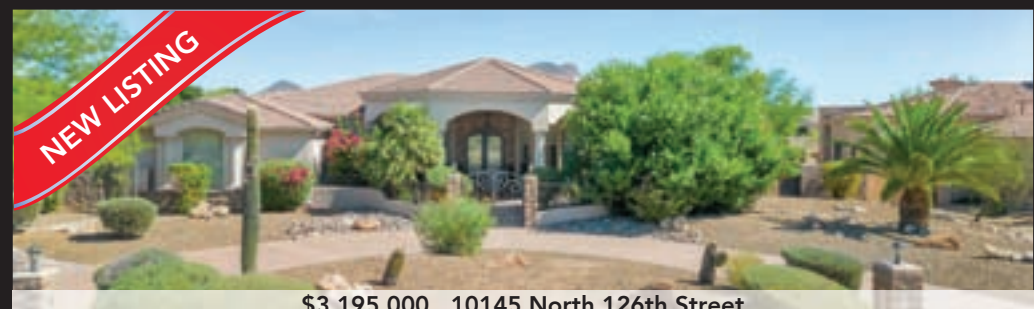
$2,095,000 9498 East Rockwood
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 3,559 square feet
9498rockwood.com

$5,195,000 8200 North Charles
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 4,810 square feet
8200charles.com

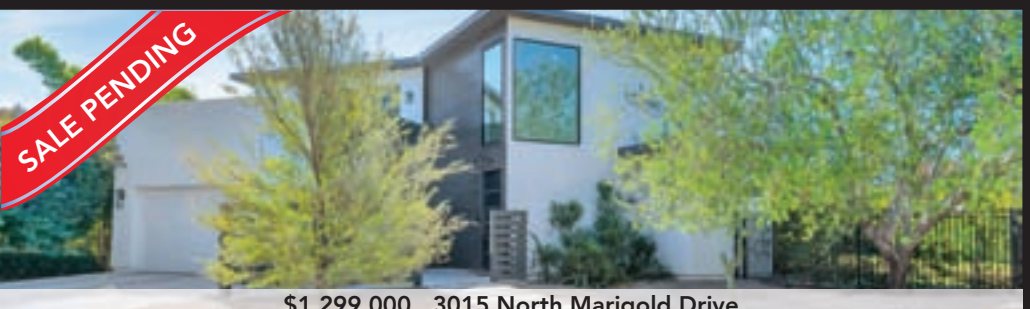
CALL FOR PRICING 6737 East Exeter
5 bedrooms, 7 baths, 6,876 square feet
6737exeter.com



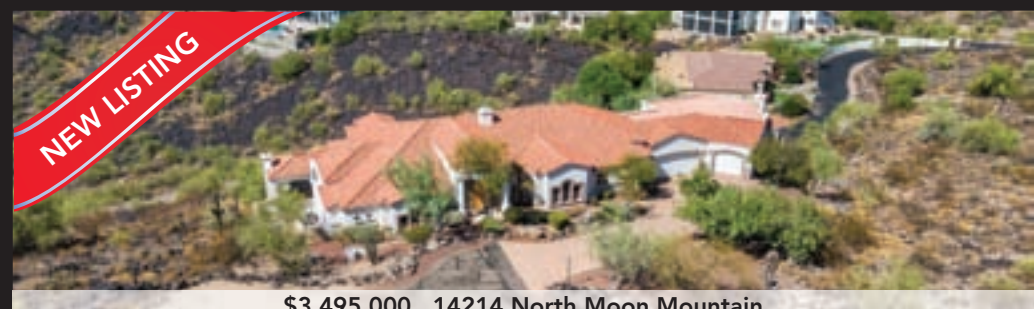
$3,099,000 4015 North 40th Place
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 4,614 square feet
4015north40thplace.com



$3,195,000 10145 North 126th Street
6 bedrooms, 6 baths, 6,227 square feet
10145north126thstreet.com



$1,299,000 3015 North Marigold Drive
3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,176 square feet
3015marigold.com



$3,495,000 14214 North Moon Mountain
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 10,018 square feet
14214moonmountain.com

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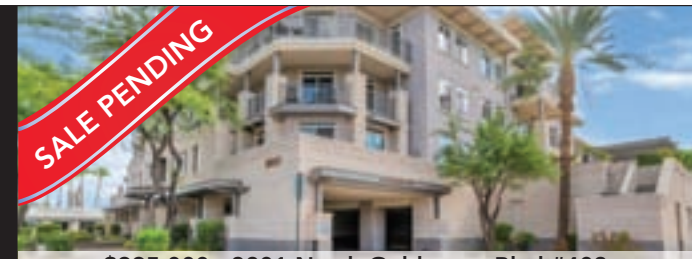
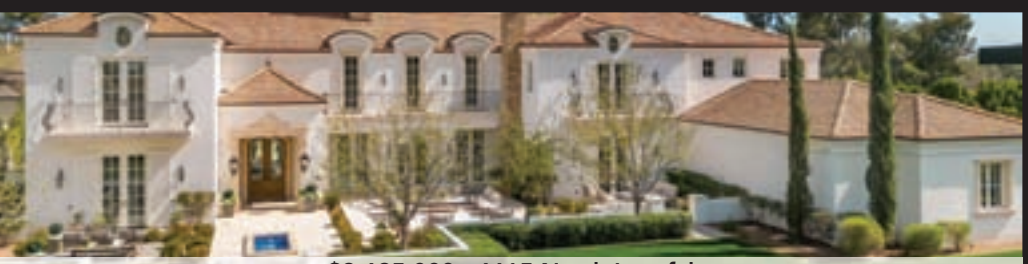
$2,119,000 5808 North Sundown Drive
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 5,235 square feet
5808sundown.com

$2,442,547 6152 East Helen
2 bedrooms. 2.5 baths, 2,263 square feet
thephoenicianshea27.com

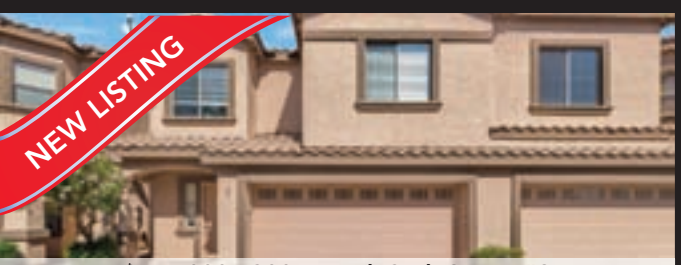


$995,000 3801 North Goldwater Blvd #403
2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,043 square feet
3801northgoldwater.com

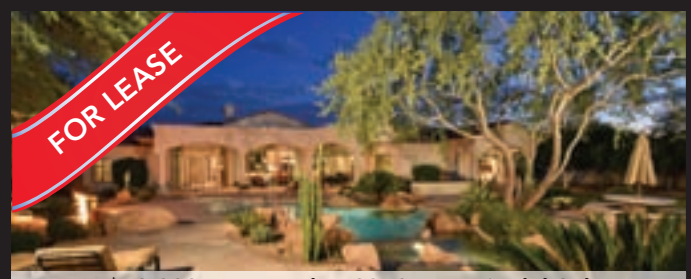


$9,695,000 4615 North Launfal
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 5,287 square feet
7010avenidaelalba.com

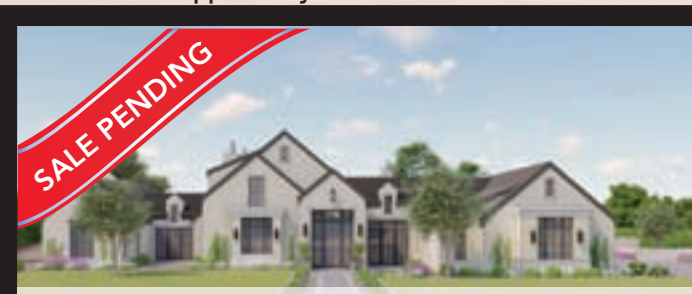
$3,495,000 6733 East Exeter
1 Acre Lot Opportunity



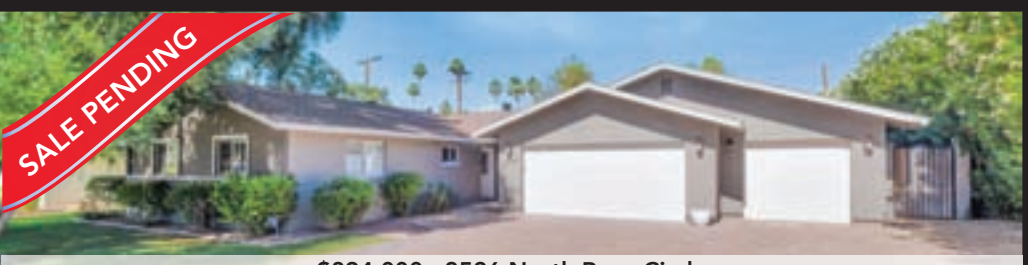
$474,000 3006 North 37th Street #2
2 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1,554 square feet
3006north37thstreet.com



$18,000 per month 8350 East Via del Sol
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,783 square feet

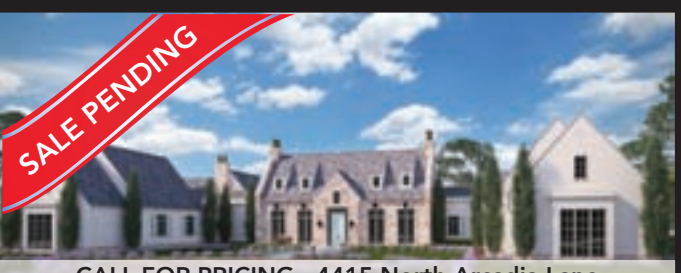


5115 East Exeter
CALL FOR PRICING AND INFORMATION

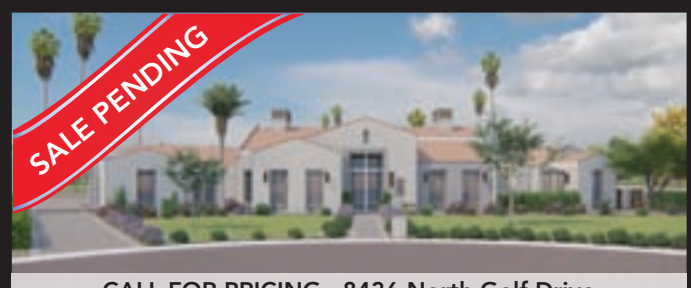


$894,000 3526 North Rose Circle
4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,008 square feet
3526rosecircle.com

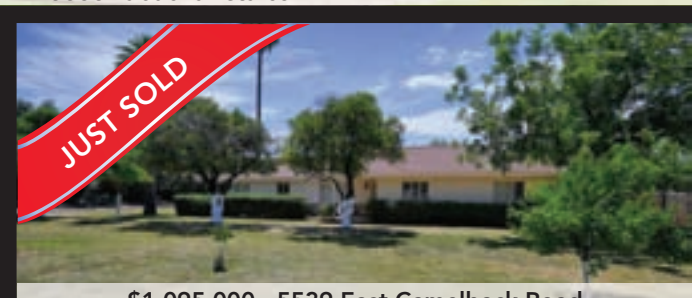
$7,495,000 5636 East Via Buena Vista
5 bedrooms, 7 baths, 6,872 square feet
5636viabuenavista.com



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



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



$1,095,000 5539 East Camelback Road
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,732 square feet

CALL FOR PRICING 5944 East Lafayette
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 4,022 square feet
5944lafayette.com

$8,000,000 6697 East Cactus Wren
7 bedrooms, 8 baths, 7,940 square feet

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

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In the Kitchen

with David Brito, Executive Chef of Geordie's at Wrigley Mansion

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A fair share of the chefs and restauranteurs featured in this series got their start by watching their mothers, fathers and grandparents cook and bake. This is not the case for Chef David Brito, who was inspired by the famous chefs he watched on television as a kid. Now, at 27 years old, Chef Brito uses the experience he gained working in the resort industry to create dishes close to his heart and his heritage, with the goal of being his best self.

Where are you originally from?

I was born in Orange County and lived there until I was eight. Then, my family and I came to Phoenix. I went to Cesar Chavez High School and enrolled at Arizona Culinary Institute in 2014, graduating in nine months.

You get in, and you learn everything from restaurant management, wine, basics – and then you get put into an externship. They have an awesome placement program, so I got a job right after that.

When did you decide you wanted to be part of the industry?

Senior year of high school. My uncle worked in chain restaurants, and my family and I would visit him, so I saw the camaraderie and the talk of it, and I thought it was fascinating. Wanting to work in the back of the house came from watching television, of all things!

It was fascinating to see chefs cook old recipes like Jacques Pépin and watch them use classic French preparation. At the time, I had no idea what that was, but I knew I wanted to learn. Creating dishes like that with your hands is just…so cool.

Where was your first job?

