

ARCADIA NEWS



VOL. 31 NO. 12

ARCADIA • BILTMORE • CAMELBACK CORRIDOR

MARCH 2024



SEE INSIDE!



ONE LUCKY LEPRECHAUN

Notre Dame senior (and Arcadia native) Ryan Coury plays a pivotal role as a Fighting Irish mascot.

PAGE 24

ALL ABOUT THE MUSIC

Four Arcadia area seniors make up the band Prefect, a group that's played at festivals near and far.

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MARCH

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The Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children is celebrating its 10th anniversary, with plans to continue its mission of helping families across the state.

27 Go for the gold

Arcadia senior Madilyn Messenger spent over 80 hours working on a project that involved homes for burrowing owls, resulting in her earning the Girl Scout Gold Award.

42 Three cheers for Spiritline

Arcadia High and Xavier Prep's spiritline squads made it all the way to Nationals in February, garnering top 10 wins in multiple categories.

46 Barrett-Jackson gives back

The 53rd annual Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction was held at the end of January. This year, over \$1 million was raised for charity.



Arcadian Ryan Courty, who will graduate from Notre Dame in the spring, spent the last two years of college as a Fighting Irish Leprechaun mascot.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN COURTY

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Three interesting facts about Notre Dame University: The campus spans over 1,250 acres; the football team has won 11 national championships; and perhaps the most interesting fact – when it comes to our neighborhood: one leprechaun that can be seen running around the stadium is none other than Arcadia local Ryan Coury.

Both of Ryan's parents attended Notre Dame, and he followed in their footsteps, immersing himself in classes and campus life. But when he saw a social media post regarding mascot tryouts, Ryan knew he'd found his calling.

For the past two years, he's become the all-over-green-clad gentleman hyping up the crowds and dancing the Irish jig at sports games across the university. These years of leprechaun-ing have been a blast for Ryan, who will graduate with degrees in finance, real estate and sports media and culture and

then head home to Phoenix.

Speaking of sports, our area high schools have wrapped up their winter sports seasons with some awesome accomplishments, including top 10 rankings, and state and national playoff runs.

Arcadia News is happy to present the 2024 Arcadia Home & Design Spring edition, where readers will find stories about treehouses, pool trends and the Shemer Art Center, which is celebrating 40 years of art in the Valley. We are so excited to share it with you.

Happy St. Patrick's, Happy Easter, Happy Spring – and thank you for reading Arcadia News!

Mallory

– Mallory Gleich

UPCOMING THEMES:

APRIL

Outdoor / Camp Guide

MAY

Moms

JUNE

Summer

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"May you have all the happiness and luck that life can hold – and at the end of your rainbows may you find a pot of gold." – Irish blessing

ARCADIA'S PETS

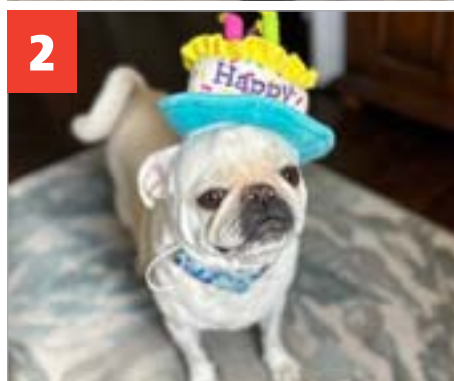
1



1. Savannah is my four-year-old tortoiseshell cat. She came to me after a failed foster appointment. She is my rock! I had a stroke one year ago and now she will sleep with me and wait for me to come down the stairs.

– Ashley P.

2



2. Meet Chowder. He's a three-year-old pug and we've had him since he was eight weeks old. He loves to eat and is very food motivated. His favorites are apples and his homemade dog food. His best friend is his older bonus brother Bandit. When he's not eating, his favorite past time is snuggling with mom and napping.

– Julie T.

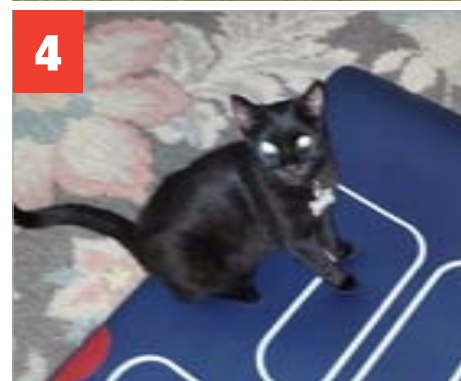
3



3. Boston is the happiest two-year-old red Labrador Retriever. He enjoys spending time with his family and meeting new friends. Whether it's a neighborhood walk, fetch at Los Olivos Park or watching football on Sunday, Boston brings a contagious amount of love and energy everywhere he goes. And we can't forget about the wrecking tail wags and constant excited wiggles. We love our Boston boy!

