

ARCADIA NEWS



VOL. 31 NO. 11

ARCADIA • BILTMORE • CAMELBACK CORRIDOR

FEBRUARY 2024



LOOK MA, FIRST PLACE!

Noah Anastassatos beat 3,000 athletes from around the world at the largest bicycle event in Arizona.

PAGE 40

AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

Born early at just 2.5 pounds, Peyton Augustin was battling odds just to survive. Today, she is a blossoming six-year-old.

PAGE 34

GRAB YOUR COWBOY HATS...

...it's time for Western Week! The first weekend of February kicks off the annual Parada del Sol and Trail's End Festival.

PAGE 24

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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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Departments

- 4 Editor's Note
- 6 What's Happening?
- 10 Worth the Drive
- 12 On the Lowe Road
- 16 In the Kitchen
- 20 Meet Ms. [White]
- 26 The Dining Scoop
- 36 Plant-based Wellness
- 38 Robin's Adventures
- 44 Did You Know

Articles

5 Arcadia's awesome athletes

Four Arcadia High students – one volleyballer and three footballers – were awarded at the annual winter All-District Athletic Awards Banquet.

13 Scan Me Home

Valley dad Justin Behnke created an app called Scan Me Home that helps those with autism, Alzheimer's and dementia stay safe when they're out in public.

18 Go, Roarbots, go!

Echo Canyon's Robotics Team competed in the Arizona State First Lego League Regional and Championship Tournaments, winning multiple innovation awards.

22 Pets on Parade

This popular television segment, brought to viewers by the Arizona Humane Society, is celebrating 65 years of furry, fuzzy pets on air.



Arcadia resident Noah Anastassatos recently won first place at the El Tour de Tucson bicycle competition, on a course that spanned 102 miles through the Sonoran Desert.



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EDITOR'S NOTE



Whenever I reminisce about my childhood, there's one piece of equipment that is always present in my memories – one that children all over the world long to have and use for years to come: the bicycle. Unfortunately, my affection for anything with two wheels has since disappeared (thanks to an unfortunate Moped accident that left me on my behind in front of a bunch of classmates), but this is not the case for 26-year-old Noah Anastassatos.

Noah's father has been an enthusiastic bike rider for decades, but Noah only picked up the hobby a couple of years ago. It appears to be his hidden talent because Noah won the El Tour de Tucson – a 102-mile bike ride in the Sonoran Desert in November – against 3,000 competitors from around the world.

"In the last part of the race, my legs were smoked, but I knew I had to keep pushing," Noah said. "After the final turn, I crossed the finish line and was in shock. I could not believe I'd won!"

This was only Noah's second official competition, and it's propelled him to continue in the racing circuit. He's already preparing for the Tour de Scottsdale in April.

In early February is the 70th annual Western Week, which celebrates the history and culture of Scottsdale with an art walk, Hashknife Pony Express arrival, Arizona Indian Festival and – the most popular event – the Parada del Sol and Trail's End Festival.

This issue also includes another important anniversary, new additions and awards presented to our area schools, and a whole lot of fun. Keep an eye out for the upcoming *Home & Design* and *Camp Guide*, coming your way soon – and thank you, as always, for reading Arcadia News.

Mallory
– Mallory Gleich

UPCOMING THEMES:

MARCH

Spring / Arcadia Home & Design

APRIL

Outdoor / Camp Guide

MAY

Moms

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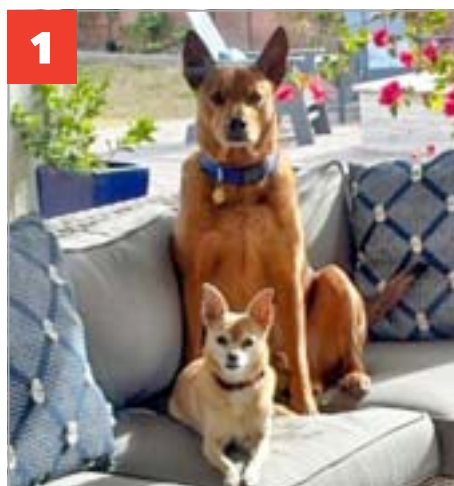
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ARCADIA'S PETS



1. Cooper is a six-year-old German Shepherd mix and Biscuit is a 10-year-old Chihuahua. We have had them both since we rescued them as puppies. They are best friends and love to sit outside in the sun. Biscuit is the boss of the house and Cooper can be found at Arcadia Park showing off his ball catching skills. These two raised and protected three Arcadia boys who now work in the community.

– Rachel R.

2. Charlie is a four-month-old Bernedoodle. He loves learning new tricks and is very motivated by treats. His favorite tricks are high fives and doing somersaults in the backyard. He's very fascinated with other animals and will stop and watch them walk by while on walks.

– Katrina J.

3. Zöe Lee is an 11-year-old Miniature Schnauzer. She enjoys barking at nothing and she loves howling at something. Fortunately, she does not have Covid!

– David K.

4. Rupert is a six-month-old Phantom Merle Standard Bernadoodle. He joined our family when he was eight weeks old. He has a super bubbly and playful personality. Rupert loves walks and greets every dog and human with open paws. You might see him walking the neighborhood. His favorite places to people watch are LGO, Ingo's and OHSO. He loves to meet new friends at Kachina Park. Don't hesitate to say hello!

– Aillene J.

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!

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AHS athletes recognized at All-District Awards Banquet

By Rachael Bouley

Arcadia High was well-represented at the SUSD High School Athletics Awards Banquet in December at The McCormick Scottsdale. Five Titans were presented with All-District honors following solid performances in the fall sports season.

Volleyball player Taylor Soule and footballers Khary Beler, Brady Forst, Carter Pruitt and Braylen Rooney received awards for their efforts. District Athletic Director Nathan Slater said it's a great honor to be an all-district athlete.

"For individual sports like cross country and golf, we have an SUSD Invitational that has to be won to qualify for All-District," Slater said. "For team sports like volleyball and football, they are voted on by the coaches of those sports."

Each athlete is presented with a plaque at the banquet, where their coaches share their athletic and academic accomplishments. It's also an opportunity to discuss future hopes and dreams, with most athletes planning to continue playing the sports they love in college and beyond.

Having been a football player since he was five, Brady Forst was excited to receive All-District honors to wrap up his high school career after an undefeated regular season progressed to the State Championship game.

"My proudest accomplishments are scoring 30 touchdowns my senior year and making the all-conference team," Brady said. "I was inspired by the people who believed in me and the feeling of winning."

The future business major has two clear goals for the coming years: "I want to play college football and get a master's degree."

Teammate Carter Pruitt also looks forward to his college football career and is pleased to be recognized for his hard work on and off the field.

"I am very proud of the effort and leadership I brought to my team this season and being part of such a special program that accomplished so much success," he said. "I started playing football as a toddler in the front yard with my dad and older brother. The joy and freedom I feel while playing has fueled my passion and love for the game."

Khary Beler also basked in the end-of-



AHS Principal Dr. Janelle Dansky, Brady Forst, Taylor Soule, Khary Beler, Braylen Rooney, Carter Pruitt, and Athletic Director Steve Sherren at the All-Districts Athletic Awards Banquet.

season honors after a memorable time with the Titans.

"The undefeated football season is one of my proudest sporting moments," Khary said. "Playing with this group and knowing where we started in eighth grade and what we accomplished as seniors is pretty cool. We worked hard, played as a unit, and had fun."

The future is bright for Khary, who is interested in architecture and graphic design.

"My goals are to earn a degree and play college football, then head to the NFL and play professional football," he said. "Hopefully, you will see me in the Football Hall of Fame one day!"

Congratulations Titans!

“Playing with this group and knowing where we started in eighth grade and what we accomplished as seniors is pretty cool.”

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Arcadia Real Estate Stats

2023 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/01/2023-12/31/2023)

Active Homes -	72 Homes
Homes Sold -	208 Homes
Average Sale Price -	\$2,450,000
Average Sold \$ Per SF -	\$667
Average Days On Market -	80 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 decreased 1%. (based on 2022 sales results)
2023 \$ Per Square Foot prices have decreased 1%. (based on 2022 sales results)
2023 homes are taking 46% more time to sell. (based on 2022 sales results)

2023 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/01/2023-12/31/2023)

Active Homes -	57 Homes
Homes Sold -	153 Homes
Average Sale Price -	\$1,312,000
Average Sold \$ Per SF -	\$491
Average Days On Market -	82 days

There is currently 4 months of home inventory. (based on 2022 sales results)
2023 home sales have decreased 7% this year. (based on 2022 sales results)
2023 home prices have increased 7%. (based on 2022 sales results)
2023 \$ Per Square Foot prices have decreased 2%. (based on 2022 sales results)
2023 Homes are taking 51% more time to sell. (based on 2022 sales results)



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WHAT'S HAPPENING, ARCADIA?

BRIEFS

Mark your calendars: The eighth annual **Arcadia Cares: Food for Kidz Packathon** is back and scheduled for March 1 (late afternoon) and March 2 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (3641 N. 56th St., Phoenix). The community is welcome to volunteer to help pack meals for underprivileged families. Sign-up is open. popphoenix.org

The **Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association** will hold its annual Neighborhood Meeting on Saturday, February 10, at 8 a.m. in the choir room at Prince of Peace (3641 N. 56th St., Phoenix). Topics include voting on 2024 board members, a 56th Street Project update, Block Watch, and the State of the Arcadia Neighborhood address. Coffee and pastries will be served. acmna.org



The 2024 **New Horizons High School Student Art Exhibition**, held annually at the Shemer Art Center since 1987, is on display until February 15 and features approximately 88 works of art created by students from over 40 high schools across the Valley. Stop by to check them out! shemerartcenter.org

Mya Kai Creative Agency presents **A Taste of Melanin**, an event series throughout February that will immerse attendees in the multifaceted world of black culture through experiences, interactive exhibits, live performances and educational workshops. Events include a silent disco, movie night, karaoke, games and more. Full schedule available online. atasteofmelanin.org



Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West debuted Inner Light: The Art of Tom Gilleon, celebrating "one of the most

respected masters in contemporary Western art." Gilleon worked on NASA's Apollo and Saturn space programs and with Walt Disney Imagineering. Inner Light features portrayals of Native Americans, iconic Western structures and landscapes. The exhibition also boasts a 70-painting career retrospective. The display is open until August 2024. scottsdalemuseumwest.org

On Tuesday, February 20, the **Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable** (3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd.) will host Dr. Dave Schrader, presenting "Love Him or Hate Him? General Benjamin 'Beast' Butler" while examining the Civil War service of one of Abraham Lincoln's most controversial generals. Schrader will discuss Butler's contributions to Union success and address his shortcomings. Doors open at 5 to meet the speaker, browse the book sale, and view Civil War videos. The lecture begins at 6 p.m. at the Scottsdale Public Library. scottsdalecwr.org

The Scottsdale branch of **American Association of University Women** has been established since 1962 with a mission of advancing gender equity through research, education and advocacy. The AAUW meets monthly and is inviting the public to the February 10 meeting at 10 a.m. at Scottsdale Community College (9000 E. Chaparral Road, Scottsdale). Mayor David Ortega will be the special guest. scottsdale-az.aauw.net



Junior Achievement of Arizona is accepting nominations for its 18 Under 18 Award until February 15 at midnight. JA is looking for those who are active in the community, innovative, and demonstrate leadership and entrepreneurial spirit. Nominees must be under 18 by July 1, 2023, and attend school in Arizona. Winners will be announced on April 18. 18under18.org

Registration for **One Day at Camp**, hosted by Stepping Stones of Hope, is now open. One Day will take place February 24 at First United Methodist Church (5510 N. Central Ave., Phoenix). The camp helps grieving children (ages 6 to 17) and their families by providing a neutral environment where everyone feel safe to express their feelings about loss. Campers will learn coping skills as various changes are experienced and they begin accepting their new path. Admission is \$25. steppingstonesofhope.org

EVENTS

THURSDAY 2/1

Gold Palette Artwalk

6:30-9 p.m., along Main St. from Scottsdale Road to Goldwater Blvd., north of Indian School Road from Marshall Way to 5th Ave. Scottsdale Gallery Association's annual Gold Palette ArtWalks feature extended gallery hours for participating locations, activities and experiences like complimentary wine tasting and small bites, live music and entertainment. Tonight's Western Week theme coincides with the Parada del Sol. This event is free. scottsdalegalleries.com

Jagged Little Pill

7:30 p.m. at ASU Gammage, 1200 S. Forest Ave., Tempe. Joy, love, heartache, strength, wisdom, catharsis, life – this new musical, based on Alanis Morissette's music, will showcase all those themes. This production centers around a "perfectly imperfect American family," and if you know Alanis's music, it will be hard not to sing along. Tickets start at \$25. asugammage.com

FRIDAY 2/2 – SUNDAY 2/4

Waterfront Fine Art & Wine Festival

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Scottsdale Waterfront, 7135 E. Camelback Road. Head down to Old Town for the eighth annual Waterfront Fine Art and Wine Festival. More than 125 juried fine artists will be on-site showcasing their masterpieces, from sculptures to paintings to photography and everything in between. Grab a glass of wine and enjoy live music while you browse. Admission is \$5; \$10 for wine tickets and a souvenir glass. thunderbirdartists.com

SATURDAY 2/3

Parada Del Sol and Trail's End Festival

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Parade starts at Drinkwater Blvd. through downtown Scottsdale. Come on down and celebrate Arizona's "Most Western Town" with the 70th annual Parada and Trail's End Festival. Parade watchers will see over 125 entries, including bands, floats, horses and more. The festival will have live entertainment, a kids' zone, food trucks, games, activities, and dancing. This event is free. scottsdaleparade.com

Touch a Truck

9 a.m.-2 p.m. at North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. Get ready to get up close and personal with over 50 vehicles and trucks at the annual Touch a Truck event. There will be fire trucks, police vehicles, helicopters, race cars and military vehicles for guests to explore.