I started at the Omni Montelucia as a banquet cook. I was trying to get my foot in the door and learn everything I could. I learned about volume, weddings, big events, and how to execute breakfast, lunch and dinner for 600 people for five days. Once you learn the reps, it's *fairly* easy – I don't want to say it's easy because nothing is – but once you understand it, how you prepare yourself will help you get in the rhythm.

You've always worked in resort cooking?

For the most part, yes. After Omni, I worked on the property at the lounge, then at Prado for dinner service. After that, I helped open the Hyatt Andaz – that was really cool.

I went to Match at the FOUND:RE in downtown Phoenix as a sous chef. I worked at a Lithuanian restaurant in Scottsdale for a bit, then went to Kai in Chandler and was there for two years. Then Café Monarch and I helped open Reserve, which is a tasting menu concept at Monarch. Now, here we are at Wrigley Mansion.

I worked for Alex Stratta at Prado, and he was 25 when he had a five-star restaurant and 28 when he had a two-Michelin-star restaurant. I was always chasing that. I wanted more discipline and higher standards. Once I got to Kai, that's where I found it and fell in love with the industry.

What makes Geordie's unique?

The building. Jamie Hormel, the owner, has preserved the Wrigley Mansion beautifully. From the landscaping, inside and outside, remaining similar to what it used to be, she's invested a lot to make sure everything is preserved and stays relevant. That in itself separates Geordie's from everyone else.

What are some of the new dishes you've introduced?

We have a dry-aging program, so we dry-age ducks that I get from New York. We have a 60-ingredient *mole* and a tamal – like a Mexican truffle. It's very indigenous and part of my Mexican heritage, so we have a lot of dishes that represent who I am and the vision we're going for.

I wanted to bring indigenous cooking – which I learned at Kai – to Geordie's. There are restaurants around the city that do this, and it's a beautiful thing. As a chef, it's important to respect the products that we have. At the same time, I gravitate around what the season is and what others around the country are using. I do a lot of Mexican cooking – *moles*, salsas – but also French technique because that's my background.

What is your creative process when it comes to forming new dishes?

Sometimes, I'll see something and think, 'Oh, I'd like to work with that.' I like to sit down with my sous chef and ask, 'What is something that you and I want to eat? What do we want to cook?' and for me, every dish has to have a bigger story. If we do a classic duck confit with bacon, mustard and frisée – a memory of maybe the best Lyonnaise [French cuisine] I've had, for example – it invokes a memory, and I hope it does the same for the guests.

I travel twice a year, too, to see bigger cities and markets. What are they doing in Chicago, New York, and San Francisco? What could we be doing? Not necessarily replicating, but mimicking so one day we could be in the bigger markets.

What is the toughest part of being a chef?

The balance of a lot of responsibilities. You have to be a mentor, a responsible business owner constantly watching the numbers – you want to create food, sure, but you have to be a good business person, too. And being creative, all at the same time. It's difficult, but once you find a balance, you can build a good foundation and create something special.

… the best part?

The guest experience. When guests are happy, it's so validating. It's a lot of work, a lot of hours, a lot of effort, and when the guests react like, 'Oh, we love it,' it's a job well done for us.

What does a day in the life of Chef Brito look like?

I'm here at 10 a.m., and the first thing I do is check the product. We get a lot of stuff flown in from around the country, so we need to make sure it's all there. Start prepping; we usually have a meeting or two thrown in there. I love meetings so much.

Why do you love meetings?

…I don't [*laughs*]. That was sarcasm – sometimes they run a little long! After that, I rally up the other chefs, who get here around 1 o'clock. We have a pre-shift meeting. I assign tasks and prep until 5 o'clock, and then we open the doors. I expedite dinner service and make sure everything runs smoothly. I help clean the kitchen and do orders.

During this whole time, though, you're mentoring, answering questions, putting out fires. I leave around midnight on the weekends. Long day!

How does it feel to be in an executive chef position at 27 years old?

I worked really hard. For 10 years, it's just been 'head down,' not a lot of distraction. Any kind of information I get, I absorb it and apply it everywhere I go. It's a big operation, especially here; we have banquets and events, always something going on – but I apply all the experience I've got. I'm very grateful for the mentorship. I wouldn't be here without that.

Who is your biggest inspiration?

Chef Alex Stratta, my first mentor. He instilled a lot of discipline in me. I was 17 years old when I worked for him, and we still talk to this day. It's a beautiful thing to see where I was to where I am now, and Alex is a big part of that.

What's it like to work for a Michelin-star chef?

I was scared at first because I didn't know who Alex was at the time. You hear his stories, and it's hard not to idolize him. What he taught me was what he learned in New York and Monaco, so that's the way I'm going to do it. I was terrified – that's the only time I've cried in the kitchen! I'm open about it because that's how I was molded. The workload was very tough; I was a floating chef and was in charge of a lot. Looking back, it was worth it.

What advice do you have for someone who wants to work in a kitchen?

Work for a good chef who cares a lot about teaching. The chef I want to be is the chef I wish I had. All the good that I learned from Alex and other chefs is how I teach my cooks. Be respectful and listen, work hard, learn and absorb as much as you can. Try to be the best version of you.

Welcoming refugees with open arms – and new supplies

By Jennifer Marshall

When the American military exited Afghanistan in 2021, hundreds of Afghans who had helped and translated for our soldiers were in a dangerous predicament. The hope was to get as many of these courageous women and men and their families out of the country and into the U.S. Once they arrived, they would need love and support to adjust to their new lives in a new country.

It's been a struggle to complete this mission, but Brophy senior Sebastian Reddy has committed himself, through his work with the nonprofit Of One Heart, to help these new refugees.

Reddy is also a member of Boys Team Charity (BTC) Camelback League, a volunteer service organization dedicated to developing an altruistic spirit in young men through the active participation of parents and sons in philanthropic projects in their communities.

Sebastian Reddy

"BTC was founded by families that wanted to teach their boys the importance of giving back and making a difference," VP of Communications Julie Oleshansky said.

"Most of the refugees we serve come from Afghanistan," Reddy said. "They fled their homeland due to safety concerns as many worked as translators and camp mechanics supporting the U.S. Forces. Unfortunately, their service made them targets for Taliban violence. While they are safe in the U.S., my refugee friends continue facing numerous challenges."

According to Reddy, challenges include financial security, language barriers, and lack of education. Children are often placed in lower grades than they would academically qualify for because they are not fluent in English.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DENISE REDDY

During the Of One Heart event, Sebastian contacted Soles2Souls, who donated 70 pairs of shoes.

"The main way we support these refugees is by holding monthly events where local nonprofits come to give classes on topics like dental hygiene and mental health, to information about U.S. holidays," Reddy said.

He has worked to personally help children by organizing a backpack drive as part of the Of One Heart's back-to-school event.

"I received about 40 backpack donations from BTC and 50 from friends, family and community members," Reddy said.

He filled each backpack with supplies: a one-inch binder with paper, project folders, spiral notebooks, composition books, pencil pouches, pens, highlighters, mechanical pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, colored pencils and a water bottle.

The donations totaled $10,000, and the event was a massive success in benefiting the kids in need.

"While I understand that these contributions won't address all the challenges my refugee friends face, I take comfort in knowing that they will set children up for success during the school year," Reddy said. "I'm excited to continue my commitment to supporting the local refugee community in any way I can."

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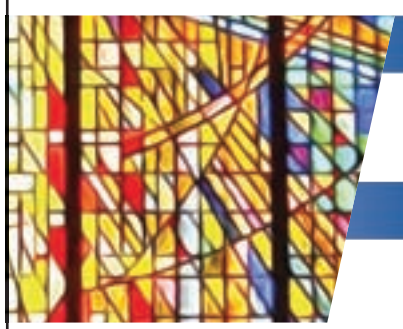

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Seniors creating magic for seniors

By Melissa Hirschl

Aani Nagaiah

Gage Samaddar

Last summer, Arcadia High students Aani Nagaiah and Gage Samaddar conjured up an endearing and creative way to enhance the lives of seniors in their community. The art and music muses formed "Our Ode to You," a nonprofit with a testament to the healing power of the arts.

Gage entertains through voice and piano, while Aani, a flute and guitar player, provides art projects. The duo travels to memory care units and retirement homes to rekindle older adults' interests in painting, singing and performing. The team recently formed their passion project into a foundation.

"We realize seniors appreciate music differently because of their experiences," Aani said. "The process took a few months and was complex and tedious, but having a foundation makes it easier to have a website. I was grateful my dad was able to help."

"The services we provide are vital for those suffering from Alzheimer's," Gage said. "Many people perform for them, but interacting with them produces the best results. My grandfather lived in a hospice facility, and I saw people's appreciation. I also sang there, and I found the connection quite remarkable. I took that experience and applied it to our organization."

Immersed in various musical genres since childhood, Gage jokes he could read music before he could read words. Piano lessons at four years old led to ten years of professional piano lessons, which segued into jazz piano.

"I grew up on R&B, classical music, rock, and jazz," he said. "My dad taught me to appreciate the classics, and my grandmother introduced me to singers like Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong and Sara Vaughan. I feel we have a lot to learn from these older singers."

In art classes, Aani provides prompts, beginning with a short story and then a simple painting or drawing exercise. Afterward, she and Gage perform with the instruments they provide.

"We own five guitars, two ukuleles and two violins, Gage said. "But we are always looking for donations of instruments to help us."

The two artists have enjoyed some exciting feedback from their audiences.

"One man who sang in Carnegie Hall many years ago sang 'Cheek to Cheek' with me at Shadow Mountain Memory Care," Gage said. "Another advised me where to go to college; he recommended Carnegie Mellon since they have a prestigious music division. I never knew that!"

PHOTO COURTESY OF AANI NAGAIAH

Aani and Gage travel to memory care units and retirement homes to rekindle older adults' interests in painting, singing and performing.

Aani and Gage are planning a paint drive at Arcadia High and Hopi Elementary to create awareness for the foundation. The effort will be replete with bins and posters, and the group that brings in the most paint will win a pizza party.

"We want to get as many students involved as possible and reach out to other schools as well," Gage said. "When we go to college, we are confident other students will take on the foundation's work."

He plans to double major in music while pursuing psychology, political science or possibly English.

Aani plans to major in medical anthropology and eventually become a doctor.

Find out more on Instagram @ourode2you

Shemer Arts Festival turns 35

By Tiffany Gonzalez

The Shemer Arizona Arts Festival has returned for its 35th year as it welcomes 40 artists from around Arizona, ready to introduce local families to the world of visual art. This year's featured guests include Alene Geed, Elliott Everson, Kristen Mickelson and Terry Graves.

Attendees can shop and interact with the artists on Saturday, November 4 and Sunday, November 5, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Shemer, 5005 E. Camelback Road.

The festival began in 1988 and has become a substantial part of Arcadia's history. Its mission is to unite the community and support Arizona artists – from Tucson, Prescott or even further away. All are welcome at the Phoenix establishment.

"We want attendees to know about this amazing resource for their families, right here in Arcadia, where they can learn about, experience, and enjoy visual art. Overall, it is a great day for families young and old," Executive Director Shonna James said.

Featured artists will sell their original artwork, including ceramic pieces, paintings, drawings, jewelry, photography and glass. Families can also experience an all-ages, interactive $5 Art Zone where they can create watercolor paintings, prints, wearable pieces and more.

There will be live music from guitarist Alan Stee, a string duet by Riviera Strings, and songs from keyboard/vocalist Pam Morita. Guests will also find a silent auction and food and beverages from local vendors Black Cat Coffee House and Re Di Roma Pizza Food Truck.

New to the festival is the Signature Shemer Chalk Festival, where three teams of Arcadia High students will create chalk murals with the opportunity for attendees to watch and even contribute to the pieces.

The annual Shemer Arizona Arts Festival boasts two days of art with shopping and learning experiences. There will even be a golf cart assisting families with parking and transportation as needed. Shemer Art Center cannot wait to showcase its featured artists and activities to Arizona locals for the 35th year!

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SOLDIER'S BEST FRIEND

Valley nonprofit pairs Veterans with service dogs

By Mallory Gleich

When Lance Tudor returned to the States after spending four years overseas with the U.S. Army, he thought everything was fine. He got back into a schedule, working as a professional welder, married his wife, Cam, and started a new life – and yet, there was an unwavering anxiety always present.

He tried therapy, seeing a psychologist at West Valley Vet Center for a stint. He just couldn't get the anxiety, the anger, and the jumpiness to go away – it was always there in the back of his mind. He tried medications, but that didn't work either.

Then, he met a 75-pound pit bull mix named Maggie, and the two of them would save each other's lives.

Lance was born in Florida and raised in California. Growing up, he moved around between family members and was known as the black sheep after his parent's divorce. He bounced between Phoenix, Montana and Oregon.