– Marisa G.

4



4. Hi, I'm Simba-ba-ba-ba and my mom rescued me from a shelter two years ago. I'm shy and sweet and my favorite thing to do is snuggle on mom's lap and watch funny animal videos with her.

– Marilyn C.

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!



SATURDAY & SUNDAY
MARCH 23-24, 2024
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



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9:30am – Teaching Service
9:30am – Easter Egg Hunt
10:30am – Contemporary Worship
10:45am – Traditional Worship

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GETTING READY FOR THE HOPI VARIETY SHOW



The Hopi Variety Show season is underway and will be led by these fifth grade emcees. This year, they are taking the Hopi community on the ride of a lifetime as they present The Hopi Headliners of Las Vegas. Four-hundred students will dance, sing, perform magic and more – Elvis may even make a surprise appearance. The Variety Show is one of Hopi’s longest standing traditions and one that the community looks forward to each year. “We can’t wait to share the magic of Vegas on the stage at Arcadia High School,” PTA member Emily Blais said.

hopipta.com

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOPI ELEMENTARY



(back): Grant Fuller, Andrew Hunsaker, Luke Wertheim, Lucas Ackerman, Jack Harvey and Ax Irvine. (front) Hannah Brangan, Harper Driscoll, Kate Levine, Kinsley Edwards, Natalie Barnes and Davie Rao.

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Arcadia Real Estate Stats

2024 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/1/2024-1/31/2024)

Active Homes -	96 Homes
Homes Sold -	21 Homes
Average Sale Price -	\$2,505,000
Average Sold \$ Per SF -	\$737
Average Days On Market -	66 days

There is currently 6 months of home inventory. (based on 2023 sales results)
2023 home sales have increased 19% this year. (based on 2023 sales results)
2023 home prices have increased 2%. (based on 2023 sales results)
2023 \$ Per Square Foot prices have increased 9%. (based on 2023 sales results)
2023 homes are taking 18% less time to sell. (based on 2023 sales results)

2024 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/1/2024-1/31/2024)

Active Homes -	66 Homes
Homes Sold -	11 Homes
Average Sale Price -	\$1,359,000
Average Sold \$ Per SF -	\$490
Average Days On Market -	100 days

There is currently 5 months of home inventory. (based on 2023 sales results)
2023 home sales have decreased 15% this year. (based on 2023 sales results)
2023 home prices have increased 3%. (based on 2023 sales results)
2023 \$ Per Square Foot prices have increased 0%. (based on 2023 sales results)
2023 Homes are taking 18% more time to sell. (based on 2023 sales results)



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WHAT'S HAPPENING, ARCADIA?

BRIEFS

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



PANDA Lemonade Stand Day returns on March 24. This annual tradition encourages kids around the Valley to host lemonade stands to raise awareness of PANDA and funds for the Steele Children's Research Center. Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation will sponsor the event by donating supplies, and Danzeisen Dairy will donate the lemonade. One hundred percent of the proceeds will go to the Steele Children's Research Center.

azpanda.org

City of Phoenix **Adult Softball League** registration opens on March 12, with games set to start in April. There is a Men's, Women's and Coed league for all levels playing at either Rose Mofford Field, Dwest West Field, and Papago Field. All players must be 18 and older. Rosters should have at least 20 players who will play 14 regular season games, with a single elimination tournament to end the season. Registration starts at \$450 for a 20-person team.

phoenix.gov



Plan ahead! The **Team Taylor Arcadia Family Fun Run** will happen on April 14, 2024, at 8 a.m. at 48th St. along the canal. At the 12th annual event, participants will run, walk or wheel their way through Arcadia in remembrance of children who lost their lives to SIDS. Proceeds benefit Phoenix Children's Safe Sleep & Home Safety Program. There will be an after-party at O.H.S.O. Registration is \$45.