Guests can also enjoy food vendors and interactive games. Proceeds go to Camp Patrick for kids with Spina Bifida. Tickets are \$5 per person. camppatrick.com

camppatrick.com

Astrology Dinner

7 p.m. at FOUND:RE Phoenix, 1100 N. Central Ave. The stars have aligned at Match Market & Bar. This month's dinner is for the Aquarius sign and features tarot cards, palm readers and other metaphysical entertainment. There will be a four-course dinner, sign-specific custom-curated gift bag and one raffle entry. Tickets are \$99 per person. foundrehotels.com

foundrehotels.com

Lunar Feast

6:30 p.m. at Great Wall Cuisine, 3446 W. Camelback Road, Phoenix. This event serves as a tribute to the Lunar New Year and endeavors to raise awareness for the rich diversity of Asian American cuisine and culture – with a giant feast. Attendees will be treated to a 12-course meal curated by the chefs at Great Wall Cuisine. Tickets are \$88 per person. ocaphoenix.org

ocaphoenix.org

SATURDAY 2/3 – SUNDAY 2/4

Arizona Indian Festival

9 a.m.- 6 p.m., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Scottsdale Civic Center, 3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd. Held in conjunction with the Parada del Sol, the Arizona Indian Festival will showcase American Indian tribes from all around the state. Guests can check out Indian "villages," arts and crafts, traditional dancing and singing, cooking demos, travel and tourism vendors and a variety of traditional cuisine. This event is free. arizonaindiantourism.org

arizonaindiantourism.org

THURSDAY 2/8

"Because of You" Concert

7:30 p.m. at ASU's Kerr Center, 6110 N. Scottsdale Road. Nationally acclaimed jazz vocalist Tommy Gearhart and his quartet will "explore the romantic corners of the Great American Songbook and Tony Bennett" in this Valentine's Day-inspired performance. Champagne, cocktails, wine and beer will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$35-\$55. asukerr.com

asukerr.com

SATURDAY 2/10

Local Hearts Club Makers Market

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Shops at Town & Country, 2021 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. Featuring over 100 local makers, this vendor market might have the perfect Valentine's gift for your loved one. Shop handmade jewelry, art, apparel, accessories, health and beauty products and homemade sweets and treats. This event is free. localtradeaz.com

localtradeaz.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING, ARCADIA?



Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show at WestWorld.

Small Island Big Song

7:30 p.m. at Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Pkwy. Small Island Big Song evolved from visits to 16 island nations and collaborations with over 100 artists, elders and communities. Artists from New Zealand, Madagascar, Tahiti and Papua New Guinea blend film, traditional music and song with contemporary roots-reggae, R&B and more. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for kids.

tempecenterforthearts.com

WEDNESDAY 2/14

Pretty in Pink Valentine's Day Party

5-9 p.m. at the Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Ave. Today is all about blush at the Phoenix Art Museum. This event celebrates the opening of PAM's fashion-design exhibitions, "Barbie: A Cultural Icon" and "The Power of Pink." There will be a pink carpet with photo ops, a DJ and dancing, sweet treats, valentine-making, a scavenger hunt, a library pop-up, specialty drinks, and more. Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$15 for children.

phxart.org

THURSDAY 2/15 – SUNDAY 2/25

Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show

8 a.m. at WestWorld, 16601 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale. Featuring more than 2,100 horses competing for more than \$3 million, attendees will witness a variety of showings at the 69th annual Arabian Horse Show – but that's not all! There will also be an immersive experience, a fine art exhibit, and craft and shopping vendors. Admission is \$15; tickets good for all 11 days are \$75.

scottsdaleshow.com

SATURDAY 2/17

Twilight Camp

6-9 p.m. at the Phoenix Zoo, 455 N. Galvin Pkwy. No, this event doesn't center on that popular vampire movie – this camp takes place after dark and is just for grownups. There will be guided hikes, animal ambassador meet-ups, dinner and drinks, a campfire, and opportunities to learn about conservation at the Phoenix Zoo. Tickets are \$129 per person.

phoenixzoo.org

Melrose Vintage Market

9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Roosevelt Community Church, 924 N. 1st St., Phoenix. This monthly pop-up market is family-friendly, with over 45 vendors selling their wares. Attendees



Parada del Sol in Old Town Scottsdale.

will find vintage furniture, decor, clothing, knick-knacks, handmade jewelry, and arts and crafts. There will be activities for kids and food trucks available. This event is free.

melrosevintagemarket.com

Drive the Dream Gala

5:30-11 p.m. at The Phoenician, 6000 E. Camelback Road. Childhelp, a nonprofit dedicated to at-risk children's physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs, is hosting its 20th annual Drive the Dream fundraising gala. There will be cocktails, dancing, dinner and entertainment from emcee Melissa Peterman, Kathie Lee Gifford, John

Stamos and The Tenors. This year's theme is "The Power of Love Throughout the Years." childhelp.org

Winter Cooking Class

11 a.m. at Tracy Dempsey Originals, 1325 W. University Dr., Tempe. We all know soup tastes better when it's cold out, right? With this class, students can learn how to make the perfect soup or stew for those chilly winter nights. Tracy will also share tips and tricks – and taste tests! Make sure to bring your own apron. Admission is \$75 per person or \$68 for ODV Wine Club members. Deadline to reserve a spot is February 3.

tracydempseyoriginals.com

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WHAT'S HAPPENING, ARCADIA?

FRIDAY 2/23

Design for Dogs

5-9 p.m. at the Facings of America showroom, 16421 N. 90th St., Scottsdale. Facings of America is hosting the 10th annual Design for Dogs event, with the highlight of the evening being the doghouse design and build contest. Judges will choose and present the Best in Show and People's Choice awards. There will also be food, music, beverage tastings, raffle prizes and adoptable pets. Tickets are \$55 per person.

designfordogs.org

Malevo

7 p.m. at the Madison Center for the Arts, 5601 N. 16th St., Phoenix. A South American group created by director Matías Jaime, Malevo has re-envisioned the Argentine dance of Malambo and fused it with Flamenco while incorporating live percussion onstage. Malevo has appeared with Ricky Martin, Cirque du Soleil and on the television show *America's Got Talent*. Tickets start at \$45.

themadison.org

SATURDAY 2/24

Furry Friends Fine Arts Festival

9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Shemer Art Center, 5005 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. An art festival for the entire family, pets included. Shemer will showcase all things animal with paintings,



Design for Dogs at the Facings of America showroom in Scottsdale.

drawings, photography, ceramics, metal, furniture and clothing. There will also be vendors, paw readings and pet adoptions by Maricopa County Animal Care & Control. Admission is \$5 per person or \$10 for the family.

shemerartcenter.org

SATURDAY 2/24 – SUNDAY 2/25

Devour Culinary Classic

11:30 a.m. at Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N. Galvin Pkwy., Phoenix. Awarded the Best

Southwestern Culinary Festival, the Devour Culinary Classic is the premier event during Devour Week. Attendees will meet chefs and restaurateurs, participate in culinary demos, and taste dishes from the region's best chefs, restaurants, local food artisans, brewers and vintners. Tickets are \$225.

devourphoenix.com

SUNDAY 2/25

The Music of Abba

7 p.m. at Celebrity Theatre, 440 N. 32nd

St., Phoenix. ARRIVAL was founded in 1995 in Gothenburg, Sweden and has since toured in 70 countries – with 86 shows in the U.S. The “Music of ABBA” show will feature songs like Dancing Queen, Mamma Mia, Does Your Mother Know, Take A Chance, SOS and more. Tickets start at \$62.

celebritytheatre.com

Send events or briefs to editor@arcadianews.com.

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Arcadia

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CHAPMAN FORD

Arcadia Home Values Defy Expert Predictions

*There is an old saying in real estate that goes like this...
Location, Location, Location.*

Fortunately for you, if you are reading this newspaper you probably live somewhere in the Camelback Corridor which is regarded by many as the premiere location within Phoenix. Historically, our neighborhoods will outperform in bull markets and will provide some insulation in bear markets because of the location premium.

In January of 2023, Goldman Sachs called for a 25% drop in Phoenix home prices. We can tell you as local experts that the national headlines are not in step with what we are seeing here in the Arcadia and Biltmore neighborhoods. Our markets have been extremely resilient and are still lacking an ample amount of inventory. There are currently only 18 homes for sale in Arcadia Proper and 8 homes for sale in the Biltmore. Additionally, the higher end homes are still attracting cash heavy buyers who are not as reliant on loans and interest rates.

Although some homes are taking longer to sell, it is still very much a seller's market and we haven't seen any significant devaluations. If you are noticing price reductions it is because the home is probably not up to today's buyer standards or may lie in a peculiar location such as backing Camelback Rd. While pricing has remained strong, it is important that sellers stay patient when listing their home. On average over the past quarter, homes in the Camelback Corridor are taking around 65 days to sell compared with just 40 days in the 2021-2022 frenzy.

We remain bullish on the market and will continue to keep you posted throughout 2024 with monthly updates. If you have any questions about the price or marketability of your home, do yourself a favor and reach out to us.

Your home value is probably stronger than you think!

Tucker Blalock

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

SATURDAY 2/3

Kierland Fine Art and Wine Classic

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Kierland Commons, 15205 N. Kierland Blvd., Scottsdale. Main Street will have the vino flowing at this inaugural event. Guests will find over 100 world-class artists showcasing their wares in an outdoor gallery, plus 15 of the region’s best wineries pouring more than 150 wines, and live entertainment. This event is free. vermillionpromotions.com

Concours in the Hills

10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fountain Park, 12925 N. Saguaro Blvd., Fountain Hills. At the 10th annual event, guests will find a variety of vehicles on display, including classic race cars, foreign and domestic high-performance cars, muscle and sports cars, off-road and military vehicles, plus a vendor village and food and beverage options. Attendance is free, and donations are welcome. Proceeds support Phoenix Children’s Hope Fund. phoenixchildrensfoundation.org

Bluey Meet and Greet

1 p.m. at Park West, 9744 W. Northern Ave., Peoria. Things are about to get wackadoo at Park West. During this event, the treasured blue heeler from the popular animated television series “Bluey” comes to life to visit and take pictures. Kids can participate in arts and crafts (make slime and a bead bracelet!) and will also have a chance to win a dance with Bluey. Music, games, prizes and crafts are on the agenda. This event is free. shopparkwest.com

SUNDAY 2/4

The Peking Acrobats

3 p.m. at the Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N. Arizona Ave. An acrobatics show that’s taken the stage for nearly 40 years, The Peking Acrobats perform daring maneuvers, precision tumbling, displays of flexibility, foot juggling and more. Combined with traditional Chinese instruments and high-tech special effects, this event may have you on the edge of your seat. Tickets start at \$28. chandlercenter.org



Ghost, the Musical at the Fountain Hills Theater.

SATURDAY 2/3 – SUNDAY 2/4

Elevate 2024

Times vary; at Venue8600, 8600 E. Anderson Dr., Scottsdale. This inaugural event is about health, wellness, personal growth, and elevating your life through health-conscious brands, speakers, movement and body classes, and more. Attendees will find discussions on functional medicine, hormone balancing, gut health, Blue Zone secrets and leave the event ready to take on the new year. Tickets are \$88; \$485 for VIP. mytimetoelevate.com

WEDNESDAY 2/7 – SUNDAY 2/11

Tubac Festival of the Arts

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 1 Tubac Road. The 65th annual Tubac Festival of the Arts is southern Arizona’s longest-running art festival. There will be 200 artists and artisan vendors, spots for eatin’ and drinkin’, live entertainment and horse-drawn trolley rides. Exhibits are joined throughout The Village, along roadways and plazas, among the more than 125 art galleries, boutiques, specialty shops, and restaurants. This event is free. tubacaz.com

SATURDAY 2/10

Ghost, the Musical

7:30 p.m. at the Fountain Hills Theater, 11445 N. Saguaro Blvd. Adapted from the hit film that featured a young Swayze and Moore, Ghost, the Musical follows Sam and Molly, a couple whose connection takes a shocking turn after Sam’s untimely death. Desperate to communicate with Molly when he learns she’s in danger, Sam turns to a storefront psychic who helps him protect Molly and avenge his death. Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$18 for youth. fhtaz.org

The Sinatra Experience

7:30 p.m. at the Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N. Arizona Ave. From Las Vegas comes singer Jim Halston in a tribute to one of the famed members of the Rat Pack: Frank Sinatra. Halston will perform classic tunes like My Way, Fly Me to the Moon, That’s Life, and more. Tickets start at \$78. chandlercenter.org

SUNDAY 2/11

Puppy Patrol V-Day Party

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Jordan’s Corner, 15681 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale. Jordan’s Corner is an indoor play space that encourages open-ended, inclusive play for children ages six and younger – and today, they’re celebrating Valentine’s Day. Paw Patrol lovers can decorate cookies and “adopt a puppy” while participating in crafts with their favorite pups, Skye and Chase. Playtime is limited to one-hour reservations. Admission is \$38 per person. jordanscorneraz.com

THURSDAY 2/15

Fireworks at Lake Havasu

7:30 p.m. at SARA Park, 7260 Dub Campbell Pkwy., Lake Havasu. This event takes place from February 15 to 18 in honor

of the 35th annual Lake Havasu Winter Blast. A gigantic display of fireworks is lit off for thousands of visitors each evening. No food or drink is allowed inside SARA Park, so make sure to eat beforehand! Admission is \$10 per vehicle, and an additional \$10 per person to sit in the grandstand. golakehavasu.com

FRIDAY 2/16 – SUNDAY 2/18

Buckeye Air Fair

9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Buckeye Municipal Airport, 3000 S. Palo Verde Road. Come out and enjoy a day lookin’ up in the air. This event includes an air show, vintage and military aircraft display, demonstrations, Aviation Academy exhibits, activities, a vendor area and meet and greets with the airshow performers. General admission is free; VIP packages are available for \$80. buckeyeaz.gov

Scottsdale Navajo Rug & Jewelry Show

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Holland Center, 34250 N. 60th St., Scottsdale. Featuring over 200 traditional handwoven Navajo rugs, jewelry and crafts, weaving demonstrations, stories, cultural teachings and raffles, this event offers the public an opportunity to purchase one-of-a-kind items while gaining deeper insight into Native culture. The VIP preview (\$50) is on Friday from 5-8 p.m. Saturday’s event is free. hollandcenter.org

SATURDAY 2/17

Arizona Strong Beer Festival

1-5 p.m. at Salt River Fields, 7555 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale. The 23rd annual Arizona Strong Beer Festival will have over 500 beers on tap from over 100 different breweries. Various food vendors, live music and entertainment, beer education panels, and “strong man” games will also be there. General admission is \$70 and includes 24 tasting tickets. There are also VIP packages. chooseazbrews.com

FRIDAY 2/23 – SUNDAY 2/25

Lost Dutchman Days

Times vary, held at Rodeo Park, 1590 E. Lost Dutchman Blvd., Apache Junction. The Superstition Mountains hold many secrets, but the entertainment at Lost Dutchman Days is not one of them. Guests can enjoy live music, rodeos, a dance, carnival rides, vendors, shopping, a parade, and plenty of snacks for the family. Admission is \$2 for activities and \$10 for the dance. lostdutchmandays.org

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DISTRICT 6
UPDATE

The Phoenix Police
Department and The
Department of Justice

Some of you may be familiar with my background. I was able to live out my dream as a Phoenix Police Officer for 36 years, rising to the rank of Assistant Police Chief, with stops that have included graduating from the FBI’s National Academy and their National Executive Institute. For over 20 years, I’ve also been lecturing at ASU in the criminal justice and criminology program.



KEVIN ROBINSON
Councilman
District 6
602-262-7491
District6@phoenix.gov

I mention these experiences because I believe they leave me uniquely qualified to assess our current situation with the Department of Justice. I think it is extremely important that the DOJ present its findings to the City Council before any agreements are signed.

I don’t think it has been unreasonable for the DOJ to investigate our department, and I do not oppose further action if it is warranted, but we must be allowed to make an informed decision based on the report the DOJ has put together.