"I was tired of my autopilot, monotonous schedule, working for a paper company. It was get up, deliver paper, go home. It was so repetitive. I wanted something new. So I signed up for the Army in August and left for boot camp on September 5, 2001. Six days later, 9/11 happened," he said.

Lance was 19 when he left for basic training.

"We're going to war, you guys better be ready, is what they told us," he said. "I didn't end up going overseas until two years later."

Basic training and tech school happened in South Carolina at Fort Jackson. Lance's position was known as 63S HO8 – a heavy-wheeled mechanic and recovery specialist. Once deployed, he was stationed in Czechoslovakia, Bagdad, and outside the Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq.

In talking to the soldier about his experience while overseas, the stress is palpable. It's not an easy subject to recall, let alone *want* to remember.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LANCE TUDOR

Lance Tudor and Maggie started working with Soldier's Best Friend in 2018.

"Once my captain realized I was qualified, I became a .50-cal. gunner, which meant I had to be ready in case of a serious attack on the convoy. I was constantly being shot at and around suicide bombers," he said.

In one instance, Lance and another soldier were heading into a swap meet to check things out, and the soldier forgot his wallet at the Humvee.

"There's a lot of razzing with each other in the Army," Lance said. "I gave him crap for forgetting his wallet and said, 'Okay, I'll wait here on this curb for you.'"

Within a minute, the swap meet was chaos from a suicide bomber attack. The pair witnessed people running and people on fire. Lance said that's one of the situations that "got him the worst."

"If he had remembered his wallet, we would not be having this conversation," he said.

Twenty minutes later, the pizza place the pair had just eaten at also blew up.

"We can what-if until the cows come home, but in one day, there were two moments that I could have died. It shook me up pretty good," Lance said.

After four years, he was sent home and was based out of Fort Hood in Texas, returning to Phoenix in 2005. He entered a new industry with a new schedule, and years later, decided to fulfill a childhood dream: Tudor adopted a dog, and in doing so, changed his life forever.

"I'd moved around so much as a kid that I never had a dog. My wife has two little ones, but they don't fetch. I can't roughhouse with them," he said.

In 2018, the couple went to Maricopa County Animal Control, where they found Maggie, a 75-pound pit bull mix who was on her way to be euthanized.

"She was in doggie jail, basically," Lance said. "To think she was on her way to not existing anymore. It was perfect timing for both of us."

A year after adopting Maggie, Cam suggested that Lance take the pup to Soldier's Best Friend (SBF), a nonprofit that pairs service dogs with veterans and trains them to work together.

"I told Cam I was fine and didn't need a service dog. She gave me a look that said, 'No, you're not,'" he said.

His time in the military had left him with anxiety and anger issues, OCD and nervousness around large crowds. Lance gave in, and he and Maggie started their training.

Founded by Arizona veterinarian Dr. John Burnham, SBF officially opened in 2011.

According to Executive Director Mik Milem, Dr. Burnham had a veteran client who was being deployed and begged the doctor not to let his older dog die while he was gone.

"He also had a stepmother who struggled with mental health," Milem said, "and this led him to start researching service dogs for mental health. It was a new idea then, so SBF was among the first to enter this field."

The dogs come from rescues or shelters across Arizona. The first three months of training center around the Canine Good Citizen test, created and certified by the American Kennel Club.

The test includes basic obedience commands and the foundation for service dog work. After a dog passes, they start Public Access outings and tests, where the veteran and dog go to public places and learn to obey commands. Training lasts from six to nine months.

During that time, they work in Tasks, which are the specific things the dog will do for the veteran to mitigate the symptoms of their PTSD or traumatic brain injuries. "This includes making space, watching their back, picking things up, waking them from nightmares and providing pressure therapy. They must have at least three tasks down before graduating," Milem said.

SBF Trainer Lynn Woodard worked with Maggie and Lance in 2019; 1.5 hours every Tuesday and Thursday for nine months.

When he throws his hands up and curses, Maggie will come toward him instead of running away like other dogs might. Maggie helps him do security checks and will jump on his chest or stand up when she feels something is amiss.

Today, Lance's anxiety has become but a minimal thought in his mind.

"My life has improved so much, thanks to Maggie. Going through training, we had goals and a sense of purpose to get through the program together," he said. "We have a bond that I've never had with an animal. Her presence alone is helpful in tough times, and I love her so much."

soldiersbestfriend.org

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Winston is back – and this time, he's getting festive

By Rachael Bouley

Winston, a Pomeranian who calls Arcadia home, certainly has a taste for adventure, as showcased in the books in Cynthia Finefrock's *Winston the Traveling Dog* series.

As a proud dog mom and author, Finefrock continues to be inspired by her canine companion, the main character in her children's books. They aim to spark kids' curiosity about the world around them.

After traveling to London, Paris, Italy, Egypt and Jordan in the first two books, Winston's next adventure is in South America.

"Readers will learn about the beautiful countries of Peru and Argentina in a fun and light-hearted way," Finefrock said. "Winston also teaches us how to make the best of unfortunate situations after experiencing numerous travel mishaps. Through patience and positivity, Winston realizes there's beauty in the imperfect!"

Winston has also released a special-edition book to kick off the holiday season. *Winston the Traveling Dog's Christmas* tells the story of the pup discovering Santa Paws' naughty or nice list and making amends for past mischief.

"Winston learns the true meaning of Christmas and the power of doing good deeds," Finefrock said.

It's the latest chapter in her newfound creative outlet. After losing her job during the pandemic, Finefrock updated her photography website and had extra time on her hands.

"My friend made a joke about editing my very photogenic dog into my travel landscape photos," Finefrock recalled. "What started as a joke has now transpired into an award-winning children's book series."

Finefrock tackles one continent at a time for each book, which begins with a trip down memory lane as she looks through her travel pics and finds images that would look good with Winston superimposed on them.

"For the first book, I wrote the story and took the photos afterward," Finefrock explained. "For the latest books, the process involves taking the photos first and writing the storyline around what pictures we could get. It also involves a lot of cheese for Winston's hard work. He doesn't work for free!"

Since debuting the first book in 2021, she's had the opportunity to make new connections and visit schools, introducing kids to the magic of Winston and his adventures.

"The students enjoy the books and learn about the countries Winston visits," Finefrock said. "It's an incredible feeling meeting his fans in real life."

With her vision of writing a book for each continent, and possibly even a special Arizona edition, this likely isn't the last we will see of the playful Pomeranian.

"Winston means everything to me. I never expected a children's book series to come from his arrival," Finefrock said, "but here we are! The world works in mysterious ways, and I'm so grateful for this unexpected career path."

Paw-tographed copies and stuffed animal replicas are sold on Finefrock's website, with 10 percent of sales going back to animal rescue. The books are also sold through Amazon, Walmart and Barnes & Noble.

cynthiaanne.com

PHOTO COURTESY OF CYNTHIA FINEFROCK

Winston is the star in a popular children's book series, written by Arcadia dog mom Cynthia Finefrock.

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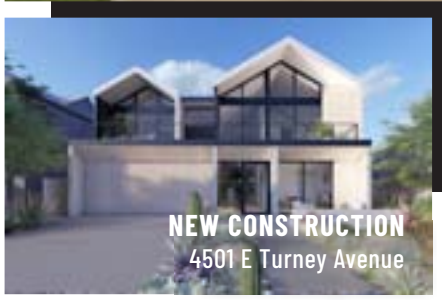

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Cheers to 20 years for AZ company

By Melissa Hirschl

Twenty years ago, Arcadia resident Julia Winter took a leap of faith and launched Jewel Ya, a boutique offering trend-forward looks and designs from natural metals and materials that are versatile and captivating.

To celebrate the anniversary, Winter donated 25 percent of her "care collection" bracelet sales to two nonprofits: Fresh Start Women's Foundation and Mother's Grace, which helps provide women with resources through challenging events.

Julia Winter

"Working with causes is important to me," Winter said. "Throughout the lifespan of my business, I have created signature pieces for charities to resell for fundraising. I have also done truck shows that donate to causes."

Winter's enterprise began inside her home in 2003. A labor of love, it prospered for 15 years.

"Eventually, I had to find a new venue because the business was growing. It took over my house," Winter said. She decided the ideal venue would be an appointment-only showroom.

Visitors to Jewel Ya can peruse 14k gold-filled and sterling silver paper-clip style chains that can be mixed and matched with an assortment of birthstones, freshwater pearls, turquoise, black onyx and more. Clients can bring in pendants to be displayed on necklaces or bracelets. An individualized touch Winter provides is creating custom letter name bracelets.

For inspiration, the artist uses her intuition for her creations.

"I absorb details in my day-to-day life and see what people are wearing and how they style themselves," she said. "I combine my vision with my observations to build another layer to the Jewel Ya collection."

Winter also attends jewelry shows in Tucson, Vegas and California to see materials and design opportunities.

She admits to having a life-long love for creating and selling.

"As a child, I used plastic beads to make children's jewelry and sold them door to door," she reminisced.

As an adult with marketing degrees and an MBA from ASU, Winter forged a successful career in sales for IBM and Xerox. After 17 years, she sought out a life coach to help create more flexibility in her life.

"Knowing I had the best training on how to run a business and know your customers, I decided to take the plunge and give jewelry a go," she said.

Winter's creations can be found at local retailers, including the Willows Home and Garden store in Arcadia.

Jewel Ya is currently offering curated sets or build-your-own bracelet stacks with buy two get the third 50 percent off.

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"Meet Mr." | Ray Artigue

Josh Cooper

Some people wear their emotions on their sleeves. Josh Cooper takes this sentiment a step further – he has his feelings tattooed all over his body.

The 33-year-old Phoenix native is a man with strong convictions, and he's not afraid to display his faith for all to see, explaining, "My tattoos and what they convey honor my faith."

James 2:17 is emblazoned on his right arm because that is his favorite scripture verse: *faith by itself, unaccompanied by actions, is a dead faith*. "That's how I try and live my life," Cooper said.

> ***My tattoos and what they convey honor my faith.***

But not all of his tattoos have to do with Christianity. On his leg, you'll find Dory, the forgetful fish in *Finding Nemo*. "That reminds me that, like her, sometimes we just need to keep swimming. Perspective is everything in life because someone always has it worse off than us," he said.

Cooper's pulpit is a barber's chair at V's Barber Shop Arcadia, and it's the first chair, signifying his seniority in the neighborhood business. The TVs are always turned to ESPN – sports are the central topic of discussion.

"In this job, people are usually happy to see you because you make them look better. It's not like going to the dentist," Cooper laughed.

He and his brother attended Sunnyslope High School, where Cooper took all AP courses and graduated with honors. While his parents encouraged him to further his education – and he did, starting at Phoenix College – they also repeatedly urged him to learn a vocation.

"It's maybe the only time I listened to my parents," Cooper said, "so I enrolled in Barber College, thinking I'd do it just to make some spending money."

Fifteen years and nearly 70,000 haircuts later, Cooper is the number one producer in the 70-store chain of V's Barber Shops nationwide. He works seven days a week.

"People ask me why I work so hard. I take care of my mom, and that's a priority, but I am also saving up to have my own V's shop one day," he said.

Cooper said what he likes most about barbering is getting to know his customers, making friends and watching kids grow into adults that bring in their own children. He also admires his mentor and V's founder, Jim Valenzuela.

"Jim's been like a second father and a great influence in my life," Cooper said.

When Cooper isn't cutting hair (which is almost every day), he enjoys hanging out with friends, playing pick-up basketball and going to the movies. Among his favorite films are the first *Matrix*, *The Devil Wears Prada* and anything featuring Will Ferrell.

Scripture provides grounding for Cooper, and he's emphatic that it has brought him peace and a positive outlook: "It is the backbone in my life."

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Prince of Peace celebrates milestone anniversaries

By Rachael Bouley

It's been 65 years since Prince of Peace Lutheran Church was founded in Arcadia, and the congregation is looking forward to celebrating with the community as Rick Sherril also marks his 25th anniversary as an ordained pastor.

The church's humble beginnings go back to September 1957 when Pastor Phillip Gansei and his family arrived in Phoenix.

Pastor Gansei was commissioned by the American Lutheran Church to begin a congregation in Phoenix in the summer of 1957. He and his family arrived here in September and began the work that led to the formation of Prince of Peace. The first worship service was held at VFW Hall on Thomas Road that October. There were 81 in attendance.

The congregation grew over the next decade, and ground-breaking ceremonies were held in August 1965 at the current church site on 56th St., where they unveiled a new sanctuary and permanent home for congregants.

Since then, the church has thrived with weekly services and ceremonies and Prince of Peace Preschool, which has served families since 1967.

In 2017, Prince of Peace opened its doors to infant care, expanding services from birth to pre-K, and in 2021, a second preschool location opened at Hospice of the Valley on 44th St. and Indianola Ave.

Congregation Council President Kris Kainass said she loved raising her kids in the church and working on family service projects together.