phoenixchildrensfoundation.org

Biltmore Fashion Park (2502 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix) invites folks to the center lawn each Friday for Movies in the Park. Make sure to bring chairs or blankets – and snacks, of course – for *Field of Dreams* on March 1, *Barbie* on March 8, *Happy Gilmore* on March 15, *Breakfast Club* on March 22 and *Ms. Congeniality* on March 29. Attendance is free.

shopbiltmore.com

The **Celebration of Fine Art** exhibit (18400 N. Hayden Road) features 40,000 square feet of studios and works of art by 100 prominent and emerging artists from across the country, including Arcadia resident Bill Pack. Pack's automotive photography has led to various accolades and a collaboration with Roger Penske. Visitors can attend Art Discovery sessions on Fridays. Tickets are \$10, good for the exhibit's duration, which ends March 24.

celebrateart.com

EVENTS

FRIDAY 3/1 – SATURDAY 3/2

McDowell Mountain Music Festival

1 p.m. at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix. The McDowell Mountain Music Festival is a two-day event featuring more than 25 musical acts, including Arlo Parks, Bakar, Coco & Breezy and Dayglow. There will be food trucks, activities, an art installation, and a vendor marketplace. Proceeds from the concert benefit three local charities. Tickets range from \$85 to \$220.

m3ffest.com

SATURDAY 3/2

M7 Street Fair

11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Melrose District, 7th Ave. from Indian School Road to Campbell. The 21st annual event features over 200 local and independent artisans, food trucks, live music, a farmer's market, activities for kids and a craft beer garden. Patrons can also enjoy the LAMBDA Car Club show, which features over 100 classic antique and vintage cars, trucks, and hotrods. This event is free for all ages.

melrosemerchantsassociation.com

Persian New Year Festival

11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Scottsdale Waterfront, 7135 E. Camelback Road. Celebrate the spring season at this year's Persian New Year Festival. Guests will find authentic food, music, dance performances and art from Arizona vendors. Donations are accepted, and your ticket will guarantee a complimentary cup of Persian tea to kick off the festivities. This event is free.

persiannewyearfestival.com

Phoenix Flea

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Heritage Square, 115 N. 6th St., Phoenix. Phoenix Flea is a modern market displaying Arizona's makers, curators and more. Guests can check out small businesses boasting handcrafted goods, fine art, curated vintage, modern fashion and design, and food and beverages. Tickets are \$12 per person.

phoenix-flea.myshopify.com

Intimate Apparel

7:30 p.m. at the Arizona Theatre Company, 700 S. Rio Salado Pkwy., Tempe. Intimate Apparel tells the story of a successful seamstress who makes "revolutionary undergarments for high-society socialites to enterprising ladies of the night." This play explores the seamstress's history and the lengths one will take to change their lives. Tickets start at \$33.

atc.org

SATURDAY 3/2 – SUNDAY 3/3

Indian Fair and Market

9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Heard Museum, 2301 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. The Indian Fair and Market is one of Heard Museum's longest-held events and the largest art market of its kind.

At the 66th annual event, over 600 native artists will showcase their mediums on-site, plus live entertainment, storytelling, arts and crafts, and a best-of-show ceremony. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for children.

heard.org

SUNDAY 3/3

Beauty to the Rescue

10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Mane Attraction Salon, 3156 E. Camelback Road. At the 24th annual event, attendees can provide a minimum donation and get select salon services to support the Phoenix Animal Care Coalition. This nonprofit has raised over \$400,000 toward animal rescue organizations in Maricopa County. There will also be vendors, raffles, a silent auction and pet adoptions.

maneattractionssalon.com

TUESDAY 3/5

Pa'La Community Dinner

7 p.m. at Pa'La, 132 E. Washington St., Phoenix. Pa'La's chef invites the community to a communal dinner on the patio. Guests can savor eight shared courses of Mediterranean and Japanese-inspired tapas, wood-fired seafood, meat, vegetables and wine. Other dates include March 12, 19 and 26. Admission is \$85 per person.

palakitchen.com

WEDNESDAY 3/6

Paws + Reflect Yoga

6 p.m. at Almost There Pet Rescue, 2611 E. Indian School Road. What's better than plain old yoga? Yoga with puppies! Almost There is the spot for a 30-minute yoga class where furry friends roam free. All fitness and experience levels are welcome. Classes are followed by a raffle, photo ops and lots of cuddling. Registration is \$30 per person.