Our department is far from perfect, but I can point to many times that we accepted valid criticism and worked to make changes that reflected what the community desired. One particular instance of this was when Phoenix PD became one of the first departments to fully implement tasers to prevent lethal interactions. Phoenix was ahead of the curve on this because we understood change was needed.

The DOJ’s findings may indicate that outside monitoring is necessary, but we can’t know that until we see their report. As councilmembers, part of our responsibility is to ensure not only the safety of our citizens but to manage the money we spend as a city. Signing a consent decree could mean hundreds of millions of dollars diverted from services our residents need, as well as added strain on our police department.

This may all be necessary, but all I ask of the DOJ is that we have the opportunity to educate ourselves on the findings, rather than signing an agreement without the full context.

Thank you,
Kevin



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The Lost Dutchman Mine

Deep within the hearts of anyone who lives in Arizona, has ever been to Arizona or who plans to come to Arizona, there is this one common fear:

“Somebody’s going to find the Lost Dutchman Mine before I can get to it.”

Such visions keep the state’s legend of lost gold alive because whoever does uncover the mine will be rich. Not as rich as winning the lottery, perhaps, but rich enough. The lore surrounding the buried gold centers around the Superstition Mountains.

These mountains are

many things to many people. To the geologist, they are a single mountain composed of tuff, contoured by the elements into peaks and canyons through the millennia. To the writer, they are “brooding land masses, relentless wilderness and foreboding rock



The Lost Dutchman Mine has never been found, but most stories believe it is located somewhere near Weaver's Needle in the Superstition Mountains.

sculptures that loom against a jagged horizon.” The dreamer envisions them as the last strongholds of solitude, still safe from the encroachments of civilization. The detective wonders why so many people go there and never return.

But the treasure hunter does not dwell upon such intangibles. He goes to the Superstitions for one reason – to find gold.

The basis for the story of the Lost Dutchman Mine goes back to a time when only Apache Indians lived around the area east of what is now Phoenix. They probably found the gold but had no use for it. When the Spaniard conquistadors arrived, looking for the legendary Seven



Jacob Waltz, the man behind the Lost Dutchman Mine, is buried at Pioneer Military Memorial Park in downtown Phoenix.

Cities of Cibola, the natives warned them that their Thunder God guarded the gold. The Spaniards looked anyway but fled when their men began disappearing. The search stopped until around 1845, when Don Miguel Peralta, a wealthy Mexican landowner, discovered a vein of rich gold ore.

He began a mining operation that produced fabulous wealth, which he shipped back to Mexico. This did not sit well with the Apaches.

Three years later, the natives mobilized a large group of warriors and planned to drive out the treasure hunters. Peralta somehow heard about it and ordered his men to pack up and leave, but only after they took elaborate steps to conceal the mine. It was a costly mistake because it delayed their departure.

The Apaches attacked and massacred the entire group, then drove their pack animals off cliffs and into ravines where later prospectors would find their remains, still carrying sacks of gold. The last discovery occurred in 1914, when a prospector showed up in Phoenix with the well-rotted remains of a Spanish saddle, some decayed leather straps and about \$18,000 in gold ore.

Although tales of the Peralta Mine were numerous, nobody reported seeing it until 1870. That year, a group of Apaches revealed it to Abraham Thorne, an Army doctor who had been living with the Indians and was considered a friend. As a reward for his friendship, they offered to take him to a gold mine if he agreed to go blindfolded.

At the bottom of a canyon, the Apaches removed the blindfold, showed the doctor some gold nuggets and told him to take as many as he could carry. At his post, Dr. Thorne sold the nuggets for about \$6,000. Next came the Dutchman.

Jacob Waltz (sometimes spelled Walz) wasn't really Dutch. He came from Germany, but “Dutch” was easier to pronounce than “Deutschland,” so he became “The Dutchman.” He arrived in the United States in 1845 and spent the next 20 years prospecting in the East, Midwest and Southwest. In 1870, he was working at the Vulture Mine near

Wickenburg, where he met Jacob Weiser. They formed a loose relationship and struck out for the Superstitions because Waltz had heard the stories about the lost Peralta Mine.

According to some theories, the two miners saved a Mexican man's life, and he repaid them with a map that showed the location of the mine. That version maintains that the man was Don Miguel Peralta and that the pair not only found the mine but eventually bought it from him.

Other stories suggest they either stumbled on the mine by accident or killed two Mexican miners and took their gold. Regardless of how they got it, they became big spenders in the Phoenix area until Weiser mysteriously disappeared. Waltz never had an explanation for the disappearance, and that led to speculation that he had killed his partner in a dispute over the mine. Another version says Weiser was killed by Apaches.

Despite the inferences, Waltz hung around Phoenix, frequently buying drinks in the local saloons and paying for them with gold nuggets. When the gold ran out, he returned to the mountains and got more. If asked about the location of the mine, he gave conflicting directions; when others tried to trail him into the wilderness, he easily eluded them.

But time ran out long before the gold did. In 1891, sick and bedridden, Waltz died in the home of Julia Thomas, his caretaker. He had promised to take Thomas to his mine when he was feeling better, but the time never came. He died on October 15 with a sack of gold stashed beneath his bed. Shortly afterward, Thomas launched a series of expeditions into the Superstitions, convinced that Waltz had given her enough information about the mine site that she could find it. She never did.

Neither have the hundreds who have followed secondhand reports and questionable maps into the Superstitions. Waltz's remains now lie in a well-marked grave in a cemetery in downtown Phoenix.

And, although he's been dead for more than a century, Waltz is still a good source of revenue for many because his mine has become a cottage industry.

The only constant in all the stories is that the mine is located somewhere near Weavers Needle, a towering lava plug. The name comes from Paulino Weaver, an early explorer who carved his name into the rock. Subsequent treasure hunters saw his name and applied it to the landmark.

The search goes on. It is always futile; it is frequently deadly. Since 1870, when stories about the lost mine first began circulating, about 40 people have either disappeared or been found dead in or around the area suspected to be the Lost Dutchman Mine.



The Lowe Road

BY SAM LOWE

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



GOLDEN KEYS COMMUNITY

6233 E CATALINA DRIVE

Golden Keys, designed in 1964 by architect Ralph Haver, is an iconic resort style adult community located in the heart of Scottsdale. This light & airy home with an oversized front arched window has been upgraded & meticulously maintained. It boasts magnificent views of Camelback Mountain, Travertine 16in flooring, granite counters, stainless steel appliances, vaulted ceilings, plantation shutters, upgraded baths with higher cabinets, custom sinks, & extended closets! The primary bedroom is on the lower level with a private bath. Step through the French doors to the fruit tree-lined expansive covered back patio to enjoy your morning coffee or host the perfect party! Steps away from Old Town, Fashion Square & award-winning restaurants. Amazing community with great neighbors. This truly is a must see!



Debbie Frazelle | CLHMS | ABR

602.399.8540
debbiefrazelle.com
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Dad creates app to get children home

By Rachael Bouley

A new app and QR code safety system designed by Valley dad Justin Behnke is giving greater peace of mind to families and caretakers of those who have autism, dementia, and Alzheimer's.

Behnke came up with the idea for Scan Me Home to keep his 12-year-old son safe. Jaxon has autism, is non-verbal, and has a tendency to wander off.

"My son is the whole reason and purpose behind Scan Me Home. If Jaxon were to get lost, he has no way to tell anyone who he is or where he belongs," Behnke said. "I needed something that works for him. Many kids and adults like Jaxon – with sensory issues – won't wear bracelets or necklaces or keep anything in their pockets."

Needing something Jaxon couldn't see, feel or touch, Behnke developed iron-on QR codes, which can be added to clothing and other personal items without bothering the wearer.

It's been a game-changer for Behnke and something he wants to share with other parents and caregivers in similar situations. After a positive community response, he rebuilt the app to make it easier to use and provide users with a simple way to reconnect with missing loved ones.



Justin Behnke

Users create a Scan Me Home account and QR code, with the option to add contact details and medical info. They can buy iron-on tags to use on clothing, backpacks and jackets or check out the t-shirt line with QR codes already printed on them.

"Once the code is scanned, the parent or caregiver profile comes up, and it's a simple click to call the assigned person, thus lessening the time of separation," Behnke explained.

As a user of his own product, Behnke is reassured knowing his son has a better chance to get home if he ever slips out on his own.

"I've come to realize if you live with or have a neuro-challenged person in your life, you get it immediately," he added. "You don't need it until you are desperate. I hope Scan Me Home can get ahead of any families' desperate need."

Behnke looks forward to partnering with local schools and businesses to drive community support and awareness. While competitors charge up to \$50 a month for a more generic lost-and-found solution, he's proud to offer free accounts and codes to use immediately or an upgraded version with extra features and merchandise for \$9.95 a month.

Affordability and accessibility remain very important to Behnke, who wants Scan Me Home to support the most vulnerable populations. So far, the feedback has been very supportive.

"The calls, messages, families and users have all been incredible. Everybody wants to help in some way, and that's special," Behnke said. "Whether someone is a nonverbal autistic human or a person who has dementia, we want to help as many people as we can to be a little safer when leaving their homes."

scanmehome.com

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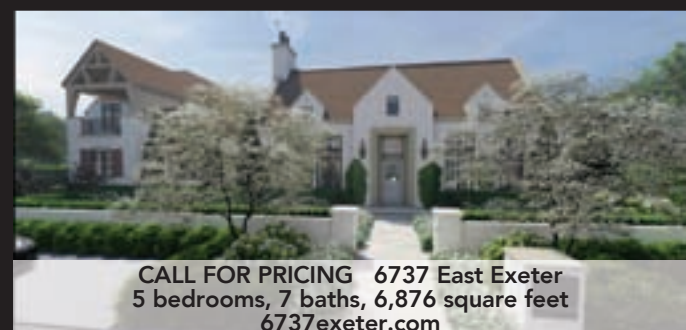
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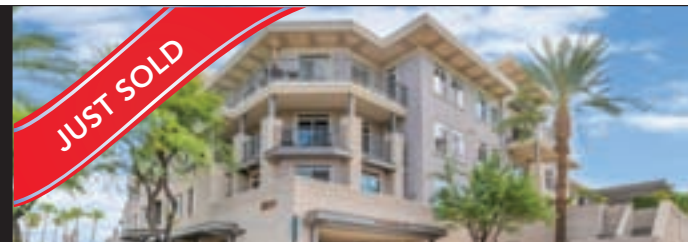




\$2,119,000 5808 North Sundown Drive
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 5,235 square feet
5808sundown.com



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\$950,000 4014 East Turney Avenue
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,500 square feet
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\$995,000 3801 North Goldwater Blvd #403
2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,043 square feet
3801northgoldwater.com



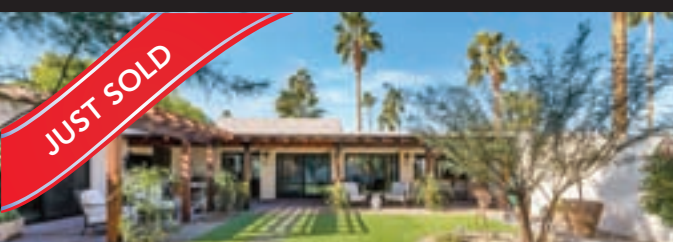
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\$3,780,000 5812 North 44th Place
5 bedrooms, 4 baths, 4,205 square feet
5812north44thplace.com



NEW LISTING
\$1,995,000 7181 East Camelback Road #301
3 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2,296 square feet
7181camelback.com



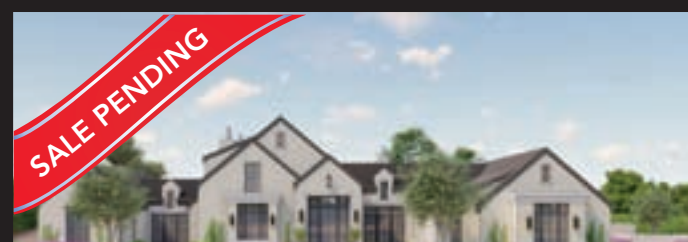
NEW LISTING
\$3,495,000 6733 East Exeter
1 Acre Lot Opportunity



JUST SOLD
\$895,000 7311 East Manzanita Drive
2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,080 square feet



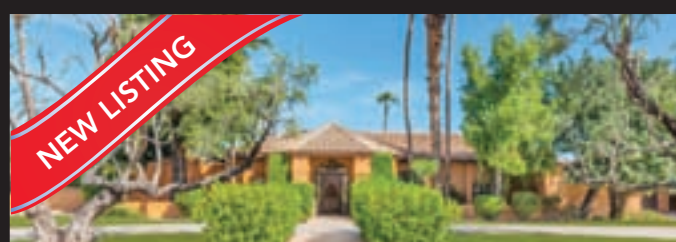
FOR LEASE
\$18,000 per month 8350 East Via del Sol
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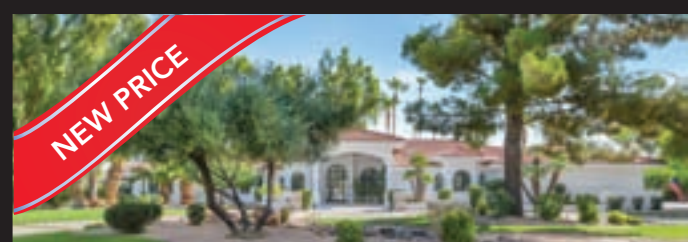
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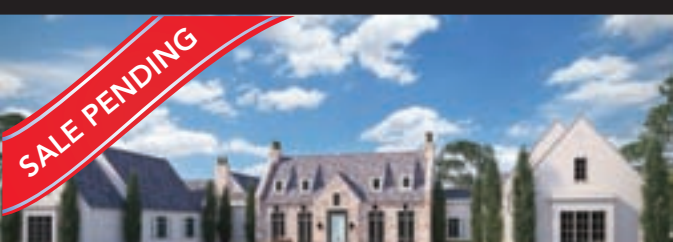
NEW LISTING
\$4,400,000 5409 East McDonald Drive
6 bedrooms, 5 baths, 5,233 square feet
5409mcdonald.com



NEW LISTING
\$2,495,000 8628 East Sharon Drive
5 bedrooms, 5 baths, 6,353 square feet
8628sharondrive.com



NEW PRICE
\$6,745,000 5636 East Via Buena Vista
5 bedrooms, 7 baths, 6,872 square feet
5636viabuenavista.com



SALE PENDING
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4415arcadialane.com



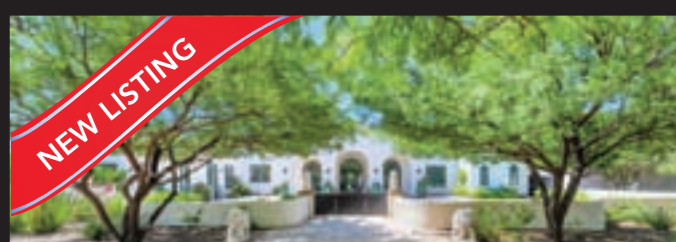
SALE PENDING
CALL FOR PRICING 8436 North Golf Drive
6 bedrooms, 7 baths, 8,216 square feet



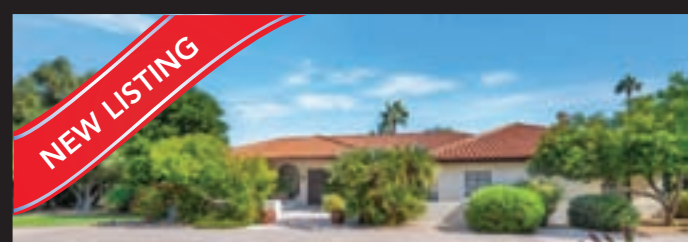
NEW LISTING
\$2,695,000 10746 East Whitethorn Drive
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,871 square feet
10746whitethorn.com



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



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5330palocristi.com



NEW LISTING
\$2,795,000 8815 North 63rd Place
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8815north63rdplace.com



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

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In the Kitchen

with **Chef Donald Hawk** of Valentine

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South-Korean-born, Phoenix-raised Chef Donald Hawk has spent over a decade gaining experience in the restaurant industry. He started at a pizza chain and worked through culinary school while taking notes from chefs like Claudio Urciuoli and Chris Bianco. Now, Chef Hawk oversees the kitchen at Valentine, a breakfast, lunch, and dinner spot in the Melrose District. Valentine captured national attention in 2022, when *Esquire* magazine selected them for a spot (#17 out of 40) on their annual list of Best New Restaurants in America.