"Our kids are now 17, 15, and 11, but we've been watching them on the POP stage since they were two," Kainass said. "The Prince of Peace community is an extension of our family."

One of the most notable service projects is the Arcadia Cares Packathon. In this springtime tradition, local schools, churches, neighborhood associations, scout troops, and families pack food for those in need. The church also has a variety of youth programs to help teens navigate challenges and find support in a safe space.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KRIS KAINASS

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church opened in 1965. (inset) Pastor Rick is celebrating 25 years at Prince of Peace.

"Teens and staff meet regularly on Sunday mornings over donuts to discuss the highs and lows of the week. They also meet regularly on Sunday nights for fun and community," Kainass said. "We get that being a teen today is hard and are glad to be a sanctuary for youth to have support."

The Prince of Peace Foundation is a nonprofit that oversees the church's endowment and memorial funds to support campus improvements, youth gatherings and scholarships for undergraduate members.

They also offer kids the chance to participate in private music lessons and children's musicals with Temple Music & Performing Arts.

This tight-knit community is led by Pastor Rick, who said he understands the importance of youth and family ministry as a devoted husband and father of two. He joined the church in 2009 after moving from California.

"Over the years, I'm blessed that the church family has been there for me during times of grief, celebration and continues to support me in big and small ways," Pastor Rick said. "When my dad died, the support of the Prince of Peace family meant everything. When my girls had milestones the community celebrated with us. Most of all, when I reflect on my time here, I think of Easter mornings on Camelback Mountain. It takes effort to get to beautiful moments and these are made more beautiful by the unexpected."

"Rick honors the deep, rich, and beautiful foundation of POP and keeps that spirit alive in all that he does," Kainass said. "What we love best is that he loves to see others shine over himself, and we can see the uplifted spirit in others in all that he touches at the preschool, church, youth program, and community service projects. Thank goodness he said yes to being a pastor 25 years ago. He was born for this."

The Arcadia community is invited to join Prince of Peace in celebrating both anniversaries on November 19 after the 9:30 service.

popphoenix.org

Scan this QR code for information about the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and Preschool Anniversary Celebration.

Kids in Focus annual event returns for fifth year

By Rachael Bouley

A local nonprofit passionate about helping at-risk kids is bringing back its annual fundraiser celebrating *Dia de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead).

Kids in Focus is hosting the fifth annual *Noche para los Niños* (Night for the Children) to raise funds and draw attention to the artistry of overcoming adversity. Founded in 2012 by Karen Shell, the organization gives underprivileged kids aged 10-18 the chance to explore photography and see the world in a new light.

These pre-teens and teenagers often face abuse, neglect, poverty, homelessness, or critical medical conditions, and Kids in Focus gives them a creative outlet to channel those challenges into art.

"While serving kids from primarily low-income communities, our vision is to provide mentoring photography programs to create opportunities for any child to express their unique perspective and voice with skills that foster confidence, resilience and joy," Exhibits Manager Ann Alger Piraino said.

By partnering with 16 local organizations – including Arizona Friends of Foster Children and Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley – Kids in Focus connects with youth in need. The afterschool program pairs attendees with dedicated mentors, who, over nine weeks, teach them how to use a camera and take them on field trips to snap photos. These images are then displayed in a public exhibit with an opening night gala.

PHOTO: CHADWICK FOWLER

Noche para los Niños is a Kids in Focus fundraiser with food, music and Day of the Dead-themed performances. (right) Photography mentoring programs teach teens how to look at the world through a different lens.

With new skills under their belts, participants move on to the Grads in Focus program, allowing alum participants to stay connected and continue creating art.

True North Camps bring kids into the beautiful nature of northern Arizona, while closer to home, workshops are held throughout the year for students to work on their craft and eventually become junior mentors to help others.

The mentoring programs encourage kids facing adversity to build resilience and help boost their self-confidence.

"Looking through the lens of a camera can help a child reframe how they view themselves while encouraging them to see the world from a new perspective," Piraino said. "Staff at our partner organizations, mentors, and kids' parents report improvements in behavior, attitude, anger management, and self-confidence, both during and after the program."

Such opportunities are made possible through a team of volunteers and community support at the signature fundraiser, Noche para los Niños.

The fifth annual event happens on Thursday, November 2, from 6-10 p.m. at Arizona Heritage Center in Papago Park. Guests will be treated to live music, food, a silent auction, a raffle, and a live auction.

A gallery of work created by Kids in Focus participants is the highlight of the fundraiser, showcasing how donations support programs and help youth.

Recently appointed Kids in Focus Executive Director Nan McCoy is excited to experience her first Noche event.

"I have heard from many attendees that it is their favorite event of the year, and I can't wait to experience it," McCoy said. "Critical funds raised will literally provide a new lens on life for even more kids in our community."

kidsinfocus.org

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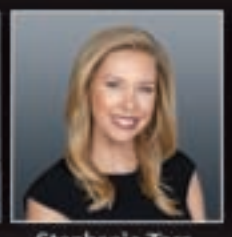

Stephanie Tarr

Shawna Bonnett

Kathy Miller

The Dining Scoop

Pie Snob

Thanksgiving conjures up images of families gathering together, kids running into – and out of – the kitchen, lots of laughs and lots of food. Perhaps you would like someone else to do the cooking this year. If so, we've got a list of some restaurants and businesses offering Turkey Day specials.

Pre-order your **Pie Snob** pies now! Guests have until November 13 to order for pick up on November 21 and 22 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Flavors include apple crumb, caramel apple, green chile apple crumb, chocolate pecan, pumpkin praline, pumpkin cheesecake and razzleberry double-crust. Prices range from $26-$48.

piesnob.com

The Market by Jennifer has Thanksgiving meals covered this year. Guests can order a whole roasted turkey ($150) and various sides like bread stuffing, whipped potatoes, sweet potato hash, green beans with sliced almonds, veggies and rolls for $40-$45. Pumpkin and pecan pies are also available for purchase. Orders must be placed by November 18 and picked up by Thanksgiving Day, 7 a.m.-noon.

themarketbyjennifer.com

Frasher's Smokehouse (3222 E. Indian School Road) will be open on Thanksgiving Day from 10:30 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. with a smoked turkey or ham meal available for purchase. Folks can choose from four sides (acorn squash, corn, potatoes, green chili mac and cheese, to name a few!) and dessert, gravy and rolls are included. Prices are $45 for adults, $25 for kids. Pre-orders of smoked ham or turkey sides are also available. Orders should be placed by November 17 for pick up on Thanksgiving Day from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Check the website for pricing.

frasherssmokehouse.com

Lon's at The Hermosa Inn (5532 N. Palo Cristi Road, Paradise Valley) will host a Thanksgiving brunch for families on November 23 from 12-7 p.m. Starters include sweet potato bisque or smoked beet salad, followed by roasted natural turkey or wood-fired beef tenderloin. Desserts include roasted white carrot cake or pumpkin panna cotta. Reservations are required – prices are $105 for adults, $35 for kids 4-12.

hermosainn.com

Thanksgiving at **ZuZu at Hotel Valley Ho** (6850 E. Main St., Scottsdale) offers a dine-in or to-go option. The dine-in meal features a starter buffet, entrées like apple-brined turkey or pan-seared scallops, pumpkin pie or cranberry cheesecake. Dinner is $75-$92 for adults, $25 for kids. The to-go meals include turkey, potatoes, gravy, sweet potato gratin, stuffing and more. Whole-turkey packages (feeds 8-10) are $349-$399; half-turkey (feeds 4-6) packages are $249. Orders should be placed no later than 5 p.m. on November 18. Meals can be picked up on November 22 between 12-6 p.m. or on Thanksgiving Day between 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

hotelvalleyho.com

From 11 a.m.-8 p.m., **Hearth '61 at Mountain Shadows** (5445 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley) is serving up a prix fixe menu – $135 per adult, $35 for kids. Starters include meatballs with roasted sweet peppers, a chop salad, or squash soup. Entrees include turkey from Two Wash Ranch or tenderloin of beef with blue cheese fondue. Pumpkin pie, butterscotch pecan pie, or chocolate mousse cake are also available. Folks can also order individual to-go dinners with turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, orange cranberry relish, buttered green beans, and rolls. To-go meals are $71 for adults, $32 for children. Orders can be placed through 5 p.m. on November 21. Pick up between 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

mountainshadows.com

Geordie's at Wrigley Mansion (2501 E. Telawa Tr., Phoenix) will offer a Thanksgiving four-course meal on November 23 from 12-6 p.m. Options include roasted butternut squash salad, corn chowder, pacific halibut, turkey roulade, pumpkin cheesecake and cinnamon pound cake, as well as various traditional Thanksgiving sides for the table. Reservations are required; prices are $195 for adults, $65 for kids.

wrigleymansion.com

Good food, friends and family is the theme for **Elements** at Sanctuary's (5700 E. McDonald Dr., Paradise Valley) Thanksgiving four-course prix fixe dinner. Guests can choose from crispy duck confit, tuna tartare, shrimp and grits, Japanese eggplant, turkey roulade, blue crab agnolotti, and for dessert, there will be a buffet! Prices are $165 for adults, $55 for kids. Reservations are required.

gurneysresorts.com

A "Royal Thanksgiving" happens at **Royal Palms** (5200 E. Camelback Road) on November 23. Guests can pick from a three-course prix fixe menu at T. Cook's or a banquet buffet in the ballroom. The T. Cook's option is available from 1-8 p.m.; the buffest is available from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Both options cost $175 for adults $75 for kids. There will also be live music and complimentary mimosas at dinner. Reservations required.

royalpalmshotel.com

Folks can order Thanksgiving to-go items from **Miracle Mile Deli** (4433 N. 16th St., Phoenix). Orders must be placed by November 22 at 2 p.m. for pick up on November 23 from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Options include an individual meal for $23, family meal (feeds 6-8) for $225, or sides and desserts like mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, brisket, BBQ chicken or pastrami, and pumpkin or pecan pie. Call 602-776-0992 to place an order.

miraclemiledeli.com

WORTH THE DRIVE

EAT by Stacey Weber (4740 E. Shea Blvd., Phoenix) is offering a ready-to-serve Thanksgiving menu that feeds four and includes traditional staples with some unique dishes (cranberry ginger salsa, baked brie with pistachios and whipped sweet potatoes, for example!). Most items are gluten- and dairy-free. Pre-orders are available through November 16 until 8 a.m. Orders will be ready for pick up on November 22, between 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

eatbystaceyweber.com

FOUND:RE Hotel and **Match Market and Bar** (1100 N. Central Ave., Phoenix) are offering two times for Thanksgiving Dinner – 3:30 or 6 p.m. The three-course menu includes items like cranberry pecan salad, carrot ginger soup, smoked turkey breast, stuffed roasted acorn squash or pumpkin spice mousse, with sides available for additional purchase. Cost is $59 per person. Reservations required.

matchphx.com

Until November 17, patrons can pre-order pies from **SugarJam - The Southern Kitchen** (15111 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale), which will be available for pickup on November 22 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. This year's flavors include apple, caramel apple, apple crumb, cherry, cherry crumb, southern sweet potato, SugarJam pumpkin, bourbon pecan, chocolate pecan and peach cobbler. Prices range from $27.95-$29.95.

sjsouthernkitchen.com

Tracy Dempsey Originals (1325 W. University Dr., Tempe) is offering sides and desserts this Thanksgiving. Orders should be in by November 16, with pick-up by November 22 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Offerings include rolls, mushroom and herb gravy made with roasted turkey, roasted autumn vegetable and grain salad, savory leek bread pudding, bourbon pecan pie, salted caramel apple streusel galette, bourbon pumpkin pie with browned butter pecan streusel and lemon chess pie. Prices range from $24-$45.

tracydempseyoriginals.com

Terra Tempe (11 E. Seventh St., Tempe) will have a Thanksgiving dine-in menu available on November 23. Sage roasted sweet potato gnocchi, root vegetable hash, brown butter apple and cornbread crumble, and cinnamon pumpkin soup are just a few dishes up for grabs. Entrees include a "turkey feast" or horseradish crust filet mignon. Desserts include white chocolate pumpkin pie and charred honey pecan tarte. New this year, the restaurant is offering a modified children's menu. Cost is $85 for adults, $40 for children.

terratempe.com

VETERAN'S DAY DEALS

Here are a few spots celebrating our veterans with specials on November 11.