almosttherepetrescue.org

THURSDAY 3/7

Sonoran Soundscapes

4 p.m. at Royal Palms Resort and Spa, 5200 E. Camelback Road. Take a "break from the busy" and head to Royal Palms for a sound healing session. Guests will experience gentle movement, guided meditation and the soothing sounds of crystal bowls while letting nature ground the body and quiet the mind. Sessions are \$50 per person.

hyattexperiences.com

FRIDAY 3/8 – SUNDAY 3/10

Tempe Festival of the Arts

10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on Mill Ave. between 3rd St. and University Pkwy., and on 5th St. between Myrtle and Ash Ave. A point of pride for Tempe, this festival will feature 300 artists from across the country. Guests can check out various art mediums while also enjoying local music, activities for kids and food and beverage vendors. Bring the pups, too! Admission is free.

tempefestivalofthearts.com



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WHAT'S HAPPENING, ARCADIA?



Paws + Reflect Yoga at Almost There Pet Rescue.



Exclusively Little Expo at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park.

SATURDAY 3/9

Mimosas and Monet

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

Heritage Family Day

10 a.m. at Heritage Square, 113 N. Sixth St., Phoenix. Grab the kids and head down to Heritage Square for some family-friendly fun. Activities include story time and themed crafts, shopping at the museum store, croquet games and scavenger hunts. This event is free.
heritagesquarephx.org

Letterpress Workshop

10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Hazel & Violet, 1301 NW Grand Ave., Phoenix. Curious about letterpress printing? Hazel & Violet can help! Guests will learn the basics of letterpress with wood and metal settings to

print their very own poster, card or coasters. All materials are provided. This class is \$60 per person, and registration is required.
hazelandviolet.com

SATURDAY 3/16

St. Patrick's Day Parade & Faire

10 a.m. at Margaret T. Hance Park, 67 W. Culver St., Phoenix. This St. Patrick's Day, head downtown and catch all the festivities – starting with a parade on 3rd St. and Oak. There will be marching bands, dance performances, bagpipes and decked-out floats. Afterward, head to the Irish Faire to find live music, entertainment, food and drinks, a vendor market, and activities for the kids. Admission is \$15.
stpatricksdaysphoenix.org

Exclusively Little Expo

9 a.m.-1 p.m. at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, 7301 E. Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale. If you're looking for family resources, this expo can be your one-stop shop. There will be booths on summer camps, educational institutions, attractions, youth sports organizations, and other local businesses. There will also be interactive activities for kids, guest performances, and train rides for \$3. Admission is free.
therailroadpark.com

Benefit Concert for SJW

7-9 p.m. at the Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Pkwy. St. Joseph the Worker has provided job services and more to the Phoenix homeless and underprivileged since 1988. This evening marks the 16th annual Feeney/Winthrop concert to benefit the nonprofit. During the past fifteen years, the concerts have raised more than \$615,000. Tickets are \$20.
sjwjobs.org

Zoobilation

7-10 p.m. at Phoenix Zoo, 455 N. Galvin Pkwy. One hundred percent of this inaugural event's proceeds will go toward Phoenix Zoo's mission of advancing the stewardship and conservation of animals and their habitats – all while having a blast. There will be a comedy show, food and beverages, an animal show and other unique performances. Tickets start at \$325. This event is 21 and up.
phoenixzoo.org

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WHAT'S HAPPENING, ARCADIA?



Arizona Aloha Festival at Tempe Beach Park.



Arcadia Auto Rama at Hopi Elementary School.

SATURDAY 3/16 – SUNDAY 3/17

Arizona Aloha Festival

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Tempe Beach Park, 80 W. Rio Salado Pkwy. Celebrate the Hawaiian culture at the 30th annual Aloha Festival. This event will feature all things Hawaiian, Tahitian, Samoan and other South Pacific cultures. Guests can enjoy dancing, musical performances, food, drinks, arts and crafts, activities, raffles and prizes. This event is free.

azalohafest.org

WEDNESDAY 3/20

Winemaker Dinner

5:45 p.m. at the Camelback Inn Resort & Spa, 5402 E. Lincoln Dr., Scottsdale. Learn

the ins and outs of your favorite wines at the monthly Winemaker Dinner series. This evening, guests will enjoy Silver Oak Cellars wines with a three-course dinner while mingling with other wine lovers. There will be a cocktail reception before dinner. Registration is \$250.