When did you decide you wanted to be in the restaurant industry?

Third grade! I saw an ad for Scottsdale Culinary School and Le Cordon Bleu, and it piqued my interest. When I was 16, I started working at Barro’s Pizza and got my start in the industry. I ended up going to Arizona Culinary Institute right out of high school.

Are your family members in the industry?

None of them – they’re all actually in the medical industry. My dad is a cop, but we literally have someone in endoscopy, my nephew is a phlebotomist, some are nurses, one’s a physician, one’s a pediatrician, one’s a surgeon... there’s even an embalmer! It spans the whole family.

What’s the first thing you remember cooking?

Bacon – super easy. Or spaghetti and tomato sauce, probably.

Give us a brief timeline of your work history.

In 2012, I helped open Citizen Public House – it’s wild to see it be 12 years old now. I worked at Montelucia with Chef Claudio Urciuoli, and that was a special time because Pavle Millic was the GM, Ross Simon was the bartender,

and Andrew Fritz was the lead server. Now, Andrew owns Citizen Public House. Everyone kind of expanded out, you know? I also worked on a Norwegian Cruise Line for a bit – that was really cool. In 2014, I opened the Bianco location at Town and Country.

You worked for Chris Bianco?

Yes! He’s great. He’s very down-to-earth, and he’s stuck by ‘do right by the food, do right to be a good person.’ I worked there when it was pasta only – there was no pizza. Valentine’s owners, Chad and Blaise, also worked for him, so it was cool that we all had that experience.

After Bianco?

I moved to Portland, Oregon and worked for Jenn Louis and a restaurant called Lincoln. I learned a lot about farm-to-table cooking and modern Italian dishes. I took some time off from the industry and then worked at The Gladly. I was supposed to work at a downtown restaurant, but the pandemic hit, so I ended up at Valentine. It’s kind of a funny story.

What’s the story?

I was originally asked to be here, and I said no. I don’t know why I said no [laughs]. I actually recommended someone else, and then that person went somewhere else. So they reached out again, and I’ve been here for a little over three years. Our opening day was Black Friday in 2020 – the best time in the world to open a restaurant!

What does Valentine offer?

Seven a.m. is when we open for coffee. Nine a.m. is pastries and breakfast until 3:30, when we start lunch service, and 5 p.m. is when we open for dinner. At 6 p.m., our bar, 1912, opens.

The cuisine is southwestern – but things that were here, in Arizona,



before us. We put a modern take on those ingredients – elote spaghetti, for example. Our dishes use white Sonoran wheat that was grown in Tucson, beans from Sacaton, beef from Rovey Dairy Farms, local cheeses, and local corn. It’s southwestern enough that it doesn’t feel out of place.

There are also some dishes that kind of reach – like, we had a shrimp toast that’s not southwest at all, but you can debate that because the shrimp come from Baja California, which is part of the southwest; the wheat has a Chinese influence because they came here to build the railroads and expansion in Chinatown in San Fran.

It’s a lot of history. I don’t want to harp on it, but it’s what we’re trying to make happen.

Where do you get inspiration for the dishes?

It’s kind of life and kind of people I know. I really like Chinese restaurants

and Szechuan food. Someone once described our food as “Mediterr-Asian meets the southwest.”

Tell us the story of the hiramasa crudo (a dish that Hawk is known for).

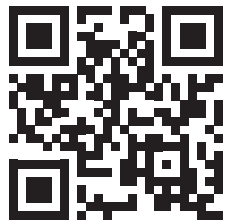
That dish was at The Gladly when I was there in 2016. I made it by accident, and it went on the menu and blew up. It was one of those ‘oh, you have to have this’ dishes. After years and years of making it, I wanted to make it a little more southwest. I was really happy selling it, and people really loved it, but I was just... we needed to make something else.

Where did the name Valentine come from?

Arizona’s birthday is February 14, 1912. It’s a history thing, not a kitschy Hallmark holiday thing. That’s also why our bar is called 1912. We try to be as Arizona as possible.

“
I’m very humbled and grateful to be part of this restaurant. It’s been incredible.”
”

I plan to develop and grow the team at Valentine. We probably won't open another location, but we're working on a few things. We won't relax because we're not intelligent [*laughs*]. We're figuring things out. I'm very humbled and grateful to be part of this restaurant. It's been incredible.



Teamwork and tech bring victory to Echo Canyon Roarbots

By Mark Hays

Following a triumphant win at the First Lego League regional tournament, Echo Canyon’s robotics team – also known as The Roarbots – competed in a State Championship emphasizing teamwork, robotics, skills and dedication.

The genesis of the tournaments came in 2019 when teacher Kay King founded Echo Canyon Robotics. This year’s team has nine students in fourth, fifth and sixth grade – and King said that a positive attitude is behind everything they do.

“Our team is enthusiastic and spirited,” she said. “We work hard and have fun.”

The Roarbots create the basic design of their robot, and it’s evolved each year to do tasks on a 4’x8’ table or ‘field’ with missions made from Legos.

Each mission has a task to push, pull or move levers. The robot must be programmed to do these tasks autonomously.

The team’s final step to the championship was the Regional Scottsdale Qualifying Tournament in December at Saguaro High, where 12 robotics teams from Scottsdale schools participated.

“Lego asks each team to develop an innovative project that goes along with the theme,” King said. “This year, the task was to make other people’ love your hobby as much as you do.”

For this exercise, the Roarbots – with help from SUSD IT technician Christopher

Constantini – chose to make an immersive slime booth where people could see, hear, touch, smell, and taste edible slime. The booth was a big hit, as the team placed first in the robot matches with a high score of 240 points.

The club also received additional recognition, winning the Champions Award for excelling in “Innovative Project, Core Values, and Robot Design.”

The top three teams were invited to the State Championship, which was held at ASU on January 13. Almost 50 teams from around Arizona competed.

“Our robot score was good for regionals but needed to improve for State,” King said. “We worked on programming our robot to achieve a higher score.”

Students Aria Scordo and Delilah Tobey said that their favorite parts of being on the team are building with Legos and having fun with the team. Fellow student Jonah Gross agreed:

“I wanted to join robotics so I would have something fun to do after school that let me collaborate with others and learn programming,” Jonah said.

At the Arizona State First Lego League Championships, the team won the Breakthrough Award, a trophy awarded to the school that made the most progress in both the competition and Innovation Project, and exemplified the core values of the tournament. The Roarbots placed 16th out of 54.



The Echo Canyon Roarbots: (back) Chloe Wilkins, Emme Burton, Aria Scordo, Chloe Kane, Delilah Tobey, Aideen Ray. (front): Jonah Gross, Andrew Ventura Pulido, Miles Rogers.



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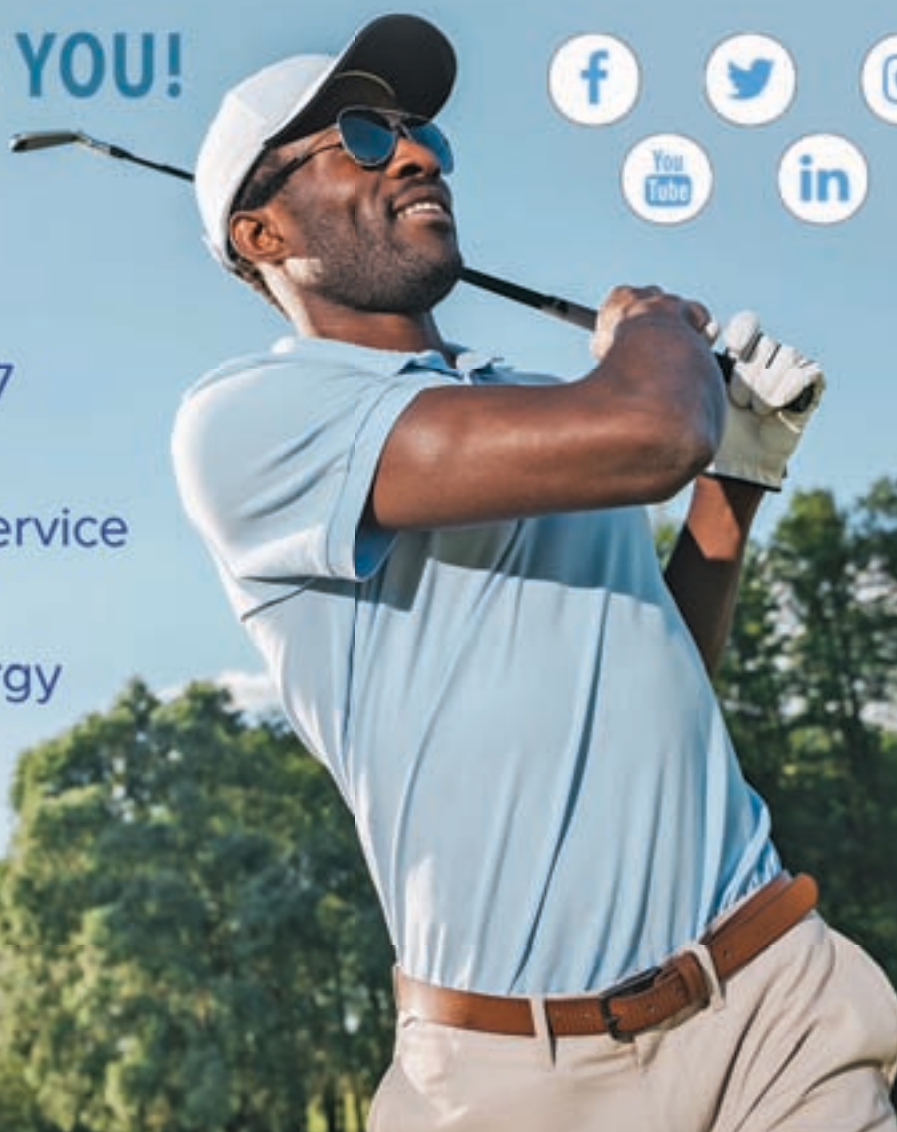
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Marci White

Marci White may have been born with a to-do list in her hand. Or maybe a calendar to schedule her next volunteer activity. “My children – Lena, Frank and Clark – were taught at an early age to ‘put it in my calendar.’ If it’s not in my calendar, it’s not real,” Marci said with a laugh, adding, “My parents always said I majored in special activities.”

Through the years, she hasn’t stopped the constant planning of that next important thing. The oldest of eight children from an Irish-Catholic family raised in St. Louis, Marci has always been about the people around her. That’s how elder siblings get started in honing their sense of responsibility.

Marci moved to Phoenix in 1998 after a successful marketing career with Marriott International. Transitioning to the nonprofit world, she became executive director of the local chapter of Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. The chapter experienced tremendous success during her eight-year tenure, propelling her to a larger role in the national organization.

At her core, Marci is a card-carrying entrepreneur, and in 2010, she founded Delete, a company that pioneered the laser tattoo removal market. The

treatments addresses people’s desire to remove inky creations from their bodies. A customer once returned during White’s annual D-E-L-E-T-E-A-T-H-O-N, showing off his clean knuckles, and told her, “You changed my life.”

“I knew then how impactful and gratifying our work could be,” she said.

A significant number of people seek removal of tattoos that represent tragic pasts. So Delete stepped in and partnered with various nonprofits to provide low and no-cost removals to former victims, including inmates, gang members and domestic violence survivors.

After selling Delete, Marci continues to make a difference in the community. Among her many volunteer roles is a current directorship on the Valleywise Health Foundation Board.

“I so believe in Valleywise’s mission of providing excellent care and resources to vulnerable people who have less while also educating tomorrow’s doctors,” she said.

Another constant in Marci’s life is her unbridled passion for gardening.

“I love gardening – especially roses, lots of roses! Mark at Berridge Nursey loves seeing me stop in because I’m an easy sale,” she said.

Other hobbies include cycling, historical fiction and classic movies.

“I love our family, so my favorite movie is *It’s a Wonderful Life*. We even have our own ZuZu, my daughter’s dog that was born on Christmas.”



Marci adores Arcadia and said it has everything to do with wonderful neighbors.

“People are here for a long time, raising children and generously involved. My husband recognizes that Arcadia is where I love to be, and my friends have indoctrinated him into the neighborly way of life,” she said. It’s understood that when I’m 80, 90, or even 100, I’ll still be right here with my besties strolling our streets in my walker if need be.”

Her philosophy in life is straightforward: “It’s not so much what you have, but what you give.”

Marci gives more than most!

“It’s not so much what you have, but what you give.”



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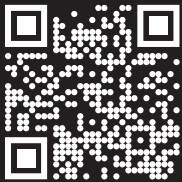


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AZ Humane Society celebrates 65 years of Pets on Parade

By Shi Bradley

Arizona Humane Society (AHS) started the new year with a milestone achievement. Its cherished television show, Pets on Parade, has graced screens across the Valley for 65 years.

Pets on Parade is a 30-minute segment that airs every Saturday on 3TV's AZ Family. The focus has always been on Arizona pets searching for a forever home. The show features a parade of dogs, cats, and other furry critters and showcases their journeys: healing from sickness, injury, abuse, finding a safe home, and creating lasting bonds with new owners and caretakers, all while providing valuable tips and special guest appearances for viewers.

"Over the past six-and-a-half decades, there have been awe-inspiring tales of strength and survival showcased," Host Kelsey Dickerson said. "It's been an incredible resource for pet owners and lovers across the state."

Pets on Parade is Arizona's longest-running local television show, debuting in December 1958, just a year after the foundation of AHS. The project came to fruition primarily because of Marge Wright, an animal advocate who hosted the show for over 40 years.