Black Rifle Coffee (4126 E. Indian School Road) is offering veterans a free 16 oz. beverage (November 11) and a 20 percent discount on BRCC retail merch to customers from November 10-13.

blackriflecoffee.com

Koibito Poké (4280 E. Indian School Road) is honoring veterans with $5 off in-store orders on Veterans Day.

koibitopoke.com

Over Easy (4730 E. Indian School Road) offers a year-round discount for veterans with 10 percent off the bill every time they visit.

eatatovereasy.com

STK Steakhouse

Kona Grill (7014 E. Camelback Road, Scottsdale) and **STK Steakhouse** (7134 E. Stetson Dr., Scottsdale) are offering 50 percent off food for veterans and active-duty military from November 10-13.

konagrill.com, stksteakhouse.com

Restaurant group **Jocque Concepts** will offer a 25 percent discount on food purchases for veterans and active military at all of its concepts in Old Town and Arcadia, including Diego Pops, Eat Up Drive In, The Hot Chick and The Montauk.

jocqueconcepts.com

Salt & Lime Modern Mexican Grill (9397 E. Shea Blvd., Scottsdale) offers a year-round 20 percent discount for veterans and first responders.

saltandlimeaz.com

Grimaldi's Pizzeria (4000 N. Scottsdale Road) is offering 25 percent off for all active and off-duty military on November 11.

grimaldispizzeria.com

32 Shea (10626 N. 32nd St., Phoenix) is offering a free medium drip coffee to veterans and active military members on November 11. Must show ID.

32shea.com

Breakfast and lunch spot **Morning Squeeze** offers a year-round 10 percent discount for active military and veterans at its three locations in Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe.

morningsqueeze.com

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Coveted modern architect Schreiber home is on a half-acre lot with beautiful mountain views. Fabulous front patio with gas fireplace. Large kitchen/family room w/fireplace, formal dining room and bonus room. Spacious master suite w/sitting area, large bath and the secondary bedroom also has private bath. Large yard with plenty of space for a large pool, sport court or guest house. HUGE 900 s.f. detached and extra high garage adds 2 parking spaces plus a large shop area. RV parking with hookups + large slab area. Blocks from coveted Arcadia schools.

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Local nonprofit combines efforts with foster resource center

By Ann Stone

Teenagers Sanya Somani and Anaiya Patel were witnesses to what happened while Anaiya's grandmother battled lymphatic cancer.

The diagnosis played a prominent role in Anaiya's life, but her family was thankful for the accessible resources for her grandmother's treatment.

"Heartbreakingly, this is not the case worldwide. Too many women face disparities in the realm of healthcare and education and, when trying to meet needs, they often don't have enough information or know where to start," Anaiya said.

> ***Too many women face disparities in the realm of healthcare and education and they often don't have enough information or know where to start.***

Starting HealthForHER (HFH) meant that the duo could help more women and families access what every human needs and deserves.

"This includes education on their own well-being, the resources for their livelihoods, and the comfort that we walk this world together, not alone," Anaiya said.

The two high school seniors created an international nonprofit that provides health and educational resources to underserved women and their families.

They host events, drives, workshops, seminars, and panel discussions. Recently, HFH partnered with AZ Helping Hands (a foster-family resource center) to put together "birthday bags" for foster care kids.

The planning began this summer when Sanya took on the role of special projects intern for the Legislative District (LD) 4 Democrats internship and organized a campaign event for Representatives Judy Schwiebert and Laura Terech and Senator Christine Marsh.

Sanya and Anaiya chose to work with AZ Helping Hands for this event because they had previously worked with the organization and loved their experience.

"Their warehouse is very well organized, and I felt there was a lot of opportunity to foster more involvement and support children in need," Sanya said.

PHOTO: VARSHA SOMANI

Anaiya Patel, Laura Terech, Christine Marsh, Judy Schwiebert and Sanya Somani.

HealthForHER and Arizona Helping Hands invited student volunteers and community members from LD2 and LD4 to assist with creating "birthday dream bags" for foster children to experience the joy of a birthday celebration. Each gift bag included items like cake mix, frosting, candles, plates, napkins, and an age-appropriate toy or item, such as makeup or a wallet.

After, the legislators held a discussion about critical issues affecting female refugees, foster children, and low-income new mothers. They also spoke about how community members can contribute and why it is important to help when possible. In addition, those in attendance learned how families in foster care receive essentials. AZ Helping Hands, for instance, often provides mattresses, clothes, diapers, and toys to support families.

Sanya enjoyed seeing her plan come together: "I worked on planning all summer, and seeing our community join together to support this incredible cause was so heartwarming. I am excited for the children to receive their birthday dream bags and can't wait to volunteer with AZ Helping Hands again soon."

HealthForHER is currently hosting a year-long menstrual product drive. Ambassadors in different states and countries also host drives in their local communities.

health-for-her.org

ARIZONA FOSTER CARE STATS

According to the Arizona Department of Child Safety, approximately 14,000 Arizona children are in foster care, with around 3,000 licensed foster families. Some enter the foster system at birth, but more than 80 percent of the foster care children are there because of neglect.

If foster care is not an option, folks are welcome to donate items like diapers, baby clothes, books, journals, luggage and items for birthday bags. Financial donations can assist with mattresses and other large purchases. Other alternatives include offering services such as piano or martial arts lessons.

FOSTER CARE IN ARIZONA

- In 2022, it was reported that the Child Abuse Hotline received 21,317 calls that met the statutory criteria for a DCS report.
- The majority of children in foster care are from ages 1 to 5.
- On average, children with an adoption case plan spend 25 months in foster care.
- Thirty percent of children leaving foster care spent over 12 months in care.
- On average, it takes six months to become foster parents.
- Foster parents must be 21 or older and must pass a background check.
- Parents must pass a physical, home study and life safety inspection and receive a certificate from their doctor to prove they can raise a child.

azhelpinghands.org

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VETERANS DAY DRIVE-THRU PARADE!

Christ Lutheran School would like to honor and thank those who have served or are serving in our military.

WHO: Veterans + their Families
WHEN: Friday, November 10
9:30-10:00 am
WHERE: Christ Lutheran School
3901 E Indian School Road, Phoenix 85018

Enter the parade at the corner of Piccadilly Rd. + 40th St. at the south entrance of the school. You will see students holding signs. Please invite any + all veterans that you know to drive thru the parade! Car decorating is encouraged!

Please RSVP with Mandi Schnepf by November 6
mschnepf@cclphoenix.org

Empowered & driven to help

By Rachael Bouley

After an impaired driver caused a terrible car accident that injured her friend, PCDS senior Lanae Schroeder was propelled to join Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD), a youth safety organization empowering teen and adult allies to engage in positive change.

Not only is Lanae part of the organization, she was recently recognized as one of 17 students serving on the SADD National Student Leadership Council, which develops programming to support the organization's core mission.

"The council is a selected group of students from across the nation. The positions are highly sought after by student leaders," said Michelle Klima, Arizona Coordinator. "Lanae is one of the first representatives from AZ in several years."

Initially founded in 1981 as Students Against Driving Drunk, the nonprofit strives to prevent students from making potentially destructive, life-altering decisions. This includes educating kids and parents on safety risks and rallying communities to advocate for change, with student chapters leading the charge.

Lanae Schroeder

Lanae is part of the council's substance abuse committee, which creates content and reviews programming to spread the word about the dangers of drugs and alcohol and how to make healthy choices.

She is now in her fourth year serving locally on the Arizona Student Leadership Council.

"My involvement in the Arizona Student Leadership Council started after my friend was in the accident," Lanae said. "It made me realize how much one bad decision can impact your life."

Now, she looks forward to taking her activism to the next level alongside fellow student leaders.

"I've loved being part of the Arizona SLC, so I decided to apply for the National SLC and was gratefully chosen through a competitive process," Lanae explained. "When I found out I was accepted, I was so excited to further my outreach and educate students about substance abuse, traffic safety, and mental health across the country."

Lanae is grateful for the opportunity to drive change through chapters and schools. She has set her sights on launching initiatives and collaborations to promote healthy decision-making while letting at-risk students know they are not alone.

"I am excited to be able to help keep moving this mission forward, seeing the impact we have on our peers around the country," Lanae said. "I hope to get my message across and help students understand that life shouldn't be taken for granted."

sadd.org/arizona

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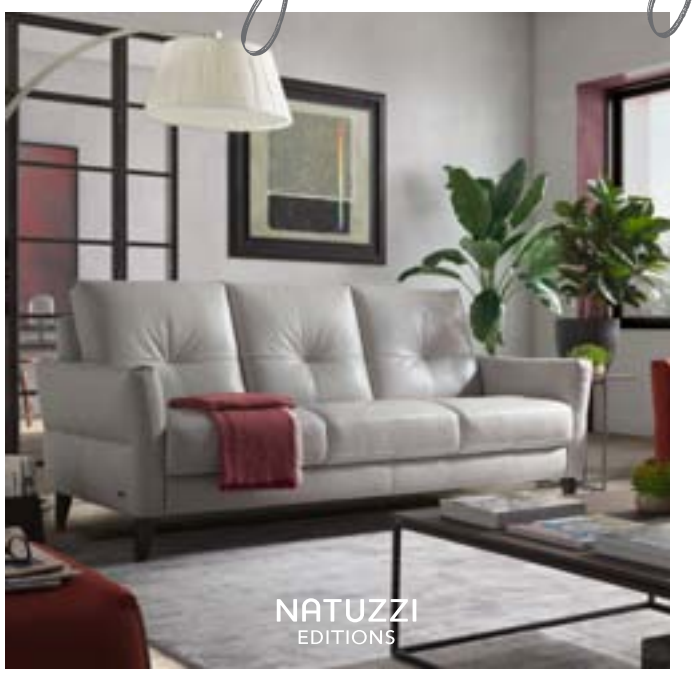

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Tetreault takes her mission to global stage

By Mark Hays

Jenny Holsman Tetreault was recently honored with an appointment to Vice-Chair of the Women United Global Leadership Council (WUGLC). According to her, the organization's purpose is to provide strategic recommendations to United Way Worldwide and to assist with raising funds to tackle global issues facing women and families.

The WUGLC also mobilizes women leaders to advocate for gender equity, mentor women in leadership and philanthropy, and support the overall growth of Women United globally.

The organization works for and has more than 55,000 members in over 200 locations.

"These women are aligned in making a collective difference in charitable giving, volunteering, and advocacy," Tetreault said. "The organization's plans may vary by location but always focus on gender equity and financial and educational equality."

Jenny Tetreault

WUGLC has raised more than $2 billion since its founding, thanks in large part to donations from members who have contributed generously at local and global levels. Tetreault said the group always seeks more members to join their mission.

"Led by a Steering Committee and working in collaboration with staff, Women United is a tremendous way for women in our community to engage in family philanthropy, join individual and family volunteer opportunities, participate in educational, business networking, and social events, and help raise funds that will support programs and services in Maricopa County," she said.

Tetreault began her involvement with Valley of the Sun United Way as a young professional volunteer group leader. She went on to co-chair the Steering Committee and serve as Board Chair of Valley of the Sun United Way. And now, she co-leads the organization's Endowment Campaign.

"It was such an honor to be asked to step into the Vice Chair position," Tetreault said. "It is a privilege to serve and lead in this way. I'm excited to continue building relationships, embracing different perspectives, and learning about the unique ways we can approach solving challenges affecting women and families worldwide."

She looks forward to leading the organization's diverse and talented Leadership Council to create change on a global scale while bringing solution-oriented practices back to Arizona. She plans to advocate for gender equity, grow and strengthen Women United groups worldwide, and leverage partnerships with advocacy and governmental groups to expand the impact of and visibility of Women United.

vsuw.org/womenunited

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELAINA VERHOFF

Nic and Riley find that customer's favorite lighting options include white bulbs on the roofline and candy cane lights on trees.

Riley Verhoff and Nic Cordovana of Everything Lights.

Local entrepreneurs gear up for fifth season of lights

By Mark Hays

For Arcadia locals Riley Verhoff and Nic Cordovana, the holiday season is a time to spread joy in a unique – and helpful – way. The ASU students offer a light-hanging service, called Everything Lights, to help make homes bright and festive.

The journey to Everything Lights began spontaneously for the pair.

"A neighbor of mine stopped by as I was hanging lights at my house," Verhoff said.

The neighbor mentioned the idea of a light-hanging business to Verhoff.

"I decided to give it a shot, partnered up with Nic – who I had been playing baseball with for the past six years – and the business began. We are entering our fifth season together and excited to light up the Valley!" Verhoff said.

Since that fateful suggestion, Everything Lights has grown to add two more employees to the team.

"We find it very rewarding to own and manage a business at our age," Verhoff said. "We've learned many things along the way."

In terms of decorating, he said most customers choose large white LED bulbs on their roofline for the holidays. They're also seeing a lot of interest in wrapping trees with red and white candy cane lights.

Verhoff said they typically require a week's notice to get a customer on the schedule, with appointments being booked as early as October.

"We can provide lights and have many different options," Verhoff said. "Or we can hang customer-provided lights. We're happy to assist with holiday light design ideas, which could include roofline, tree wrapping, inflatables, or bistro lights," Verhoff said.

As the name suggests, Everything Lights provides light-hanging services for the holidays and beyond.

"We also offer exterior lighting for weddings and parties," Verhoff said. "We can do trees, walls, fences, and more."