jwcamelback.com

SATURDAY 3/23 – SUNDAY 3/24

Spring Orchid Show/Workshop

9 a.m.-5 p.m., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Berridge Nursery, 4647 E. Camelback Road. If orchids are your favorite flower, this will be your kind of event. Held at Berridge, the Desert Valley Orchid Society's Orchid Show and Workshop

will be full of displays, growing and culture discussions, a plant sale, a raffle and a vote for best in show. This event is free.

dvos-az.com

SATURDAY 3/23

Veritas Music Festival

3-9 p.m. at Veritas Prep, 3102 N. 56th St., Phoenix. The sixth annual Veritas Music Festival happens today. Guests can come out and enjoy various student-run and professional performers and bands and even win prizes with their raffle drawing. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Tickets are \$5 per person or \$20 per carload.

veritasprep.greatheartsamerica.org

SUNDAY 3/24

Arcadia Auto Rama

8-11 a.m. at Hopi Elementary School, 5110 E. Lafayette Blvd., Phoenix. Exhibitor registration is currently open for those who would like to be in the show; entries include cars, trucks, tractors and specialty vehicles. It costs \$20 to register, but there's no admission for spectators. Trophies will be given out for Best in Show – People's Choice and Best in Arcadia and Judges' Choice.

acmna.org

SATURDAY 3/30

Easter Egg Scramble

9 a.m. at Arcadia Park, 3402 N. 56th St., Phoenix. Arcadia City Church is hosting an Easter Egg hunt for kids of all ages. Head to Arcadia Park where kids up to age three can "grab as many eggs as they can!" There will be a larger Egg Scramble for kids ages 4-10, and coffee and donuts for all who join. This event is free.

arcadiacitychurch.com

Send events or briefs to
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Arcadia

6th Annual



Auto Rama

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Hopi Elementary School

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Price Per Square *What?*

If you ever talk real estate, you will undoubtedly hear your friends flaunt their amateur knowledge using the “price per square foot” metric. This term is one of the most overused and inaccurate ways to value a property, especially in the Camelback Corridor. As a professional, we reserve the price per foot talk to New York brokers selling apartments that are like for like without the need to adjust for lot size, location, and other important factors that affect true value.

For an easy example of how price per foot could lose you a couple million bucks, here are the specs of two homes that sold last year in Arcadia Proper:

6235 E MONTECITO AVE - \$1,081 PER FOOT		4615 N ROYAL PALM CIRCLE - \$790 PER FOOT	
Date Sold	May 10th, 2023	Date Sold	August 9, 2023
Sales Price	\$7,200,000 (\$1,081/ft)	Sales Price	\$5,500,000 (\$790/ft)
Size	6,659 sq.ft. 5 Bed 7 Bath	Size	6,962 sq.ft. 5 Bed 6 Bath
<i>Built in 2018, this home was beautifully constructed by Construction Plus on a prime 36,285 sq.ft. lot. located in the heart of Arcadia Proper.</i>		<i>Built in 2015 by Santorini Homes on a 31,071 sq.ft. cul-de-sac lot just off of Camelback Rd, this home featured elegant and timeless finishes with great views of Camelback Mountain from the backyard pool.</i>	

To the novice real estate broker or neighbor, these homes look very similar on paper. Both of these homes are newer construction with similar square feet and lot size. So why did one sell for \$1,081 per square foot and the other for \$790 per square foot? This is precisely why not all square feet are created equal. The uninformed consumer doing their per square foot math on a napkin could have easily left a couple million bucks on the table when selling 6235 E Montecito.

The difference lies in the details that price per foot math doesn’t detect. 4615 N Royal Palm had a few different factors that could have affected its sale price including two story elevation, east/west orientation, very formal floor plan layout, and its proximity to Camelback Rd. All of these nuances on top of just pure emotional appeal will ultimately determine a sales price.

In the Camelback Corridor in particular we have an eclectic mix of homes that vary greatly from one to the next. Not only are lot sizes generally irregular but orientations, views, floor plans, easements, and other details are rarely the same. To truly value a home you will need to use comparable sales and then make price adjustments for those certain characteristics that could affect price. So let’s leave all the price per foot talk to the keyboard warriors and amateur brokers.

For a free market evaluation based on real sales and real knowledge I’m always around. Text or call anytime 602-561-0445.