Marge started volunteering in AHS's thrift stores one year after the shelter opened in 1957. She provided care and



Original host Marge Wright with a special guest on Pets on Parade, circa 1958.

enrichment for dogs, cats, and critters, assisted with adoptions, and taught the Humane Education program to young students. She inspired the community

to show compassion and properly care for their pets and remained part of the organization until her death in 2014.

Pets on Parade draws an audience of

nearly 20,000 viewers each weekend. The show's impact is undeniable, with around 35,000 animals having found homes.

"This is an incredibly unique extension of what AHS works to do every day," Dickerson said. "Save the Valley's most vulnerable pets while providing resources to pet owners in need."

AHS's contribution to pets across the state isn't confined to their work on television. The organization cares for approximately 22,000 sick, injured, and abused pets each year.

Pets on Parade has also profoundly impacted the Valley's pet owners and animal lovers. Many adopters have benefited from the tips the show provides to take care of the pets they already own.

"The show brings joy and hope into the homes of those who watch, whether you've seen one episode or tuned in for decades," Dickerson said. "It inspires generations of animal lovers to get involved by adopting, donating, or volunteering and become animal advocates in any way they can."

By sharing these unique stories of triumph, AHS hopes to continue to inspire more pet lovers in the community to keep helping pets.

azhumane.org

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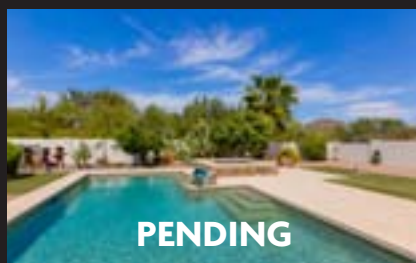
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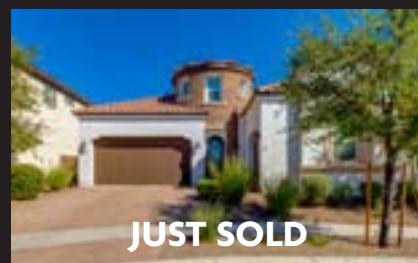
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PHOTOS: KEVIN CHAMBERLAIN

The theme of this year's Parada del Sol is "70 Years and Still Groovin', the Western Cool Vibe."

Seven decades of community, sunshine and fun

By Jennifer Marshall

On June 25, 1951, the City of Scottsdale adopted the motto "The West's Most Western Town." During that same year, the Sunshine Festival was created – the precursor to today's Parada Del Sol, which is celebrating a big milestone: 70 years as one of the longest-running events in the city.

"The event celebrates the city's Western, Native American and cowboy heritage," Media Exec Susie Timm said. "The Scottsdale Parada and Trail's End Festival features approximately 150 entries of

colorful floats, mounted horse riders, horse-drawn carriages, school marching bands, wagons and stagecoaches representing many cultures from Mexican to Native American to Arabian to Western."

This year's theme is "70 Years and Still Groovin', the Western Cool Vibe." Resident and local celebrity Barry Goldwater, Jr. will be the Grand Marshal. Paying homage to seven decades, the festival will celebrate 70's style with the annual block party.

"It was started by a core group of community volunteers," Timm said. "The parade itself is planned and coordinated

by the Parada Del Sol Committee, which is made up of volunteers dedicated to creating a safe, fun and vibrant event year after year."

For the Trail's End Festival, Scottsdale's historic Old Town district will be transformed into a massive family-friendly festival featuring activities for kids, food trucks, beverages, merchandise, arts and crafts booths and multiple stages with live entertainment. Concerts from Western Fusion, Chad Freeman and Redline, The Pickup Lines, and The Chadwicks will keep those good vibes going.

Basketball-loving attendees have something special to look forward to this year, as the 2024 Phoenix Men's Final Four Fan Jam will be in attendance.

"The Fan Jam tour builds excitement for the coming Men's Final Four, set to take place April 6 and April 8 at State Farm Stadium," Timm said. This all-ages mobile event will bring basketball-themed games and activities to the Parada and Trail's End Festival.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. on February 3, followed by the festival at noon.

scottsdaleparade.com

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Western Spirit Gold Palette ArtWalk

When: Thursday, February 1,
from 6:30-9 p.m.

Where: Scottsdale Arts District

Stroll through the Scottsdale Arts District while enjoying authentic Western entertainment and Western-themed exhibitions at participating galleries.

Then and Now

When: Thursday, February 1,
from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Where: Scottsdale's Museum of the West/Virginia G. Piper Theater

Scottsdale Community Historian Joan Fudala will hold a presentation including a photo-rich history of the Parada from its origins to date.

65th Annual Hashknife Pony Express Arrival

When: Friday, February 2,
from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Where: Scottsdale's Museum of the West

Celebrate the arrival of the Hashknife Pony Express, the oldest officially sanctioned Pony Express in the world, which delivers more than 20,000 pieces of U.S. Mail to the steps of Scottsdale's

Museum of the West. Enjoy live music, dancers, Native American hoop dancers and royalty, kids' activities and food trucks.

Parada del Sol Historic Parade and Trail's End Festival

When: Saturday, February 3,
from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Where: Drinkwater Blvd.
along Scottsdale Road

Presented by Oliver Smith Jeweler, the 70th annual Scottsdale Parada Del Sol Parade and Trail's End Festival celebrates the city's Wild West roots. The parade goes until noon, when the city is transformed into a block party with a kid's zone, food trucks, vendors and multiple stages with live entertainment.

Arizona Indian Festival

When: Saturday, February 3
and Sunday, February 4,
from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Where: Scottsdale Civic Center

The Arizona American Indian Tourism Association, in partnership with Arizona's Native American tribes, hosts this annual event. Guests can explore examples of traditional Indian villages and dwellings, arts and crafts, demonstrations, native food vendors and mainstage entertainment.

Events subject to change. Visit scottsdaleparade.com for details.

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The Dining Scoop



Ah, the bagel. It’s such a versatile food – used for breakfast, lunch and dinner. And there are so many options: plain, everything, onion, jalapeno, with cream cheese or butter or jelly...whatever your heart desires.

Bagels were created in Central Europe during the Middle Ages. At first, they were in the form of a German pretzel bread (like pretzels are today) and served to monks in monasteries. The doughy treat made its way from Deutschland to Poland in the 1300s. Polish locals

modified the pretzel bread form to produce smaller, round pieces called *obwarzanek*. Made with pricier white flour, *obwarzanek* (“to boil” in Polish) were only enjoyed by the upper and royal classes.

The origin of the bagel that we know and love today dates back to 1683, thanks to a king named Jan Sobieski, who led Poland against Turkish invaders. To honor him, a baker shaped his *obwarzanek* into circles, meant to resemble boot stirrups, called *beugel*.

In the 1900s, Jewish Poles immigrated to New York City, taking the popular snack with them. Bagels were available at curbside markets and hung by strings, making it an easy street food for everyone – not just the rich. New York City bagels have gone on to become an iconic food. How lucky are we, then, that many New Yorkers have come to our side of the country to share their bagels with us!

P.S. Of course we didn’t forget the bialys: chewy yeast rolls similar to the bagel. The former is boiled before baking, but a bialy is simply *baked* – and instead of a hole in the middle, bialys have an indent. The bialy was brought to the United States by Polish Jewish immigrants in the late 1800s and became a staple in bakeries in the Northeastern states.

Below are five Valley spots serving up doughy deliciousness and more.



Bagelfeld’s

2940 E. Thomas Road, Phoenix
bagelfeld.com

Charlie Blonkenfeld was born in Brooklyn and lived there until he was around six years old. As an adult, he worked as a chef in various kitchens until he started a catering company that served Arcadia, Biltmore, and the surrounding areas.

In March 2020, the company was put on hold, and Charlie was struggling to find a new source of income. He had been making bagels for catering orders for about four years prior and decided to start selling them at farmer’s markets.

“He tried it out, and it clicked really well for him and his customers,” Manager Ryan Avery said. “He knew the bagels were good, but had no idea how much of a

hit they would be. And the name is a play on Charlie’s last name.”

After about a year of selling bagels at markets and taking on the occasional catering order, Charlie signed a lease on what is now Bagelfeld’s on Thomas Road. The brick-and-mortar officially opened in February 2022.

Bagelfeld’s offers bagels and cream cheese, made fresh daily. They also carry Blue House coffee and cold brew.

“Our most popular bagels are our everything, asiago, jalapeño + cheddar and blueberry. Lemon + herb and pepper + garlic are the most popular cream cheese flavors,” Avery said.



Einstein Bros. Bagels

4401 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix
einsteinbros.com

We know what you’re thinking – but no, Einstein Bros. Bagels was not named after the German theoretical physicist. The concept first came about in 1995, when Progressive Bagel Concepts, Inc. was created by the folks at Boston Market – who wanted to create a national bagel company by bringing together several chain stores around the country.

Before the first location opened, Progressive owned 24 bagel shops. Ogden, Utah was home to the first official Einstein Bros. store, and in 2021, the company announced that it had merged with Panera Bread and Caribou Coffee to form Panera Brands.

Einstein’s offers gourmet, signature and classic bagels – which can be turned into sandwiches for breakfast and lunch if you so choose! Flavors include apple cinnamon, cheesy hash brown, cheddar jalapeno, cinnamon raisin, everything, poppy seed and more. Head bakers get to the store at 2 a.m. to make sure each bagel sold that day is at optimum freshness!



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New York Bagels 'N Bialys
1455 N. Scottsdale Road
nybagelsnbialys.com

Co-owners Shelley Curtis and Ruth Leatherman brought their bagel making skills from Chicago and New York City to the Grand Canyon State back in 2005, but the business itself has been open since 1987. More than 7,000 bagels a day are made at the kosher bakery and distributed across the Valley.

BNB offers various breakfast and lunch dishes, plus blintzes, brisket, bialys – and of course, bagels. Flavors include plain, asiago, blueberry, cinnamon raisin, cranberry, egg, everything, garlic, jalapeno, marble rye, rye, pumpernickel, oat and onion – and they offer eight different flavors of schmear.



Bagel Daddies
bageldaddiesaz.com

Bagel Daddies' Owner, Christopher Fregozo, has worked in kitchens, bars and bakeries for over a decade. At one point, he decided to start his own business. He



and a friend had a concept in mind and would meet at Einstein's Bagels to go over their plan.

"We were meeting at the same place, and I kept thinking, 'I would rather go to a mom-and-pop shop,'" Fregozo said. "I was wondering how I could work *and* spend more time with my kids."

The original concept never came to fruition – instead, Fregozo opened Bagel Daddies. Thanks to his industry experience, he quickly picked up the bagel-making process. Now, he rents a booth at Uptown Phoenix Farmer's Market and shares his creations with shoppers on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

"I feel like my most popular item is always changing," Fregozo said. "My biggest seller in December was the Notorious BEC on a green chile cheddar bagel. That one includes bacon, egg, cheddar cheese, chipotle aioli, and sunflower sprouts that I source from Yo Bro Farms."

Fregozo also partnered with Glendale's Twisted Bee Farms and opened a shop called The Beestro, where he serves bagels, smoothies, honey and other treats. And the name?

"The most important part of my business and life is being a dad. So the name came pretty natural," Fregozo said.

Each bagel is made by hand daily. Shoppers can order a six-pack and schmear to-go online, or stop by the booth and grab a Notorious BEC or one of the rotating specials.

The Bagel Man
5035 E. Elliot Road, Phoenix

Owners Khalid and Heidi Salih opened The Bagel Man in Ahwatukee in September 2011. There is only one location in Arizona. The original store, called Hightstown Bagels, Inc., is located in New Jersey and has been in the family since 1995.

"Some customers that now live in Phoenix were also customers in New Jersey or remember visiting the store as children!" Heidi said.

The store offers New York-style bagels and cold and hot breakfast sandwiches. The cream cheese options (plain, veggie, and honey walnut raisin, among others), lox and salads are homemade daily.

"Our bagels are baked and boiled the old-fashioned way – the dough is never frozen and is baked fresh daily in a revolving oven using an old New York recipe," Heidi said. "We run out quickly, so we advise customers to come early."

Kal has been in the bagel business since 1992. He worked at Denville Bagels in New Jersey before opening Hightstown Bagels, Inc. in 1995. His brother now owns it. The family moved to Ahwatukee in 2009 after two years in Oro Valley and sixteen years in New Jersey. The name comes from a little girl in New Jersey in the 1990s who always called Kal "The Bagel Man."

DINING SCOOP

Chef Roberto Centeno and the team behind Tacos Chiwas and Bacanora opened a new restaurant in Arcadia in January: **Santo Arcadia and Pecado** (4418 E. Osborn Road, Phoenix, in the former Chestnut at The Vintage spot). The menu offers fire-cooked Mexican cuisine and seafood made with local ingredients for brunch and lunch – with coffee options included. Pecado offers small bites and a specialty cocktail menu.

santoarcadia.com

Ivan Jacobo, chef and owner of Anheilo, recently opened **Flour & Thyme** (944 S. Mill Ave., Tempe). The eatery features coffee and pastries, breakfast, lunch and dinner, with menu items like foie gras, tuna tartare, dry-aged duck pasta and a dry-aged burger. Flour & Thyme will also offer a wine program, specialty cocktails, vegetarian selections and a la carte options.

flourandthymrestaurant.com

Hai Hospitality, an award-winning Austin-based restaurant group, plans to open **Uchi Scottsdale** (3821 N. Scottsdale Road) on February 1. Uchi will be Hai Hospitality's first concept in Arizona. Chef Tyson Cole will offer a variety of sushi and sashimi, tempura, and a chef's choice menu based on seasonal items. Lamb Sirloin, Masu Crudo and Wagyu Carpaccio are just a few menu items.

uchirestaurants.com

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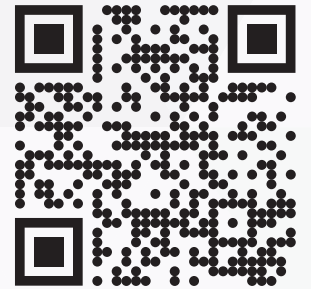


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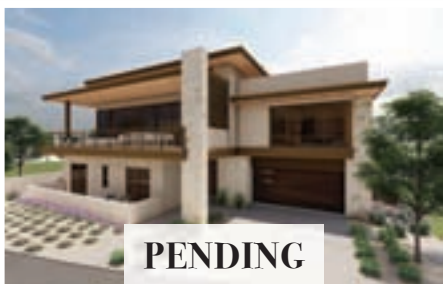
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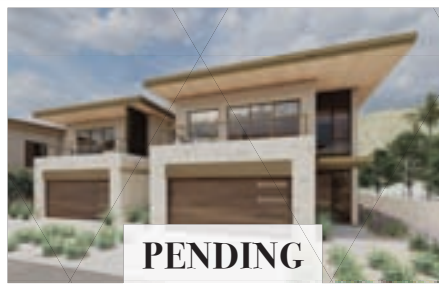


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3 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,062 SF



PENDING

\$3,100,000 - 4575 N Phoenician Blvd 2
3 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,652 SF



PENDING

\$2,995,000 - 4575 N Phoenician Blvd 3
3 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | 3,062 SF



PENDING

\$3,250,000 - 4575 N Phoenician Blvd 4
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\$3,300,000 - 4575 N Phoenician Blvd 5
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Arcadia High unveils new robotics lab

By Mallory Gleich

In March 2023, AHS Principal Janelle Danskey found out that the Robotics Team was working out of an electrical closet and didn't have the equipment needed to operate at the same levels as their competitors.