Verhoff said the company also takes down the lights at customer's homes throughout January. He said his favorite thing about the business is developing relationships with customers and spreading holiday cheer.

The company offers free quotes via text or by calling 602-574-7085.

Find out more on Instagram @everythinglightsaz

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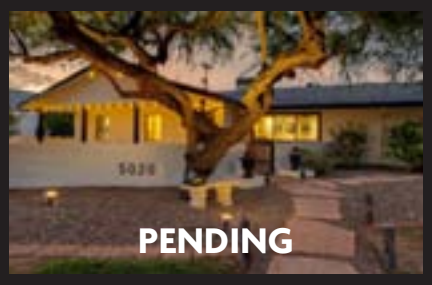

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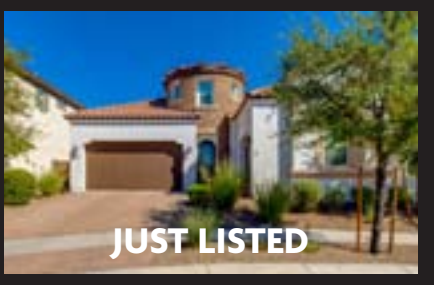

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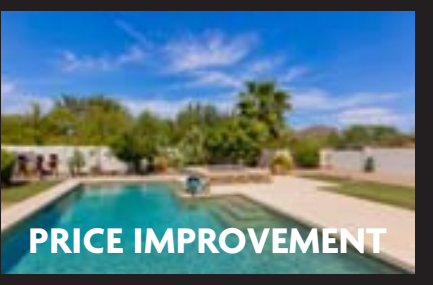

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Arcadia family finds hope after life-changing diagnosis

By Amy Carney

Sierra Fox and Anthony Barton understand the importance of kidney health education, as they had no awareness or family history of kidney disease until their daughter, London, was born with it in 2022. Genetics testing at Phoenix Children's Hospital determined at a week old that London had Denys-Drash syndrome, meaning she had a high probability of developing tumors and that her kidneys would fail.

After four months in the Phoenix Children's Hospital NICU unit, London had her kidneys removed just before her first birthday, and finally went home. The family gives credit to the team at PCH for the outstanding care their daughter received and the support and education they were given to successfully care for London from home.

At 18 months, London remains on numerous medications and 12 hours of daily dialysis to help her. Fox and Barton monitor their daughter's weight daily, waiting for when she is old enough to be eligible for a kidney transplant.

According to the American Kidney Fund, more than 37 million Americans have kidney disease, and millions more are at risk. About 555,000 are on dialysis, and nearly 230,000 live with kidney transplants. Each month, almost 11,000 new cases of kidney failure are diagnosed.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SIERRA FOX

Sierra Fox and Anthony Barton with their daughter, London, and Mica, an employee at the dialysis center. Sierra and Anthony raised $3,600 for last year's National Kidney Foundation Walk.

There are numerous organizations in Arizona collaborating to help support local families living with the disease.

The Arizona Women's Board (AWB) has been influential in raising money to support research, patient education, and serving the financial needs of kidney patients. The Valley nonprofit partners with the Arizona Kidney Foundation and Phoenix Children's Hospital and funds grants to other organizations working with research and patients.

Each year, AWB hosts an annual Author's Luncheon to raise funds for everything from kidney research to providing the basic needs of families in Arizona.

"The luncheon is a fun opportunity to gain awareness and understanding of kidney disease and the lifestyle changes necessary for patients and their families," AWB member Dana Jirauch said.

Humorist Erma Bombeck inspired the first Authors Luncheon in 1979, when she suggested the Women's Board hold a fundraiser featuring friends and fellow authors who would discuss their latest releases.

Bombeck herself had autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease, a genetic disorder. Since its inception, the luncheon – through the commitment, energy, and passion of the Women's Board – has raised nearly $12 million for kidney patients.

Many Arcadia residents remain AWB members, sustainers, luncheon attendees and supporters of the cause.

"AWB is proud to support organizations that improve kidney health through education, assistance and research," President Ingrid Haas said. "I am honored to serve as this year's president, and we are excited to continue our mission."

Those looking to support can participate in the National Kidney Foundation's annual Phoenix Kidney Walk. Registration is open, and the date will be announced soon.

kidneywalk.org/phoenix

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RESTAURANT *NEWS*

ARIZONA FROZÉ AND EATERY

Paula Jacqueline Cakes and Pastries (4151 N. Marshall Way, Scottsdale) opened a sandwich shop next door to the bakery called **Arizona Frozé and Eatery**. The business offers various frozé (frozen rosé wine) options – in bottles, pouches or popsicles – and sandwiches named after streets in Scottsdale, like the 5th Ave., with imported prosciutto and creamy brie, topped with spicy arugula and tart cherry jam toasted on a focaccia.

paulajacqueline.com

BIRDCALL

Birdcall, a chicken sandwich-focused restaurant that started in Denver in 2016, recently opened its latest Arizona location at 7th St. and Glendale Ave. The eatery offers chicken sandwiches, salads, tenders, sides, shakes and a breakfast menu.

eatbirdcall.com

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Celebrate World Vegan Month with these dishes

Did you know November is World Vegan Month? If you've wondered about vegan living and why millions of people are adopting this plant-based lifestyle, there are three reasons:

• Health: Research has shown that it's the only lifestyle that can reverse and prevent our number one killer, heart disease. It also helps prevent other top chronic diseases, obesity, diabetes and Alzheimer's.

• Environment: The vegan lifestyle significantly reduces the environmental footprint by minimizing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving water resources, and preserving biodiversity. By abstaining from animal products, vegans help contribute to a more sustainable planet, combat climate change, and promote a future where ecosystems thrive and the Earth is healthier for all.

• Animals: A vegan lifestyle helps animals by eliminating demand for their exploitation and suffering in industries like factory farming. By choosing plant-based foods and cruelty-free products, vegans reduce cruelty, and advocate for more compassionate treatment of all living beings.

If you're not ready to go all in, you can make some small steps to try this way of living. Pick one day a week or one meal a day to eat completely vegan. I have lots of recipes on my Instagram. Make a list of which ones you want to try, and if you need motivation, shoot me an email at youcare.selfcare@gmail.com.

This month's recipes are vegan options for Thanksgiving – and one is in honor of Japanese Culture Day on November 3!

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

Shaved Brussels sprouts salad SERVES: 6

Ingredients

- 1 bag of shaved brussels
- 1 can of garbanzo beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 chopped pears
- 1 chopped Honeycrisp apple
- 2 tbsp. chopped chives
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- ½ cup dairy-free feta

Dressing

- 3 tbsp. olive oil
- Juice of one lemon
- 2 tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- 2 garlic cloves
- 2 tsp. Dijon
- 1 tbsp. maple syrup
- ½ tsp. each: salt, oregano, sumac

Directions

Mix up dressing and toss everything together!

Roasted butternut squash soup SERVES: 8

Ingredients

- 6 cups cubed butternut squash
- 2 tbsp. olive oil, divided
- 2 tsp. salt, divided
- ¼ tsp. pepper, divided
- 1 diced onion
- 3 minced garlic cloves
- 1-inch grated ginger
- 1 chopped granny smith apple
- 1 tsp. coriander
- 1 tsp. cumin
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- ½ tsp. paprika
- ½ tsp. smoked paprika
- ½ lime, juiced
- ⅓ cup coconut milk

Directions

1. *Preheat oven to 400F. Combine the squash, 1 tbsp. of oil, ½ tsp. salt, and ¼ tsp. pepper in a large bowl. Spread the squash in a single layer on a baking sheet and bake for 30 minutes.*
2. *Add the remaining oil to a soup pot. Add the onion and garlic to the pot and cook for five minutes on medium heat. Add the ginger and apple, and sauté for one minute.*
3. *Add the roasted squash, remaining salt, coriander, cumin, paprika, smoked paprika and broth. Cover and cook on medium-low heat for 20 minutes.*
4. *Blend the soup with an immersion or a stand-up blender. Add lime juice and coconut milk. Simmer and serve. Top with fresh herbs if desired.*

Udon noodle stir-fry SERVES: 5-6

Ingredients

- 8-12 ounces udon noodles
- 1 diced onion
- 1 box mushrooms, sliced
- 2 red peppers, sliced
- 6 green onions, sliced
- Shake of garlic powder

Dressing

- 5 tbsp. soy sauce
- 4 tbsp. vegan oyster sauce
- 2 tbsp. of mirin
- 4 tsp. brown or coconut sugar
- 1 tsp. rice wine vinegar

Directions

1. *Get noodles cooking.*
2. *Saute veggies in a little oil for about 10-15 minutes.*
3. *Make dressing.*
4. *Add cooked noodles and sauce to the pan.*
5. *If adding tofu: I cubed super firm tofu, drizzled on a little oil and soy sauce, then tossed with toasted sesame seeds and air-fried for 20 minutes. Then I tossed that into the pan, too!*

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ACTIVE!
6841 E. Osborn Road B
Scottsdale, 85251
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Great opportunity minutes to Arcadia and in the heart of Old Town. Rare 4 bedroom/2.5 bath townhouse fully renovated in 2017. Beautiful white kitchen with marble counters and stainless appliances. Luxury vinyl, large covered patio and 2-car carport.

ACTIVE!
4525 N. 66th Street 128
Scottsdale, 85251
$500,000

Large single story patio home located in the heart of all the action. 3 bedroom/2 baths. Huge island kitchen and lovely covered patios in the front and back. Beautiful mid-century community with 24 hour guard/3 pools/workout room and clubhouse.

ACTIVE!
4525 N. 66th Street 36
Scottsdale, 85251
$450,000

One of a kind Mid-Century charmer located in the coveted community of Casa Del Monte at 66th Street and Camelback. Beautiful patio home with soaring ceilings, beautiful white block interior walls, charming kitchen and off the charts patio and garden.

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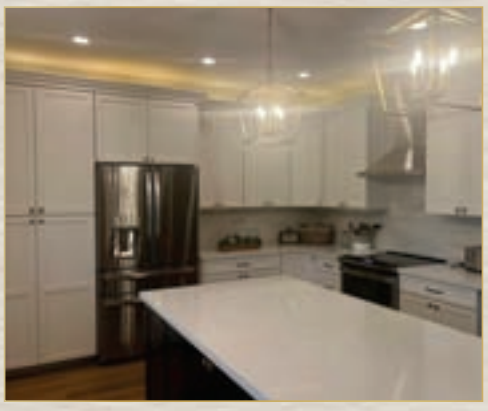

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An abandoned town brought back to life

Robin's Adventures

BY ROBIN SEWELL

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

The history of Vulture City Ghost Town, near Wickenburg, reads like a script from a classic Western movie. As the legend goes, in 1863, a prospector named Henry Wickenburg walked across the Arizona desert to pick up a dead vulture when something shiny caught his eye: gold!

Soon, Vulture City was the place to be, and the Vulture Mine would become Arizona's most active and profitable gold mine. With that discovery, it wasn't long before there was a massive influx of people to the area. Soon, Vulture City was home to a thriving mining operation and a booming town. This led to the development of agricultural communities in central Arizona, like Prescott and Phoenix.

Vulture Mine was an economic engine connected to one of the most famous legends of the American West. Jacob Waltz, aka the Lost Dutchman, briefly worked for Vulture Mine. High grading – a term used in mining to steal high-grade ore – was standard.

Waltz left but later returned, telling a story about the Superstition Mine and presenting gold he claimed to have found there. Through testing, miners discovered that the ore was actually Vulture Mine gold.

In 1942, America fought in World War II, and the War Production Board closed Vulture Mine. For years, Vulture City sat abandoned, and the historically significant buildings were in danger of being torn down. Vulture City Ghost Town needed a visionary, a hero; and as luck would have, it got two: Rod Prat and Robin Moriarity.

When Rod and Robin bought the town, the walls of the old adobe buildings were on the ground. It took love, ingenuity, and skills from restorationists to bring life back to Vulture City Ghost Town. Today, gunfights and gold panning are alive and well.

Stephen Cerutti, who also helped to restore the town, provides tours through the buildings. He points out the workmanship, sharing its storied past, haunting present, and providing that Old West hospitality to visitors.

Vulture City Forge adds to the authenticity by sharing the history of blacksmithing, a craft that has mystified people for thousands of years. The owner, Brock Phalen, shares demonstrations and provides a variety of classes for visitors to create bespoke items and heirlooms.

Vulture City wouldn't be an authentic mining town without mining. Now, instead of gold, Vulture City Ghost Town is mining magic.

Boneyard Mining Company is the creation of world-renowned artist and magician Ray Villafane, who specializes in sculpture. Ray and his band of "Ghouligans" remind us of the importance of creativity and imagination by providing art and magic to those who visit.