Tucker Blalock

OLEG BORTMAN
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OUT OF THE AREA, BUT WORTH THE DRIVE

FRIDAY 3/1

Lewis Nash & Friends
7 p.m. at Ravenscroft, 8445 E. Hartford Dr., Scottsdale. Lewis Nash is recognized as one of the greatest drummers in jazz history – a history that includes 10 Grammy award-winning recordings. This evening’s event centers around Nash and a few close friends, who will gather to immerse guests in tunes that will make you groove. Ticket prices start at \$16.
theravenscroft.com

FRIDAY 3/1 – SUNDAY 3/3

Scottish Games
9 a.m.-6 p.m. at Gilbert Regional Park, 3005 E. Queen Creek Road. You don’t have to be Scottish to join in at the 59th annual Scottish Games. Check out challenges like the sheaf toss or the hammer throw, learn about the Scottish clans of Arizona, watch traditional live performances and hear authentic music. There will also be a food court and a vendor market. Tickets are \$28 for adults, and kids under 10 are free.
phoenixscottishgames.com

SATURDAY 3/2

Arizona Renaissance Festival
10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the festival grounds, 12601 E. US-60, Gold Canyon. Ren Fest is



Ostrich Festival at Tumbleweed Park in Chandler.

here! Guests can enjoy entertainment, music, jousting tournaments, games, activities, mermaids, acrobats and food fit for a king. Dress up in your best 16th-century costume and head to Gold Canyon to eat, drink and be merry. Tickets are \$34 for adults; \$22 for kids.
arizona.renfestinfo.com

SATURDAY 3/2 – SUNDAY 3/3

Downtown Chandler Barbeque Festival
11 a.m.- 8 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, at Dr. A.J. Chandler Park, 3 S.

Arizona Ave. Pedal Haus Brewery and SanTan Brewing Company unite to bring beers and BBQ together. Guests will find dishes from Pork on a Fork, West Alley BBQ, Honey Bear’s BBQ, Joe’s Real BBQ and more, plus craft cocktails, games and live music from various bands like Davweather, Georgia Chrome, Young Country and Carvin Jones. Tickets start at \$18.
santanbrewing.com

TUESDAY 3/5

A Wee Bit O’ Irish
6:30 p.m. at Southeast Regional Library, 775 N. Greenfield Road, Gilbert. Through music, stories and passion for Celtic music, SoSco Duo will share a variety of Irish traditional tunes that they’ve been perfecting on the flute and the guitar since 2014. Enjoy the “magic of the Emerald Isle” with this free concert. Registration is required.
mcladaz.org

WEDNESDAY 3/6

Whiskey Wednesday
5:30 p.m. at Federal American Grill, 7000 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix. The team at Federal American Grill knows their whiskey and wants to share the knowledge. This evening’s event is the last “Whiskey Wednesday,” so aficionados might not want to miss the tasting flight, which includes Federal Piggyback Rye, Summerstock, 12YR and Whistle Pig 18. Appetizers are also available. Registration is \$80.
thefederalgrill.com

FRIDAY 3/8 – SUNDAY 3/10

Ostrich Festival
2 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. Saturday/Sunday, at Tumbleweed Park, 745 E. Germann Road, Chandler. The 34th annual Ostrich Festival boasts national and local entertainment – this year, Shaggy, Gretchen Wilson and Big & Rich will take the stage for weekend one. Carnival rides, food trucks, a petting zoo, animal races and, of course, ostriches will also be there. This event also takes place March 15-17. Tickets start at \$20 per person.
ostrichfestival.com

SATURDAY 3/9

Arizona Salsa Fest
11 a.m. at State Farm Stadium, 1 Cardinals Dr., Glendale. This inaugural festival believes you can’t have chips without salsa! Attendees will find dozens of salsas to try, tequila cocktails, authentic dishes, live music from local artists and a Salsa Fest Kid Zone. VIP tickets also include mixology and tasting sessions with Rob Floyd and Erick Pineda. Tickets start at \$25.
arizonasalsafest.com

FRIDAY 3/15

Cave Creek Sculpture & Wine Festival
10 a.m. at Stagecoach Village, 7100 E.