She also learned that students were buying their own 3D printers to make parts for their robot. After discovering this, Danskey got to work. With help from community and parent donations, Arcadia High is now home to a brand-new robotics lab that officially opened in January.

The lab is housed in a room originally designed to be a computer lab. It houses a maker space for construction, a collaboration space for design engineering, and tables for students writing code to program and operate the finished robot.

"Some of the 3D parts can take over 24 hours to print, and adding the lab gives students the tools and space they need to have a great experience competing over the year," Danskey said. "We want to ensure that they have what they need to compete at a high level."

The Robotics Club is an after-school competitive activity that sees students putting in nearly 150 hours throughout the competitive season while building and programming a robot. They participate in multiple competitions.

"What most people don't realize is how complex it is to build a robot that can



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANELLE DANSKEY



The brand-new robotics lab at Arcadia High has storage and table space for building and collaboration, plus a CNC Machine and four 3D printers.

complete the tasks required in a competition, and then compete against other schools," Danskey said. "Our students are learning to be engineers, computer programmers, marketers, machinists and leaders. Many who participate in Robotics go on to major and work in STEM-related fields."

The lab has storage and drawers to house tools and parts and plenty of table space for building and collaboration. The AHS Dad's Club donated a CNC (Computerized Numerical Control) Machine, and the school purchased several 3D printers and supplies.

Every piece of furniture is on wheels so that students can move it easily to test and drive the robot while also creating the obstacles they will encounter to practice and troubleshoot.

"In a typical competition, robots need to

be able to drive over and climb different obstacles, pick up items, and lift and place those items. What students have to design, build, and program the robot to do is really complex," Danskey said.

"The lab has changed the course of how we work and allows us to do so much more – design, practice, prepare, and also more space so that more students can join the club," club member Vincent Trost said.

The total cost for machines and materials was around \$17,000. Through the support of tax credit donations from the community – which fund extracurricular opportunities for students, like free after-school tutoring and Saturday School catch-up – the school was able to purchase furniture and four 3D printers.

"We are very grateful to our program

sponsors, mentors, and community for supporting our students' endeavors. Because of them, we can provide these high-quality experiences at our school," Danskey said. "Also, thanks to our team sponsors: SOAR, Arcadia Dad's Club and the Diamondbacks."

Since FIRST Robotics released the 2024 Robotics Competition game, CRESCENDO, the Robotics Club has been hard at work. They meet four times a week and on Saturdays to research, brainstorm, prototype, test, and build a robot that will accomplish the most tasks defined at the tournament. The team's first competition will be the Arizona East Regional on March 20 at Corona Del Sol High School in Tempe. National Robotics Week is April 6-13, 2024.

firstinspires.org
nationalroboticsweek.org

Providing love, hope and friendship beyond a call to service

By Jennifer Marshall

As a requirement, Brophy and Xavier College Prep students must participate in community service hours and projects during their freshmen, sophomore and junior years. These projects occur at myriad nonprofits around the Valley, including at an Arcadia organization called Saving Amy.

Saving Amy is a grassroots nonprofit that started in 2015. The organization addresses the core cause of the cycle of homelessness, with all families receiving a Journey Partner Mentor who offers encouragement, guidance and accountability.

"We provide a hand-up and help our families attain self-sufficiency to remain housed and employed. We have a 100 percent success rate, where all Saving Amy families continue to live in their own homes and are contributing members of society," Marketing Manager Maria Rodriguez said.

Saving Amy invests considerable time and resources in families to ensure they don't end up back on the streets.

"Healing takes time, and we walk with our families for three years to fully support their transition to everyday life. We have the time and ability to fully develop the emotional, academic, social and career skills the family members need to succeed," Rodriguez said.

Xavier and Brophy students gather community service hours at the nonprofit



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIA RODRIGUEZ

Brophy and Xavier students helped out at the annual Saving Amy Celebration fundraiser.

by tutoring and mentoring children. They form a relationship encompassing school, daily life, sports, families – every aspect of their young lives.

"Often, the students continue service hours beyond the required amount because they have built strong relationships with the children they're mentoring and truly care for them," Rodriguez said.

The students also worked at the annual Saving Amy Celebration fundraiser. After helping set up, the students greeted, checked in guests, helped with the auction raffle and cleaned up.

"At Saving Amy, typically twice a week, we guide in fields such as education and social and emotional interaction," Xavier juniors Macy Bonnett and Brooklynn Ritter

said. "We mentor a 13-year-old girl and work with her to improve her grades and provide an emotional outlet for whatever she deems necessary."

Over the last couple of months, Macy and Brooklynn have bonded with the student and said that they share lots of laughter when they are together.

"We find that we're all helping each other in ways we never initially realized, and it's so fulfilling," Macy said.

"My time volunteering with Saving Amy depended on where I was needed," Brophy senior Race Bates said. "I spent almost all my time helping in the 'kids-go' program as a tutor and mentor for younger kids."

Race and a group of friends were paired with fifth-eighth graders from around the Valley

who had minimal quality learning resources and support growing up.

"That's how it started at first. It was just tutoring until it wasn't. After spending hours with the boys doing homework, playing basketball, and taking them to fun activities around Phoenix, our roles as tutors transcended this title," Race said. "We became role models, friends, and a beacon of support the boys needed in their lives."

"The dedication and commitment shown by Xavier and Brophy students in fulfilling their service hours at Saving Amy and continuing to support the kids is truly commendable," Rodriguez said. "Their involvement in organizing outings and spending quality time with the kids goes beyond the call of duty."

savingamy.org



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HOPI GOES GAGA!

Welcoming a new addition to the elementary school playground

By Kylie de Best

Over the summer, the Vasbinder family went on a trip to Wisconsin, where kids Jamie and Eva spent time playing gaga ball with their cousins.

The family noticed the game’s popularity in the Midwest, seeing it at every playground. Earlier this year, the family was inspired to bring the game to the southwest and donated a ball pit to Hopi Elementary.

“We knew gaga ball was an enjoyable group activity that many kids can play at once and that kids of any athletic ability can play. It’s friendly and fast-paced, which is perfect for recess,” Kelly Vasbinder said. “We thought that for our twins’ final year at Hopi, it would be special to give something they love playing for kids to enjoy for years to come.”

After the family suggested donating the ball pit, it was approved by the PTA, and from there, they connected to the PE department to determine which size and style would best fit the needs of the student body.

After the pit arrived, the community pitched in to help set everything up, with Vasbinder Development and Princeton Construction leading the installation.

Kelly said the most challenging part was



PHOTO: JD LASSWELL

Students at Hopi Elementary help with the pit that was donated by a local family.

“digging a hole wide enough for the pit, as Arizona dirt is pretty hard!”

Students are ecstatic about this new addition, and it has become the most popular activity during recess:

“The gaga ball pit is so much fun,” student Karter Spellman said.

“I was over the moon when I discovered they were adding a gaga ball pit to the playground. I love the game because it’s exhilarating, and a lot of kids can play at once,” fifth-grader Lexi Matz said.

Lexi and her sister Scarlett also head to Wisconsin in the summer, so they are

familiar with the game and always look forward to playing during camp.

“I was so excited when I found out Hopi was getting a gaga ball pit. I watched it being built and was counting down the days to play. My favorite part is that it’s a fun game that kids of lots of ages and abilities can play,” second-grader Scarlett said.

Gaga ball works like this: one person throws a lightweight ball (like a dodgeball) into the center of the pit. Players have to wait for the ball to bounce three times before they can start, shouting “GA” on the first two bounces and “GO” on the third bounce. Players then hit the ball with one hand, trying to get someone out by getting the ball to touch another person below their knees. Each game lasts around five minutes, and the last person in the pit wins.

“The best part has been all of the texts we received from parents, telling us how excited their kids were about gaga ball and how much they love playing,” Kelly said. “Elementary school is such a special time. We hope that the gaga ball pit gives students a fun game to play with all the kids and encourages new friendships and inclusivity in a unique way.”

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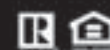


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Peyton's incredible journey

From 2.5 pounds to thriving kindergartner

By Mallory Gleich

Six-year-old Peyton Augustin was born at 30 weeks. She weighed two pounds, eight ounces – and from that small beginning, Peyton's parents knew they were going to have a difficult road ahead.

Doctors discovered that Peyton was born with an imperforate anus, a congenital malformation where a normal opening is absent at birth. The doctors were unsure if this was Peyton's only diagnosis, so she was immediately admitted to the NICU for lots and lots of tests.

"It took about eight weeks for them to formally diagnose Peyton with VACTERL syndrome," mom, Katherine, said. "It was hard to tell what was actually going on because she was born at two pounds, and they could only do so many invasive tests. The diagnosis was mostly just what they suspected and was later confirmed."

VACTERL syndrome encompasses multiple body parts:

- V- vertebral abnormality**
- A- imperforate anus**
- C- cardiac defect**
- T- tracheoesophageal fistula**
- E- esophagus**
- R- renal**
- L- limb anomalies**

Peyton was also missing the T10 vertebrae, had a narrowing esophagus (which later led to feeding issues), and was born with a hole in her heart. A small blessing is that she had no renal or limb anomalies.

"For most of Peyton's abnormalities, we had to follow up with individual



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHERINE AUGUSTIN

Peyton Augustin, who was born with VACTERL syndrome, is now a kindergartner at CLS.

specialists to determine the best course of action for each. Our life was filled with doctor visits and tests," Katherine said.

Peyton had to wait eight months for surgery, and immediately after bringing her home, her parents encountered another challenge: getting Peyton to eat. They brought her to specialist after specialist and eventually to a feeding therapist. For months, they struggled to get her to drink a minimal amount of milk to keep her hydrated and growing.

"No one could figure out what was going on because she was not spitting up or having pain when eating. She didn't appear to have much interest," Katherine said. "Things got so bad that we had to go to Phoenix Children's Hospital and get a feeding tube."

Soon after being admitted to PCH,

Katherine ran into a friend who was also at the hospital.

The two got to sharing stories, and the friend suggested booking an appointment with Dr. Faye Ghishan, head researcher at Steele Children's Research Center (SCRC) in Tucson. That's also when Katherine learned about PANDA.

People Acting Now Discover Answers is a Phoenix-based women's philanthropy board that raises awareness and funds to benefit research for childhood diseases through the University of Arizona's Steele Children's Research Center.

SCRC is the University of Arizona's Department of Pediatrics research division. The physician-scientists and researchers are devoted to improving children's health through scientific, translational, and clinical research in areas such as autism, autoimmune

disorders, cancer and blood diseases, diabetes and GI disorders, to name a few.

"We got in right away with my friend's referral and drove to Tucson as fast as Dr. Ghishan could get us in," Katherine said.

Peyton went through several tests that confirmed her narrowing esophagus. She also did a swallow study, where it was discovered that she had difficulty swallowing and breathing when she ate. Dr. Ghishan put Peyton on two different medications to help, and within two weeks, she was entirely off the feeding tube.

"Our lives were improved ten-fold. We still had surgery on the horizon, but we finally knew that her feeding issues were not necessarily related to her other issues, and it brought great relief," Katherine said.

Following the surgery was a few months of enemas and dilation – something Katherine said was painful for Peyton and for them – but in the scheme of things, it was a "small blip."

She had follow-up appointments with bowel management, cardiology, neurology, endocrinology and orthopedic specialists. And while Peyton still has scoliosis due to her spinal defect, the hole in her heart has since closed, meaning she won't have yet another surgery.

"Peyton will likely always have a small stature, and takes steps daily to manage her bowels, but she was fully potty-trained despite what specialists told us by three years old," Katherine said. "On the outside, she appears just like any other kindergartner, but she has gone through a lot for such a young lady. She amazes us every day."

About People Acting Now Discover Answers (PANDA)

For 24 years, PANDA has been on a mission to make the world brighter and healthier for children. PANDA's Children Helping Children Fashion Show and other fundraising activities have contributed over \$30 million to the Steele Children's Research Center and has helped researchers secure more than \$110 million in grants.

The fashion show highlights local children and Steele patients walking the runway to help raise funds for research and treatment plans. Peyton will walk in this year's show.

PANDA also has a yearly goal focusing on one area of research, and this year's goal is to bring a first-of-its-kind pediatric biobank to The Steele Children's Research Center. A biobank program allows doctors and scientists to "collect, annotate with pertinent health information, and preserve clinical samples in long-term storage for future research use."

The biobank involves high-tech, continuously monitored deep freezers, where biological material such as blood or tissue samples can be preserved by

physicians to assist research projects. The samples help determine response to treatment and other research aimed to understand the disease process better and develop new therapies.

PANDA will be looking specifically at creating research and data around certain rising autoimmune diseases in children, like asthma, kidney disease, liver disease, and intestinal and rheumatological diseases.

PANDA'S UPCOMING EVENTS

March 24 is PANDA Lemonade Stand Day, where children across the Valley help turn lemons into lemonade by raising money for rare diseases. Visit the website for a full list of lemonade stand locations.

May 11 is PANDA's 24th annual "Children Helping Children" Fashion Show and Luncheon presented by Fox Restaurant Concepts at the Arizona Biltmore. The event includes a silent auction, cocktail hour and after party.

azpanda.org



PHOTO: ALLISON TYLER JONES

PANDA members with Dr. Faye Ghishan: Ashley Richardson, Emily Snell, Kim Willems, Molly Kaufman and Stacy Medeiros Holzhauer.

One step at a time

These first few months of 2024 are a time for new beginnings. It's a time when we often set our goals for the remainder of the year or commit to change within our personal lives or our careers. It can often help to begin with the end in mind. If you create an image of the end goal, it'll be easier to take the steps to complete the change you crave.

Often, it can be hard to see the end goal in the beginning. This is especially true when you are in the middle of a difficult situation. Let's face it: the last few years have not been easy.

One thing remains true. If you make small steps in the right direction, you will eventually find your way. In other words, good choices will lead you to more good options. Eventually, your destination will reveal itself. If you've taken many positive steps, you are certain to find yourself in a positive place – even if there are a few wrong turns along the way.

If you have a clear vision for the future, set an intention. Break it down into bite-size steps that you can do over the year. Create

a timeline. Find friends to help hold you accountable. Reach out for help as you need it.

Not having a vision of the end doesn't mean you won't find yourself in a great spot. I've often spoken to job seekers who are distressed. They have two good job offers and aren't sure which to choose. Both opportunities are good options. This is often the case in life. There are many paths that will take you to a good outcome.

The first thing you need to do is to get moving. Staying stagnant in a situation that isn't working for you will not lead you to where you need to be. It will only make it harder to get yourself out.