Unlike other Old West ghost towns, guests won't find tourist traps like gift shops and food vendors. Instead, they'll walk the path of legends and be inspired by authentic buildings and learn the significance of Vulture City Ghost Town to Arizona's past – and present.

Vulture City was established in 1863 and became one of Arizona's most successful gold mines. Today, the ghost town offers tours and entertainment.

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How you can help others this holiday season

By Shi Bradley

The holidays can be stressful and disheartening for many people, as some struggle to afford gifts, clothing and food. Charities and food banks are dealing with massive shortages and significant demand for goods and services.

Several area churches and nonprofits are holding donation drives and offering volunteer opportunities through the next few months. Here are 13 places where folks can get involved and help out.

ARIZONA HELPING HANDS

3110 E. Thunderbird Road, Phoenix
azhelpinghands.org

Arizona Helping Hands provides cribs, beds, linens, clothing, diapers, personal hygiene kits and educational activities to children.

Hope for the Holidays Toy Drive delivers gifts to foster kids. People can donate online or hold their own drive to collect new toys, such as remote control cars, sports equipment, arts and crafts and STEM-based toys. On November 27 and 28, AZ Helping Hands will partner with Desert Farm Lights; on November 30, they will partner with The Pratt Brother's Christmas and on December 8, with M3F Music Festival to collect donations.

CAMELBACK CHURCH OF CHRIST

5225 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix
camelbackchurchofchrist.org

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMBER GODBEHERE

U.S. Egg and Helping Hands are hosting a toy and pajama drive for boys and girls in foster care.

Camelback Church of Christ is conducting a "Share the Warmth" Drive for the Navajo Reservation in Kayenta. Donate new and gently used coats, sweaters, jackets, gloves, hats, socks and blankets.

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PHOENIX

4633 N. 54th St., Phoenix
christchildphx.org

Christ Child Society of Phoenix is an all-volunteer organization that works out of Mt. Claret. This year, they are hosting a Christmas Giving Toy Drive for Catholic Charities, who are in need of gifts for 200 children (ages 3-15) in foster care.

Gifts should be labeled but not wrapped. For ages 10+, they are asking for Target or Walmart gift cards for $20-$25. Gifts can be dropped off at Mt. Claret on December 7 from 9-10:30 a.m.

CHRIST CHURCH LUTHERAN

3901 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix
cclphoenix.org

Christ Church Lutheran has several volunteer opportunities, but the most needed are for the mobile food pantry on Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. CCL is looking for volunteers and donations of dry, canned or non-perishable foods. Monetary donations are also accepted and go toward food purchases.

GADZOOKS

4031 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix
gadzooksaz.com

November 6 is National Nacho Day, but Gadzooks is extending that celebration all month long with the third-annual Nachopalooza, which will benefit HonorHealth Foundation's K-9 Security Program.

Throughout the month of November, 25 percent of every nacho entrée sold will go directly to the K-9 Security Program at HonorHealth Foundation.

NOURISH PHX

501 S. 9th Ave., Phoenix
nourishphx.org

Nourish PHX offers several volunteer opportunities, including food boxing, helping individuals pick out clothing, and providing general assistance to those in need. Volunteer slots are available in November and December. Nourish is looking for donations of produce, canned and dry foods, clothing, shoes, hygiene products, toiletries, garbage bags and grocery bags.

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

3641 N. 56th St., Phoenix
popphoenix.org

Prince of Peace offers service opportunities as part of the POP Foundation, a nonprofit that targets church and community needs. Events include a food pantry, annual toy and food drives, and the Angel Tree. In December, a tree in the church lobby will be decorated with ornaments designating an angel in need of a Christmas gift, and people have the opportunity to adopt an angel. There are also opportunities for volunteer ministers, and folks can donate non-perishables to the food pantry.

PARADISE VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4455 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley
pvumc.org

PVUMC has volunteer opportunities for the holidays and beyond, including assisting ministers, helping in the music department and driving and serving on the Connections team, which includes duties like greeting churchgoers, ushering, and clean up. They also accept donations, which are then given to various charitable organizations.

SAVING AMY

3117 N. 44th St., Phoenix
savingamy.org

Throughout November, Saving Amy will host a hygiene and cleaning supply donation drive. Donations will be accepted Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS CHURCH

5524 E. Lafayette Blvd., Phoenix
sohucc.org

Shepherd of the Hills Church is partnering with Nourish PHX for a holiday toy drive. Folks can donate gift wrap and bags, toys, stuffed animals, athletic gear, new kids' clothing, makeup, jewelry, etc. All gifts should be unwrapped.

"Last year, thanks to many amazing partners, we provided over 400 children with gifts," manager Robby Wood shared. "This year, we're shooting for 500."

Donations are accepted until December 8. Drop off at the church office every day from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2310 N. 56th St., Phoenix
ststephens.org

St. Stephen's is hosting a Thanksgiving Food Drive until November 5.

The church is looking for monetary donations toward Walmart gift cards, canned foods like corn or cranberry sauce, applesauce, pumpkin pie filling, stuffing mix and mashed potatoes. Donations will be distributed on November 15.

St. Stephen's also hosts a food bank every Wednesday from 9 a.m.-noon. Donated items can be left in the lobby during office hours, Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

stvincentdepaul.net

St. Vincent de Paul serves 4,000 daily meals through five charity dining rooms and has helped 2,400 households avoid eviction with homelessness prevention programs.

The Turkey Tuesday Campaign runs throughout November and helps provide meals for families in need. A $20 donation buys one turkey. Donations are accepted online, or at Bashas' or AJ's Fine Foods locations on November 21 (to donate in person). Folks can also volunteer to serve meals or sort donations.

U.S. EGG

Various locations
useggrestaurant.com

U.S. Egg is partnering with Arizona Helping Hands this November for its annual toy and pajama drive benefitting boys and girls in foster care. For the month of November, all six Valley U.S. Egg locations will collect new toys, pajamas, socks, diapers and hygiene items that will be donated to Arizona Helping Hands.

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SUSD seeks M&O budget support in November election

By Ella Pribble

Scottsdale Unified School District hosted five informational town hall meetings in September and October regarding the Maintenance and Operations override special election, which is happening this year on November 7.

The M&O budget for Scottsdale is approximately 15 percent of the revenue control limit used to boost the state funding for schools. Shannon Crosier, Chief Financial Officer for SUSD, said it generates approximately $22.3 million for salaries, supplies and programs for the district. The M&O override was originally passed in November 2019 and remains in effect for seven years, although voters are required to reapprove the override after five years.

> ***The M&O override was originally passed in November 2019 and remains in effect for seven years, although voters are required to reapprove the override after five years.***

SUSD called a special election to renew the M&O override, in which mail-in-only ballots will be accepted. Being mindful of the upcoming election in 2024, the board is taking this to the voters a year early.

"We know that the next election is going to have a lot of information on the ballot, and what you tend to run into is voter fatigue," Crosier said.

If it does not get approved this November, the district will have an option to hold a second election in November 2024.

Arizona is ranked 45th in the nation for education and 47th for per pupil funding, according to the 2021 U.S. Census Bureau. The lack of funding for the annual budget affects students, teachers and staff. The board is frequently asked about outsourcing by community members.

"We only have so many dollars," Crosier said. "A lot of times, outsourcing is more expensive. For example, we're having to outsource transportation for special needs students because we don't have drivers to meet that need."

SUSD Communications Manager Nancy Norman said that with how quickly the city is growing, new residents and families will want to have security knowing their children will be in a stable educational environment.

Scottsdale is considered one of the best places for "all things senior;" a popular destination for retirees, who usually do not have any relation to the schools. This explains the district's concern for supportive voters.

Considering the impacts on the school's budget from the override, SUSD Superintendent Dr. Scott Menzel said, "We've lost more than 1,150 students when it didn't pass the second time, in 2013. We're using every resource that we have."

The override improves extracurricular activities, kindergarten programs, class size ratios, staff professional development, and teacher compensation.

"In order to have these extracurricular activities for students, we have to rely on the voters to help," Crosier said.

The current M&O Override was approved by voters in November 2019. It is set to expire on June 30, 2025.

"We are asking that it be renewed a fiscal year ahead of time so that if it does not pass this November, the district has the option of calling another election in November 2024, before the current funding starts being phased down," Norman said.

susd.org

HOW MUCH THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS OVERRIDE COSTS THE AVERAGE HOMEOWNER:

If approved, the continuation of the 2019 voter-approved, 15 percent M&O Override would total $22,350,888, at an estimated tax rate of $0.3318 per $100 of net assessed property valuation from the Maricopa County Assessor's Office.

According to the State and County Abstract from the Arizona Department of Revenue, the value of an average home in Scottsdale is $523,750. The estimated net assessed valuation of this home is taxed at 10 percent, or $52,375. With an estimated tax rate of $0.3318 applied per $100 of net assessed valuation, the owner of this home pays $173.78 per year to support the Maintenance and Operations Override.

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When to consider a speech-language screening

In parenting and education, the common belief is that a child must exhibit serious concerns before considering a speech-language screening. However, taking a proactive approach to screenings provides valuable insights into your child's growth and ways to support their development. Screenings serve as a guide to assess if a more in-depth evaluation is necessary. Opting for a screening allows you to consult an experienced speech-language pathologist (SLP) who has interacted with your child and can offer specific recommendations. Here are seven signs that may indicate your student would benefit from a screening:

BY TREISHA WAN

Treisha Wan, M.A., CCC-SLP, is a speech-language pathologist and owner of Illuminate Family Workshop.

Difficulty storytelling: Storytelling involves multiple language skills. Students must not only sequence events but also vividly describe them. Vocabulary and sentence structure challenges can leave listeners confused. Storytelling isn't just academic; it's crucial for social connections. SLPs assess your student's narrative abilities and determine if they need extra support to tell stories effectively, helping them connect with peers and enhancing their writing skills.

Difficulty following directions: When a student has trouble understanding and following instructions, it can indicate issues with their working memory, vocabulary, and information processing. If this persists and they struggle with age-appropriate directions, it could signal a developmental language delay or auditory processing challenge. A screening can initiate a discussion about their information processing and strategies to support them.

Academic struggles in reading and writing: Sometimes, students can be confident verbal communicators but struggle with aspects of language processing and written expression. Academic tasks such as answering comprehension questions and expressing ideas on paper require intricate language skills. Therapy can provide needed tools and strategies to address these challenges effectively.

Speech sound difficulties: The people closest to the student, like family and friends, tend to miss speech sound errors since they grow accustomed to and can pick up on the student's speech patterns. If you start to notice your student getting frustrated, feeling embarrassed, and their pronunciation impacting their spelling or reading skills, it's time for speech screening.

Neurodiversity (if you suspect): Neurodiverse brains with profiles like dyslexia, ADHD, dysgraphia, and autism call for instructional methods that are carefully tailored to each individual. SLPs have extensive training in the intricate relationship between spoken and written language, making them valuable to your student's support team.

Stuttering frustrations: Partnering with a therapist offers more than communication strategies. Students must be immersed in a nurturing atmosphere where stuttering is accepted. A screening can initiate a dialog and resources for self-advocacy and confidence, fostering holistic growth and well-being.

Vocal quality changes: Consider a speech screening if your student exhibits a hoarse or hyponasal (stuffy nose quality) vocal quality without an illness. These vocal qualities may signal problems like vocal misuse, sinus issues, vocal cord nodules/polyps, or reflux. Persistent changes warrant evaluation by a healthcare professional or SLP for proper diagnosis and intervention.

Recognizing signs that indicate your student may benefit from a speech screening is a proactive step in supporting their development. Addressing potential challenges early fosters growth, confidence, and well-being.

illuminatefamilyworkshop.com

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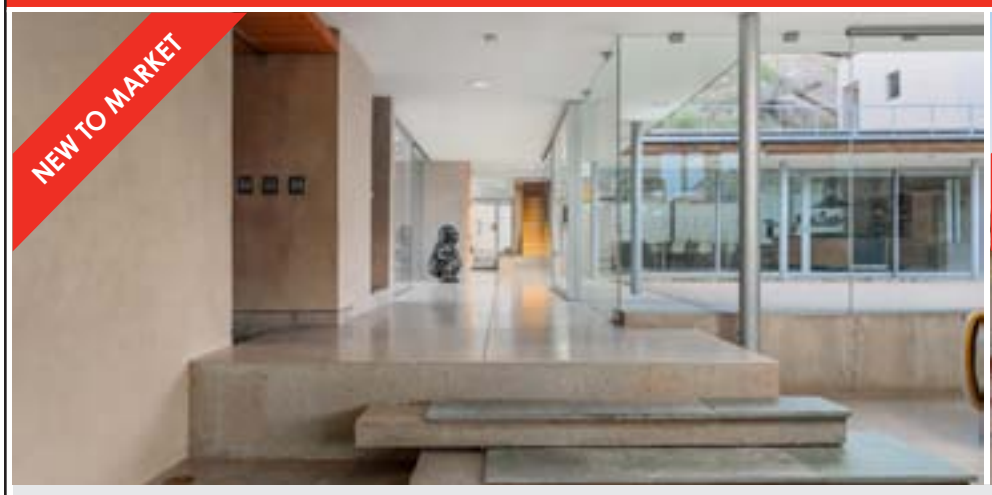

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Work is not family

It is not uncommon for a CEO or other top executives to proudly announce that the employees at their company are family. "We're just like family here," they'll say. While this warm sentiment can feel good, the reality could not be less true. In fact, when a company is insistent that work is family, it's a red flag that you may want to run in the other direction.