Cave Creek Road. Thunderbird Artists, in partnership with the Sonoran Arts League, presents the Thunderbird Artists Cave Creek Sculpture & Wine Festival, the first in Cave Creek’s iconic Stagecoach Village. Guests can enjoy juried art, sample various wines, spirits and microbrews, enjoy festival food and hear live music. This festival also takes place on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$5.
thunderbirdartists.com

SATURDAY 3/16

Remembering Vegas
5 p.m. at Fountain Hills Theater, 11445 N. Saguaro Blvd. Fountain Hills Theater award-winning actor Alex Gonzalez and special guests hit the stage for a one-night-only performance benefitting the theater. Guests will be serenaded with tunes from classic Vegas: Can’t Help Falling in Love, Now and Forever, and, of course, Viva Las Vegas. Tickets are \$50.
fhtaz.org

SUNDAY 3/17

Spring Butterfly Festival
10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Butterfly Wonderland, 9500 E. Via de Ventura, Scottsdale. The Butterfly Wonderland Foundation hosts this family-friendly festival supporting one of Earth’s prettiest creations: butterflies. There will be Painted Lady butterfly releases, crafts, games, ASU’s Insect Lab and Butterfly Wing giveaways. Guests can take photos with Leslie the Butterfly Fairy and shop the Butterfly plants and jewelry sale. This event is free.
butterflywonderland.com

FRIDAY 3/22 – SUNDAY 3/24

Arizona Jazz Fest
6:30-10 p.m. Friday, 1:30-10 p.m. Saturday/Sunday, at 5415 E. High St., Phoenix. The streets are alive with the sound of music! This event will feature more than 20 bands, including Charlie Wilson, Keith Sweat, Anthony Hamilton, Teddy Swims and more. Guests can also enjoy food and drinks available for purchase. Tickets start at \$165.
azjazzfest.com

SATURDAY 3/30

Easter Baseball Camp
9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Salt River Fields, 7555 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale. Students can enjoy three hours of hitting, swinging, and everything in between as they learn the fundamentals of a successful baseball game at the Salt River Fields spring training facility. Former minor league and MLB players and coaches will lead this event for ages 5-12. Cost is \$85 per person.
saltriverfields.com



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DISTRICT 6
UPDATE

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As residents of the City of Phoenix, we are all stakeholders in the well-being and progress of our neighborhoods. Neighborhood associations are the cornerstone of community engagement and empowerment, offering a platform for residents to voice their opinions, address issues and drive positive change.

Whether it's advocating for improved infrastructure, addressing safety concerns, or fostering a sense of belonging, neighborhood associations serve as catalysts for transformative action.

On February 10, I was able to attend the annual meeting for the Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association and see firsthand how collective community action matters.



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

We helped provide updates on important city issues, such as the DOJ investigation, the Short-Term Rental Ordinance, and the 56th Street improvement project because ACMNA provided us a platform. The work they – and other associations – do in the city is imperative in preserving and improving our neighborhoods.

Associations foster a sense of unity and camaraderie among residents. By building relationships and fostering a spirit of cooperation, we create stronger, more resilient communities.

I write this to encourage you to find your local neighborhood association and see how you can be more involved. Start by attending an event and see if there is an opportunity to help. You may be surprised by how rewarding it is to be a voice for those around you. Our office would love to be a resource to anyone looking to be connected to a neighborhood association in their area, so please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,

Kevin

– Councilman Kevin Robinson



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My brief career as Katia's friend

Katia and I met only once, but even after all these years, I have not been able to erase her from my mind, no matter how hard I try. However, I freely admit that I never try very hard because I want her to remain there, a

delightful memory of a time gone by.

She is with me today, just as she was when we had our only encounter at an orphanage in Agua Prieta, Sonora, directly across the Mexican border south of Douglas. She was one of several youngsters living in cluttered rooms on dirt floors.

They came from broken homes and from families who lived in cardboard boxes held together with chicken wire.

Many of them weren't true orphans, not in the literal sense. Some were abandoned by adults who couldn't care for them or simply didn't want them.

Others were placed there by welfare agencies due to abuse at home. Or they



The Lowe Road

BY SAM LOWE

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



Katia was a young orphan that made a big impression on Sam during his time volunteering in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico.

were taken off the streets where they wandered, selling chewing gum and cheap trinkets to tourists.

Katia was one of them, a tiny victim of circumstance, a little girl in a faded sweatshirt who peered around a corner and cast her magic upon me. Before I had a chance to avoid any relationship, she looked up at me, and I was her captive, defenseless against huge brown eyes and a bashful smile.