No matter what your goals are for 2024, this is a great time to polish up your professional presence. Ensure that your LinkedIn profile is up to date. Set aside some time to update your resume. This is likely the time of the year when you will complete your performance evaluation for the previous year. Use the opportunity to outline the impact of your contribution to your company. In addition to making a great case for your bonus or raise, you can use this information for your resume.

Finding a job is hard work, especially when you are proactively looking. Start early and keep moving. The more effort you put into your search, the more options and opportunities you will ultimately have. Take one positive step at a time.



Career Corner

BY ANGELA COPELAND

Career expert and founder of Copeland Coaching. copelandcoaching.com

From the Archives

ARCADIA NEWS

Vol. 24 No. 11

AWARD WINNING NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS SINCE 1993

February 2017

ARCADIANEWS.COM / ARCADIAHO.ME



PAGE 33

We've got some tips and ideas on how to get the most out of your spring garden.

PAGE 20

Local pastor Jeff Schrank brings costumed joy to Christ Lutheran School.

PAGE 44

One of the area's landmark resorts is finally getting a well-deserved makeover.



In 2017, Arcadia News wrote a story about CLS's Pastor Jeff Schrank and his costumes. It looks like the tradition continues - here are two recent costumes Pastor Jeff wore at school!



Get rid of that fake sugar, sugar!

As we enter February, it's fitting to explore ways to sweeten our treats naturally, especially with Valentine's Day around the corner. As a plant-based wellness coach, I'd like to offer some healthy alternatives to sugar that actually have some benefits.

An excellent new year goal is to reduce sugar intake. Both sugar and artificial sweeteners like aspartame, saccharin and sucralose have been linked to disruptions in gut health and are a breeding ground for disease.

My number one tip is to start weening yourself off of processed desserts and sweet drinks and get back to enjoying naturally sweet produce. Once you omit processed foods, things like mangos, dates, apples, and bananas taste sweet again. All those natural sugars are the primary source of energy for our body. Plus they are loaded with fiber and antioxidants to help with anti-aging.

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

Here are three naturally sweet options that come from plants and provide some benefit:

- Cacao contains Vitamin E, B, phosphorus, potassium, manganese, iron, zinc and copper.
- One hundred percent pure grade A maple syrup contains manganese, zinc, calcium and potassium.
- Date sugar or date syrup contains manganese, copper, potassium, and magnesium.

For this month's recipes I'm including two sweet treats to celebrate Valentine's Day and National Dark Chocolate Day on February 1, and one easy weeknight dinner in honor of Chinese New Year of the Dragon!

Chocolate pomegranate clusters SERVES 8



Ingredients

- ¾ cup pomegranate seeds
- ¾ cup non-dairy chocolate chips

Directions

- Scoop out 12 mounds of pomegranate seeds on a parchment-lined tray (one that will fit in the freezer).
- Melt the chocolate in a small pot or the microwave and pour over each mound.
- Freeze for 30 minutes and enjoy. Store in the freezer.

Easy noodle stir-fry SERVES 2



Ingredients

- 1 package super firm tofu, cut into cubes (or use extra firm tofu and press it)
- 1 tbsp. soy sauce
- 2 tbsp. nutritional yeast
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 red pepper, sliced
- ½ bag chopped broccoli
- 1-2 ramen bundles

Sauce

- ¼ cup soy sauce
- 2 tbsp. vegetable broth
- Juice of one lemon
- 1 tbsp. sesame oil
- 1 tbsp. maple syrup or date syrup
- 2 tsp. sriracha
- 1 ½ tsp. arrowroot powder or cornstarch

Directions

- Preheat oven to 400 F. Put the tofu in a Ziploc or large reusable bag and add soy sauce and nutritional yeast. Shake and lay out on a sheet pan. Bake 20-25 minutes until golden brown.
- Add sauce ingredients to a small pot and cook on medium for about five minutes, stirring frequently until it thickens.
- Cook the ramen.
- Sauté the garlic, red pepper, and broccoli for about five-eight minutes on medium-high in a large pan.
- Add the noodles, sauce, and tofu to the pan with the vegetables. Stir and serve.

Cacao chia pudding SERVES 3



Ingredients

- 10 medjool dates soaked in boiling water for 15 minutes
- 2 ½ cups plant-based milk
- ½ cup chia seeds
- ¼ cup raw cacao powder (make sure it is unsweetened)
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Directions

- Once the dates are soft, remove the pits.
- Add the milk, dates, chia seeds, cacao powder, and vanilla to a blender and blend until all of the dates are smooth.
- Pour into containers and refrigerate. It will be thick enough to eat right away or last all week in the fridge.



TROON DESERT MODERN-CHARLIE LAZOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER

Architecture Lovers Rejoice! This Desert Modern home nestles in the boulders & saguaros of Troon Ridge. Gated 2-acre desert property boasts sweeping views & glorious sunsets. This unique home is a work of art; details are astounding! Private patios, roof walk deck to 3 casitas. Wow!

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Arcadia Ranch meets Camelback Mountain views in this 1950 Ranch tucked on almost 2 acres of Paradise Valley's prime location boasting views of Praying Monk and more! Cul-de-sac lot offers estate-style privacy, room for guest casita. Updated interiors for charming elegance. Priced to SELL!

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CAREFREE MID-CENTURY - BLAINE DRAKE ARCHITECT

For the MCM lover: A once in a lifetime opportunity! This rare one-owner property was designed by acclaimed Mid-century Architect and Frank Lloyd Wright fellow, Blaine Drake in 1965. You'll find all the original millwork and details which include Terrazzo Floors and updated appliances. Incredible 1.6 acre view lot. Sale subject to court approval. **Offered at \$1,695,000**



PARADISE VALLEY AREA LUXURY - TATUM FOOTHILLS

A gracious PV-area home...that's priced right! Enjoy a fabulous gated location, recent designer updates, Mountain Preserve views, lush yard, pool/spa and fab landscape! 4Br + den/office, fireplaces, media wall, soaring ceilings, 3-car garage, N/S CDS Lot...coveted "3-C" Scottsdale Schools too!

Offered at \$2,695,000



SWEDISH MODERN - BILTMORE TERRACE

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity! Rare one-owner property meticulously maintained and wonderfully upgraded. PENTHOUSE location offers privacy and views of lake and golf course. Fabulous floorplan offers a split primary suite; great-room, dining and cook's kitchen make it ideal!

Offered at \$499,000



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Expand your foodie game at these hidden gems in Arizona

Many people know that Arizona has a great food scene. The annual James Beard Awards, often called the “Oscars of the food world,” has recognized many of our state’s chefs and restaurants for



Robin's Adventures

BY ROBIN SEWELL

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

their outstanding food, creativity, and hospitality. Greater Phoenix, Tucson, Sedona and Flagstaff are packed with great restaurants, but if you’re willing to venture off the beaten path, you’ll find that Arizona’s small towns also offer outstanding culinary delights.

Cottonwood boasts an authentic farm-to-table experience where you can drink the wine right off the vine. Longtime

Verde Valley winemaker and resident rock star Maynard James Keenan (of the band Tool) welcomes guests to his hilltop winery and trattoria. The restaurant has a 270-degree view of the Verde Valley, and the chef creates his menu with



Restaurants in Cottonwood, Pine and Winslow are full of culinary surprises.

ingredients harvested from the Merkin gardens, greenhouses and orchards. Signature dishes include lasagna cupcakes, Merkin Mac and Cheese with prickly pear-infused pasta and *tagliolini e ragu* with Arizona-fed beef. Located at the base of the complex is the Merkin Vineyards Pocket Park Gelateria, where visitors can enjoy freshly made gelato and grab a token for the hilltop tram that will transport you to the top of the development – a nod to the area’s copper mining past. Another mouth-watering haven tucked away amidst a sea of towering pines is the Old Country Inn in the Mogollon Rim town of Pine. The restaurant

specializes in wood-fired dishes – everything from wood-fired wings to pies. Enjoy the house-made bread sticks dipped in green chili beer cheese and pizza topped with ingredients like roasted pork and green chili or roast chicken and BBQ sauce. The chocolate macadamia cast iron cookie is a must-have for those with a sweet tooth. For chef and owner Michael Dahling, a New York native who left a corporate job to enjoy the slower pace of Northern Arizona, this is a labor of love. “Our philosophy is simple: great, well-made food doesn’t have to be stuffy or expensive. It should be made for all to enjoy. Head over for a pint of Arizona

craft beer and a darn good pizza and enjoy the stunning views our beautiful rim country has to offer,” Dahling said. An *Arizona Highways* Television favorite is The Turquoise Room in Winslow. Located in the restored 1930 La Posada Hotel, a Fred Harvey hostelry designed by famed architect Mary Colter, the restaurant is steeped in culture and history. The menu is inspired by Native traditions and Four Corners ingredients – such as the Hopi hummus, made with reservation-grown tepary beans – or the signature soup made of half-creamed sweet corn and half-spicy black bean. Other dishes include the free-range bison short ribs, pork carnitas and the Southwest vegetable platter with hemp tamales. The La Posada and the Turquoise Room have built a reputation as the finest hotel and restaurant on Route 66. Chef Sharp was nominated twice for a James Beard award as best chef in the Southwest for his unique interpretation of regional classics. Sharp retired a few years ago, but his crew keeps his traditions and legacy strong. This culinary gem is sparkling for return customers and new guests who make a special stop just off an Arizona Highway.

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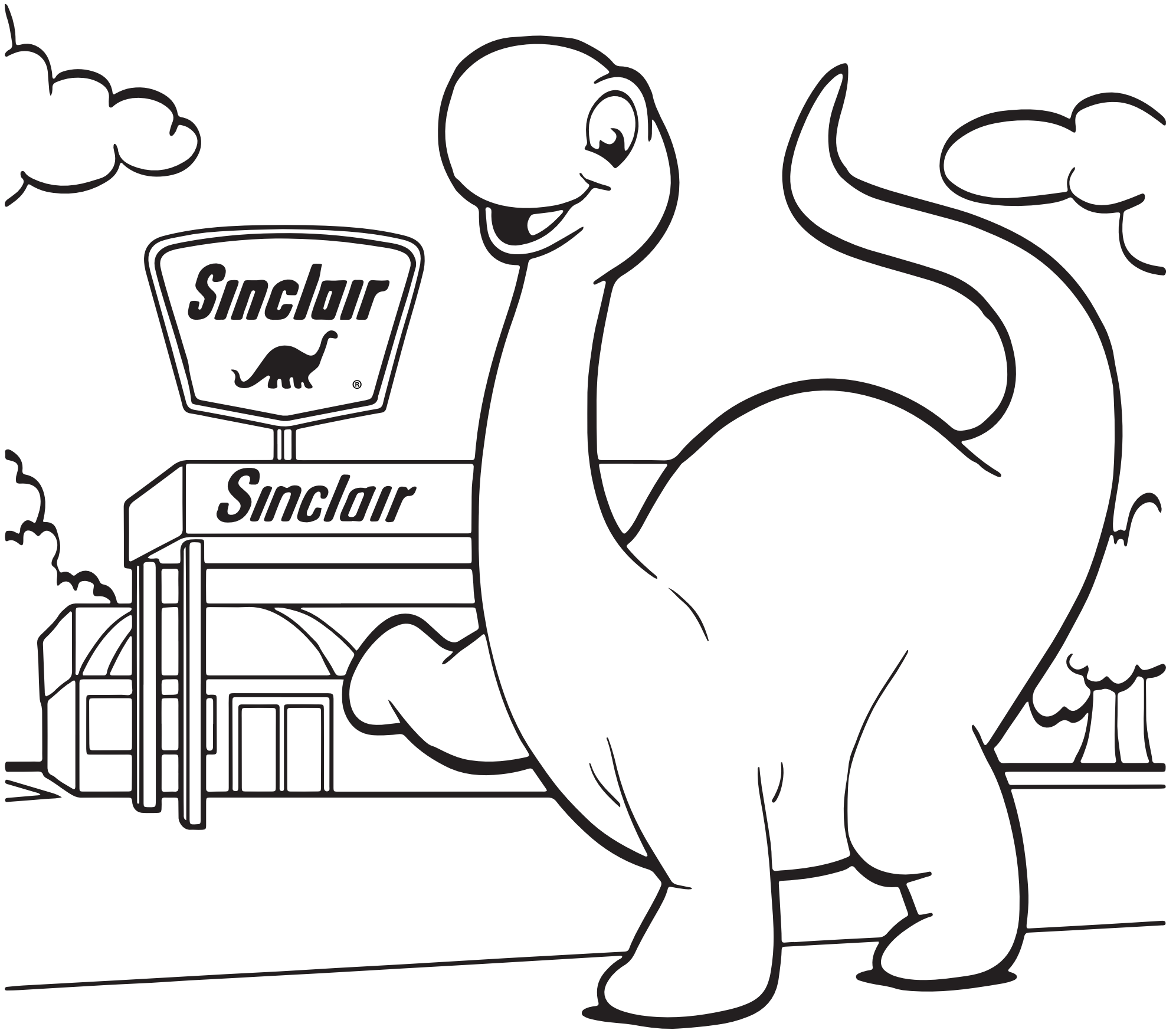
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Noah Anastassatos at the finish line of the 40th annual El Tour de Tucson.

#1 out of 3,000: Arcadia bicyclist wins big at Tucson race

By Mallory Gleich

The year was 2020. The gyms were shut down – as was almost everything else – and Noah Anastassatos was looking for a way to get some exercise when a friend mentioned that he was training for a triathlon.

Well, Noah wasn't ready for a triathlon, but he was interested in part of the training: bicycle riding.

After joining his friend for a few rides,

his passion for cycling grew. Just a few years later, Noah celebrated a first place win at the 40th annual El Tour de Tucson in November 2023.

Twenty-six-year-old Noah attended Hopi, Ingleside and Arcadia High before heading to Wagner College Business School and ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law for his Master's Degree.

"I was going to become a lawyer, but I was interested in sports business law and growing in the sports agency world, connecting brands with athletes. That was shut down for a while, so job opportunities were sparse," Noah said.

He was introduced to a gentleman who worked at Western Retail Advisors, and as he says, "I never looked back." The company specializes in retail leasing for big companies and restaurants around Arizona.

In 2019 and early 2020, Noah began riding a bicycle as a means of exercise. His father had been an avid rider for years, but Noah didn't pick it up until his friend invited him to go – and now, Noah and his dad ride together.

"It was more for fitness, but I got to know a lot of guys in the cycling community," Noah said. "I did my first race in 2022."

That first race – the Tour de Mesa – saw 600 riders. Noah placed eighth. He decided to keep going.

Noah entered the 2023 Tour de Tucson, one of the largest bicycle races in the United States and the longest-running bicycle event in Arizona. There are different races within, but Noah went for the one with the most miles – 102, to be exact.

To kickstart his training, Noah joined his family on a five-day cycling trip in the Dolomites (in Italy) over the summer: 35,000 feet of climbing and 240 miles of riding.

With a few weeks to go before the race, he was riding 300 miles a week. Then, it was time for the tour.