One of the big differences between family and everyone else in your life is boundaries. No family is perfect. We can all think of an unruly uncle or manipulative cousin we are related to. These are people we would likely not be friends with. In a family, they're hard to escape. They are part of a larger system we want to hold on to.

Family also never stops. If your brother's car has a flat tire, he may call you at midnight on a Tuesday or in the middle of the day on a Sunday. You're expected to answer and to help. Family support can be an around-the-clock labor of love. With work, boundaries are important. Unless there is an emergency, your boss should not contact you late at night or on weekends. You need space to recharge. Your company doesn't own you; they employ you.

Career Corner

BY ANGELA COPELAND

Career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching. copelandcoaching.com

Additionally, you should be able to keep your private life private at work. Whether you are dating someone new, going through a divorce, or having a medical procedure, it's your private business. You don't have to share the details with anyone at work unless you choose to. In a family, there is often an expectation that everyone is up to date on your private life.

What I'm getting at is that work and family are not at all the same. When the leadership at a company claims they are, they send an underlying message. One is that you should be willing to sacrifice anything for the company. The next is that you should be flexible with your personal boundaries. It is a technique to peer pressure you into engaging with behaviors you are not otherwise comfortable with.

One nice thing that can happen at work is that you may become close to some of your coworkers. You can choose to be friends with them outside of work. And, when you get a new job somewhere else, you may choose to maintain those friendships. This is all something *you* decide. It's something you are in control of, and if anything goes wrong, you have the option to address the issue, distance yourself, or walk away from the friendship altogether.

Implying that work and family are the same is disrespectful to employees. It doesn't acknowledge that you have your own family and boundaries. A good leader will say you are part of an excellent team, not a family.

From the Archives

Former police dogs are still serving after their K9 days are over, by helping Veterans in need. Another Valley nonprofit has a similar mission – find the story on page 20.

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DID YOU KNOW? COFFEE

HOW OLD?

800 A.D.

Coffee is thought to date back to 800 A.D. when it was discovered by ninth-century goat herders on the Ethiopian plateau. Legend says a goat herder named Kaldi first discovered the potential of the beans. He noticed that after eating the berries from a certain tree, his goats became so energetic that they did not want to sleep at night. Kaldi reported his findings to the local monastery, who made a drink with the berries and found that it kept them alert through the long hours of evening prayer. The monastery shared the discovery with other monks, and news of the energizing berries began to spread.

HOW MUCH?

$150-$600/lb.

Kopi Luwak is the world's most exclusive coffee – and it's made with animal feces. Kopi is the Indonesian word for coffee, and Luwak *is the Indonesian word for a small ferret-like animal resembling a cat. It costs $150 to $600 a pound.*

Kopi Luwak is often called cat poop coffee – but it actually comes from the partially-digested excretions of the Indonesian palm civet. The outer layer of the coffee bean is removed during processing, and the remaining beans are completely cleaned before being roasted.

THAT'S COLD

Cold brew isn't a new fad. In fact, it dates back to the 1600s. The Japanese had already been cold brewing tea when Dutch trading ships introduced the beverage as a way to transport and make coffee that did not require "dangerous fire." Today, Japanese or Kyoto-style coffee is made by letting water slowly drip over coffee grounds in glass jars.

HOW MANY?

Americans drink 146 billion cups of coffee a year, on average. Remarkably, this only lands the U.S. at 25th on the list of worldwide annual coffee consumption.

Seventy-four percent of Americans drink coffee every day, and 49 percent of those people drink three to five cups. Thirty-two percent purchase from a coffee shop one to three days a week, with others spending $20 or less a month.

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DID YOU KNOW? COFFEE

COFFEE FACTS

In Arizona, drinkers prefer plain black coffee or cold brew. And in Phoenix, a popular mix is coffee with orange juice.

Coffee is the world's second-largest traded commodity – its worth is over $100 billion worldwide. Crude oil is first.

For a long time, Hawaii was the only U.S. state able to grow coffee beans. They've been doing so since before 1959 when it became a state. Recently, though, California has also started growing coffee bushes.

During the 17th century Ottoman Empire, coffee was believed to contain mind-altering effects, and thus it was banned from public consumption.

In 16th century Constantinople, not providing your wife with enough coffee was grounds for divorce.

The Italian word *espresso* means "expressed" or "forced out." Espresso is made by forcing very hot water under high pressure through finely ground, compacted coffee.

Coffee "beans" are not beans. They are actually the pit of a berry, which makes them a fruit. There are two varieties – green and red.

According to the International Coffee Organization, adults in Finland consume 27.5 pounds of coffee per year. In comparison, the average American only drinks 11.

Young people are almost twice as likely to consume a coffee beverage at lunchtime than someone over 60.

Nearly 60 percent of coffee served in the United States is brewed from premium beans.

The National Coffee Association has represented the U.S. coffee industry from "crop to cup" since 1911, making it one of the oldest trade associations in the states.

WORD SEARCH

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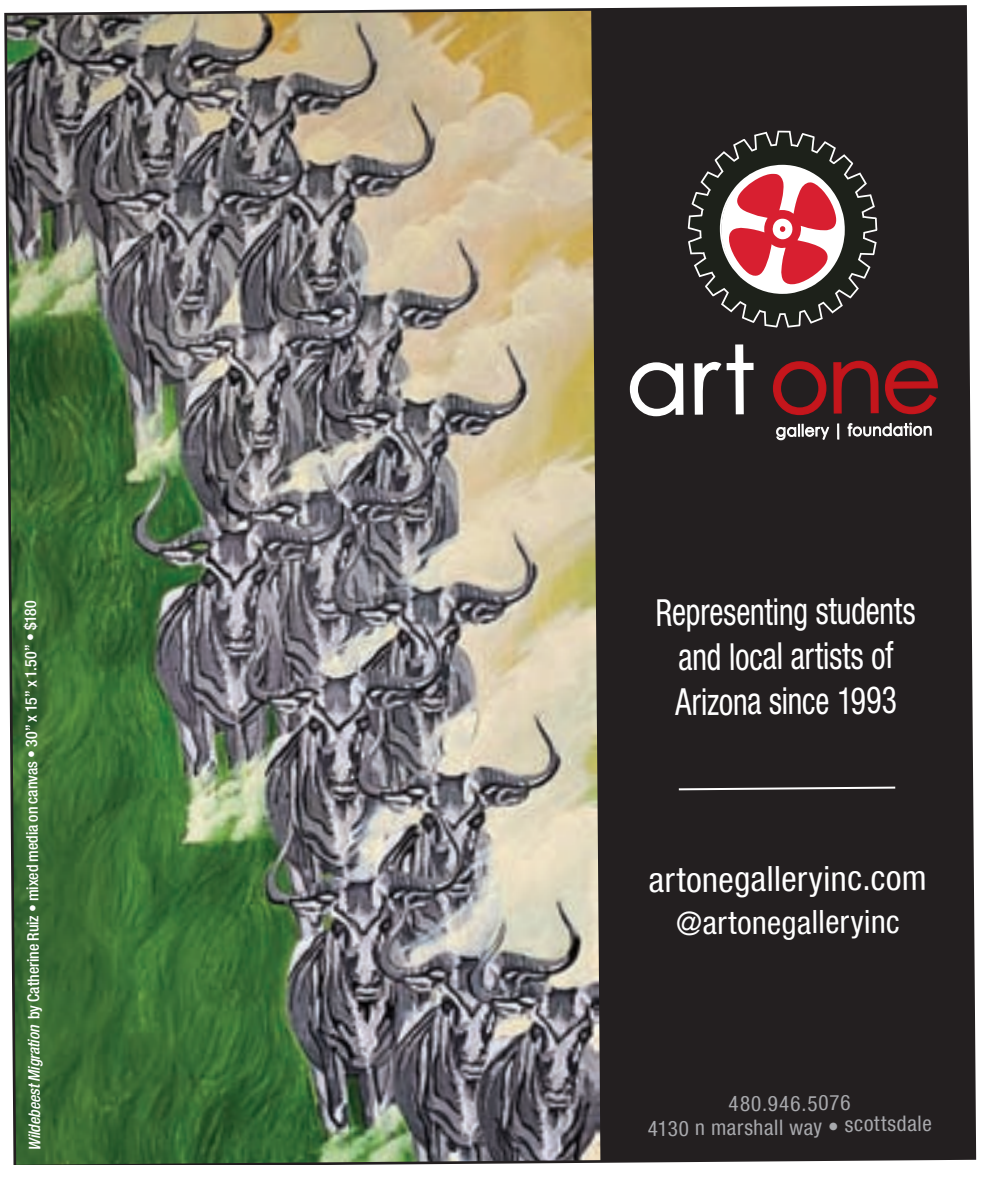

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PHOTO COURTESY OF VERITAS PREP

The Globo Gym high school team has won the dodgeball tournament three years in a row.

Keeping their eyes on the dodgeballs

By Mark Hays

Veritas Prep recently held its fourth annual dodgeball tournament, an event that helps build and strengthen the Veritas community.

The tournament was organized into two brackets: middle school and high school. On the first court were 19 middle school teams. They played 36 single games in a double-elimination bracket.

The games were fast-paced and exciting, according to Traci Trigueros-Dubina, who has volunteered at the tournament for three years.

"Most games were done in roughly two minutes," she said. "The LVPD (Las Vegas Police Department) team won first place for middle school, beating out two of last year's top three middle school teams."

On the second court, ten high school teams played 18 matches. The winners advanced in the double-elimination bracket by winning the best of three.

"Games were set to two minutes and often ended up in sudden death matches to break ties," Traci said.

Sudden death matches play out like this: If both teams have the same number of players on the court at the end of the game, both teams will reset for overtime. Captains may pick themselves plus one player, or the captain may alternatively choose two players to play for one minute. Two balls will be on the reset line for each team.

The high school winner was Globo Gym, who has held the winning title for the last three years. The first through third-place teams in both brackets won trophies crafted by a Veritas mom.

Costumes were an important part of the tournament. Traci explained that in addition to the dodgeball games, teams were awarded for costume design.

"Gift certificates were awarded for best team ensemble. The Pink Panthers won for middle school, and the Angry Bananas won for high school," she said.

The seniors also hosted a concession stand during the event. Funds raised went toward their senior trip, which takes place in the spring in Washington, D.C.

> ***"Every year, it gets better as everyone gets to know each other more. This event gets us charged up and going for the year ahead."***

"Student volunteer hours help determine funding. Money raised also supports special events throughout senior year," Parent and Chair Kris Kainass said. "It's a great way for kids to experience how hard work and caring for the community yields a win for all. The seniors are so grateful for the support."

Entrance fees went to prizes and t-shirts for the winning teams.

Traci said that since the dodgeball tournament is the first event of the school year at Veritas, it also helps break the ice between students, teachers, and staff.

"I love this event. It's spearheaded by the VPSO and run by volunteers as families and friends watch from the stands," Traci said. "Every year, it gets better as everyone gets to know each other more. This event gets us charged up and going for the year ahead."

At the homecoming pep rally in September, the LVPD team and Globo Gym played each other for a final hurrah, with the ultimate victory going to Globo Gym.

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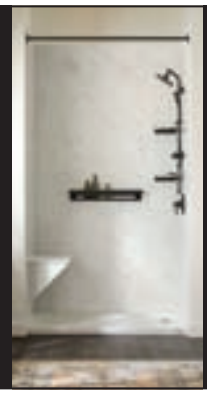

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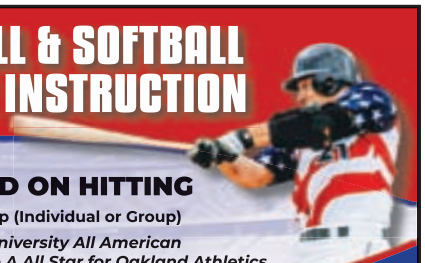

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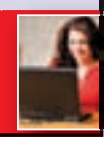

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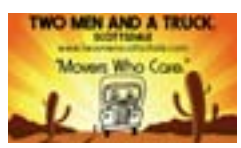

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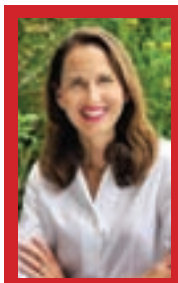

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