"We averaged 27.5 miles an hour for 102 miles. For the first 30 miles, I was thinking about staying in the pack and not catching



Along with the trophy, Noah received a Tissot watch for his first place win.

any drafts. The race took just under four hours," Noah said.

Drafting means closely following behind another cyclist to take advantage of the reduced air resistance, making it easier to maintain speed and conserve energy.

"At mile 70, I was thinking, 'this is anybody's race,'" Noah said, referring to the 50 riders in the group that he was in. "I kept thinking, 'Okay, stay safe,' because it's 50 guys going 30 miles an hour, cones are flying everywhere, and a guy had just wrecked in front of me – and I dodged him, thankfully."

Noah said races can get highly competitive. Riders come from all over the world; some have even participated in the Tour de France or raced on teams.

In the last mile, the riders were coming to

a head, and Noah knew he needed one final push to make it to the finish line.

"I held 38 miles per hour for 30-40 seconds and knew I had a little gap in the left turn to the finish line. My legs were smoked, but I knew I had to keep pushing," he said. "I crossed the finish line and could not believe I had won. It was wild."

Noah was swarmed by the media immediately after, but all he wanted to do was find his family.

"My girlfriend and mom found me and came running down the road, and then we waited for my dad, who was also in the race – his face, when he realized I won – was just awesome," Noah said.

After the race, Noah was presented with a trophy and a Tissot watch.

He is now training for the Tour de Scottsdale, which takes place April 13.

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Grab your shovels, it's time to 'Bury Parkinson's'

By Mark Hays

When Mike Ziomek started The Shovel Crew Foundation to Bury Parkinson's Disease in September, he knew one thing for sure: the narrative around the disease needed to change. Mike was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2016, at the age of 34. His symptoms started with just a slight finger twitch.

"I was in denial for seven years because it was something I could live with," he said. "I didn't take any real medication, and it didn't really interfere with my daily life."

In April 2023, things took a turn for the worse.

"It hit me like a ton of bricks," Mike said. "It felt like it went from 0 to 100 overnight, and I started on meds and had to hit it head-on."

"Head-on" meant raising awareness of Parkinson's and what those afflicted with it endure. Mike and his best friend, Erik, wanted to show people that the disease doesn't just affect older folks... that it's more than just "a shaking disease."

"Most people don't get the full scope of what the journey entails," he said.

The duo initially came up with the name as a tongue-in-cheek joke. The Shovel Crew Foundation to Bury Parkinson's Disease was formed and immediately began contributing money to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's research.

"Our first initiative for The Shovel Crew



Max, Mike, Kirsten, Sadie, Chloe and Callen Ziomek.

is our Financial Assistance Program," Mike said. "We provide a one-time payment for those with Parkinson's who live in the Phoenix area."

The Shovel Crew hosts various events to raise funds and awareness with the help of volunteers.

They participate in a 'plant a tree' initiative once a month where they accept a \$20 donation and coordinate with the City of Scottsdale to plant a tree in a city park in the donor's honor. They've also held

fundraising dinners and are planning a Pints for Parkinson's and wine-tasting events in the future.

"We started with a small group of five of us – the original Shovel Crew – that helped get the word out," Mike said. "Now that we have been featured on the news, I have people emailing me every day wanting to help and join our fight against this disease."

On June 4, the group will host its inaugural golf tournament, The Shovel Crew Classic.

The goal of the Crew is to assist in finding a cure, however long it takes.

"In the meantime, we will keep having as many fun events as possible to get the word out there," Mike said. "With the audience we are receiving, we will keep teaching about this disease and providing all the support we can for those suffering from it."

shovelcrew.org

What is Parkinson's Disease?

- Parkinson's Disease is caused when brain cells that make dopamine stop working or die. This often causes stiffness, tremors, and walking and balance issues.

- Named after James Parkinson, an English physician who published the first description of it in 1817.

- Nearly one million people in the U.S. and six million worldwide live with the disease.

- 90,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed each year.

- Tremors, small handwriting and loss of smell are early signs of the disease.

- Since its inception in 2000, the Michael J. Fox Foundation has raised over \$1.5 billion for Parkinson's research.

Source: parkinson.org



These volunteers have something in common: green thumbs!

By Tiffany Gonzalez

Sixty-five volunteers – including 20 students from Camelback High – got together over the holiday season to plant 45 trees in Solano Park. This event coincided with the Arizona Sustainability Alliance's (AZSA) goal of planting 500 new trees in 2023.

Established in 2017, the organization advocates for environmental conservation, renewable energy, sustainable food systems and urban forestry.

Before the volunteers got to work, Camelback students arranged a presentation on the importance of tree equity, ensuring

every part of the Valley is shaded and the impact of events such as this.

"These events are vital in advancing our mission and visibly impacting our community," Estevan Bellino – AZSA's marketing and communications manager – said. "They help us meet environmental

goals, strengthen community ties, and raise awareness; however, for participants, these events offer hands-on experience in environmental stewardship and foster a sense of ownership and pride in local communities."

azsustainabilityalliance.com

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DID YOU KNOW? CHINESE NEW YEAR

HOW LONG? 410'

Sun Loong, derived from the Cantonese pronunciation of "New Dragon," is an imperial parade dragon that was used in the Bendigo Easter parade in Australia from 1970 through 2019.

It was believed to be the longest imperial parade dragon in the world, measuring approximately 330 feet long – but not anymore, as a new dragon named Dai Gum Loong debuted at the parade in 2019 and took over the title of longest dragon, at 410 feet. Both are on permanent display at the Golden Dragon Museum in Bendigo.



Sun Loong



Dai Gum Loong



HOW OLD? 3,500 YEARS

Its exact beginning date is not known, but some people believe the Chinese New Year originated in the Shang Dynasty (1600–1046 BC) when people held sacrificial ceremonies to honor gods and ancestors at the beginning or end of each year.



NUMBER 8

Numbers have always played a significant role in Chinese culture. People traditionally associate fortune with lucky numbers and consider them in daily life, such as when choosing a residence or wedding date.

Eight has long been regarded as the luckiest number in Chinese culture. With the pronunciation of Ba in Chinese, eight sounds similar to the word Fa, which means "to make a fortune." In some areas of China, people pay more for a telephone number with an eight. They also favor residences on the eighth floor of buildings.



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DID YOU KNOW? CHINESE NEW YEAR

CHINESE NEW YEAR FACTS

The date of Chinese New Year changes every year but always falls between January 21 and February 20. It is usually the second day after the winter solstice.

Celebrations traditionally last for 16 days, from Chinese New Year's Eve (February 9) to the Lantern Festival (February 24).

During the Lantern Festival, streets are decorated with colorful lanterns with riddles written on them. People eat rice balls (called *tangyuan*), watch dragon and lion dances, and set off fireworks.

Chinese New Year is also called the Spring Festival, which marks the end of the coldest days and is a chance to welcome spring, planting and harvests, fresh starts, and new opportunities.

Showering isn't allowed on New Year's Day, and sweeping and throwing out garbage isn't allowed before the 5th day of Chinese New Year – this is to ensure people don't wash away the good luck that New Year brings.

The 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac are rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog and pig.

Chinese people believe a person's horoscope, personality, and love compatibility are closely associated with their Chinese zodiac sign, determined by birth year.

2024 is the year of the Dragon. It begins on February 10 and goes until January 29, 2025.

Those born in 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012 and 2024 have the dragon zodiac and are supposedly confident, intelligent, ambitious, persevering, hardworking people.

There is a popular Chinese folk saying that nine out of 10 goats are deficient, which implies most people born in the Year of the Goat are destined for bad luck.

WORD SEARCH

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

DRAGON
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ENVELOPE
FORTUNE
GENERATION

LANTERN
LUCK
MONEY
NIAN
POCKET

RED
SHANG
SPRING
SWEEP
ZODIAC

SAY WHAT?

IT ALL STARED WITH NIAN

According to legend, Chinese New Year started with a mythical monster called Nian (a beast that lives under the sea or in the mountains) during the annual Spring Festival. The Nian would eat villagers and children in the middle of the night. One year, an old man appeared before the residents went into hiding and said he would stay the night and get revenge on Nian.

The old man put red papers up and set off firecrackers. The day after, the villagers returned to town and saw nothing had been destroyed. They assumed that the old man was a deity who came to save them.

From then on, the tradition grew. When New Year was approaching, the villagers would wear red clothes, hang red lanterns and spring scrolls on windows and doors and used firecrackers and drums to frighten away Nian, who never came to the village again.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF TONY JAMES

Tony James won "Emerging Designer of the Year" at Phoenix Fashion Week.

How a local designer is mixing faith and fashion

By Ann Stone

Tony James is a true lover of fashion — a passion that grew from thrift store visits with his family during childhood.

Tony pursued a degree in fashion education after taking high school merchandising classes with a teacher who "constantly encouraged and praised" his creations — creations that eventually won him "Emerging Designer of the Year for 2024" at Phoenix Fashion Week.

Throne of Grace, Tony's clothing company, stemmed from him noticing that clothing worn by those in his community did not align with young individuals' aesthetic and style preferences.

"This misalignment sparked an idea to use fashion to promote faith and share the message of God's love and grace," Tony said. "I believe it can be a powerful tool to connect with others. By designing clothing that resonates with young people and reflects a unique style, I hope to foster an inclusive and welcoming environment within the faith community."

Once he decided to start a clothing line, Tony needed help selecting a name for the company. One scripture — Hebrews 4:16 — was something he referred to for comfort.

The scripture says: *Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

The words "throne of grace" stood out to him like never before. Tony realized that was the answer he had been seeking.

"I wanted something that sounded cool, fostered a sense of community, and aligned with my mission," he said. Throne of Grace debuted in January 2019.

The clothing line boasts a "contemporary

twist" and focuses on streetwear: t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters and hats.

"Throne of Grace is a brand that creates 'Unapologetic Streetwear for Faith Driven Visionaries,'" Tony said. "The garments reflect the latest fashion trends while embodying strong beliefs and capturing the essence of street culture, with crossover appeal and versatility."

The annual Phoenix Fashion Week event showcases the Southwest's most prominent designers. After winning, Tony's family "eagerly rushed" to congratulate him.

"I'm so thankful for the heartfelt conversations, tears of joy, laughter and countless hugs. My family and faith community played a significant role in this victory because of their support and encouragement," Tony said. "The win was a testament to the power of God, the love of my family, and the strength of the Throne of Grace community."

Fashion may also be in the family's DNA, as Tony's children, Jeovanni and Christabel — who he said are his biggest inspiration — also have a knack for it and play a role in his business.

Jeovanni serves as Tony's creative director, providing valuable insights on whether the designs resonate with the Gen Z audience. Tony describes Christabel as "a creative force to be reckoned with."

"In addition to having a passion for design, she constantly creates beautiful and innovative pieces. Christabel challenges my creative boundaries," Tony said.

Throne of Grace is expanding into the wholesale market this year by partnering with Valley retailers. A luxury line of clothing is planned for the near future.

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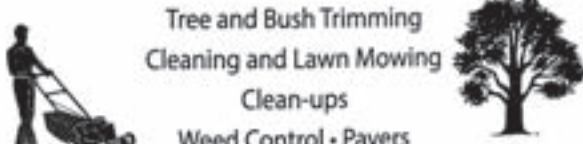

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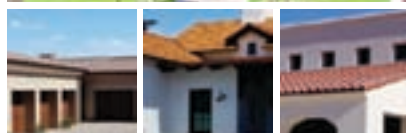
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Senior Spotlight: Girls varsity tennis captain Nola Williams

By Ahva Ghazanfari

Nola Williams, an ambitious senior at Arcadia High, is gearing up for tennis season this month. The three-year captain of the girls' varsity team has contributed to the school's success in the sport and has been playing for upwards of 10 years.

What does being part of this team mean to you?

At the end of the day, tennis is an individual sport. I grew up playing in tournaments, so it was just me, myself and I. But when I got to high school, it was so fun to be part of a team and know that win or lose, you're going to have friends with you.

What strengths make you a successful athlete and student?

I'm pretty disciplined when it comes to both my academics and whatever else I'm

focused on at the time. During tennis season, I'm really dedicated to doing the best I can and trying to motivate my teammates to do the same. It's worked out pretty well for us; we've won the section three times and been state runners-up and semifinalists. I'm proud of our accomplishments!



Nola Williams

How do you balance school and extracurriculars during tennis season?

It's hard to find a balance between homework and practice, so I make sure to allocate time for my responsibilities while also making sure there's time for fun.

What's your favorite thing about Arcadia?

The community. I've gone to eight different schools in my life, and Arcadia is the one that I've gotten to feel the most at home in. I got comfortable quickly, and I'm so grateful to everyone who greeted me with open arms.

What are your post-graduation plans?

I will be attending Northwestern University to major in journalism with a minor in economics in Fall 2024.

traditions greatly influence the topics studied and books read in the Arcadia English Department. What's more, these trips let students connect with their peers and the world around them on a deeper level – one outside of the classroom.

– Amelia Guzman

WHO RUNS ARCADIA'S "HOUSE OF INFORMATION?"

Whether a library is really of quality, has a vast supply of books, and is comfortable to be in is only possible if there is an efficient librarian who enjoys what they do. Shawn Huffman, Arcadia High's librarian, deserves immeasurable respect for the amount of observation and effort he puts toward his work.

Mr. Huffman has two degrees in history and English, a minor in earth science, and two master's degrees in educational fields. He was a coach at Arcadia before he started teaching in 2002. With experience teaching English, history, and social studies at another school, Mr. Huffman is a well-rounded, qualified individual. He has been the librarian since 2015.

To him, the library is a "house of information." He believes it is for anyone, for any purpose: books, a quiet space, conversations. Being Arcadia's librarian includes researching and understanding what books to stock based on trends in young adult fiction, organizing and cataloging them, and showing up for students utilizing the library as a resource.

Mr. Huffman emphasized that the most difficult part of his job is the recent emphasis on book censorship in schools and libraries across the country.

Nevertheless, he has put much attention toward inclusion, mentioning that he wants the library to be accessible to everyone as long as they respect the space. His mindset on learning and forming relationships is truly inspiring and insightful.

– Georgia Ebbert

ARCADIA'S BATTERED SUITCASES CLUB



Spending a week abroad with some of your best friends sounds almost too good to be true. Arcadia High makes this possible by offering opportunities for students to travel during the school year. A few trips happen annually at Arcadia, one being the Battered Suitcases Travel Club trip, which is sponsored and run by AP English teacher Kimberly Mayorga. For the past four years, this club has picked a location, like Ireland and England, to go abroad.

This year's trip will take place during spring break when Ms. Mayorga and her students travel to Italy. On these trips, students further their education by visiting museums and points of interest inspired by writers like Percy Shelley, Oscar Wilde and William Wordsworth.

"Anything from studies done on Shakespeare to Harry Potter; we try to explore many possibilities," Ms. Mayorga said.

The Italy trip will include visiting the Colosseum and the Leaning Tower of Pisa, but also places that focus more on celebrating writers. All of the trips center around Western literary traditions. Such



Shawn Huffman

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