She pointed to her name written in a childish scrawl on the front of her shirt and whispered, "Katia." I could offer her nothing in return but my condescending smile, and that inability to express myself in such an unpretentious manner as hers left me wallowing in a great emptiness. Then solemnly, softly, she walked away, but her presence was already forever imprinted on some undetermined locale where I store major occurrences of a pleasant nature.

A short time later, she crept back into the room where we adult members of an inspection team had gathered to make our comments. She tugged at my sleeve to get my attention, then placed her tiny hand into mine and led us away from the others. Attached in that fashion, we walked a short distance to a corner of the room where she seated herself on the dirt floor.

She patted the ground and motioned that I should sit beside her. With great concentration, she used a forefinger and sketched her name into the bare earth. When she finished, she waved her tiny hand across her work and said with great pride, "Katia."

Aware that she wanted to show me something of great importance, I sat cross-legged while she knelt on the dirt floor of the orphanage and slowly unrolled a well-used red kerchief. One by one, she removed her treasures – a collection of empty Tootsie Roll wrappers – and carefully placed them on the ground before us, gently smoothing each before bringing out another.

She directed my glance toward the wrappers and gestured as if to say, "It's all right. You may touch them." So I picked

them up, one by one, carefully examined each, then handed them back to her.

When every wrapper had been carefully inspected and placed back into their proper order, she returned them to the secrecy of the old bandanna and tied the ends of the kerchief together. Then she ran her hands across the cloth's surface and wistfully held it up to me for my final approval.

For most of the morning, Katia hung around, staying in the background while the adults looked at, poked, and talked about what the orphanage needed before agreeing that money and volunteer labor were paramount to the task. Occasionally, she'd catch my eyes to let me know she was still there, waiting to resume our friendship. Then she'd disappear around a corner, but soon she'd be standing in a doorway or coyly peeking through a dusty window, never in the way but always there.

At lunchtime, she walked resolutely to my side, took my hand, and led the way to a rough wooden table where the staff had laid out sandwiches and an unfamiliar liquid. We were friends now, even though I had no choice in the matter. She sat close to me, and when I went to take my first bite, she gently touched my arm so I would look down at her. Then she bowed her head and clasped her hands together, indicating that we should pray first. And so we did.

She whispered her pre-meal blessing in Spanish, and I mumbled mine in English. We ate then, and Katia made certain that my napkin was folded just right and that my glass was always filled with what turned out to be a very weak lemonade.

When the meal ended, she removed my plate and cup, took them to what served as a kitchen, and returned to take her seat close to mine again. We talked for a while, neither of us quite understanding what the other was saying, but both perfectly understood what the other meant.

When my time at the orphanage was over, she clutched my hand and walked me to the car that would take me back to Arizona and out of her life forever. I tried not to look back, but it was futile, so I turned and waved and made a silent vow to come back someday.

She smiled a brave smile; I returned it. But we could not hide the sadness that fell upon us because we knew we would never see each other again.

When I asked about her later, another team member said she had been adopted by a couple from Pennsylvania. Protocol demanded that I make no effort to contact her. Sometimes, it's the way things are meant to be.

“Her presence was already forever imprinted on some undetermined locale where I store major occurrences of a pleasant nature.”

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St. Theresa's softball team.

St. Theresa's softball season three-peat

By Mallory Gleich

Middle schoolers from St. Theresa Catholic and Christ Lutheran Schools went head to head in the softball State Championships earlier this year. The Broncos stayed the course, winning their third championship in a row. Adding to their list of accomplishments was the fact that the team – which plays from November to January – had an undefeated 16-game streak to take them to the final competition.

“St. Theresa went from never winning a softball championship to winning three in a row,” Coach Shawn Brown said. “This one felt even more amazing since our team lost four starters from last year’s team, who are now all playing on their high school softball teams – and two of them are on varsity squads.”

There are nine players on the team, comprised of sixth to eighth graders. One thing they all had in common, according to Coach Brown? Resilience.

“This team did not know how to lose!” he said.

“I’ve been playing softball for seven years now, and my favorite part of winning the championship is winning it with all my friends and seeing all our hard work pay off,” eighth-grader Meredith Schrager said. “I am glad I’m leaving St. Theresa knowing we won three championships in a row!”

The championship took place at St. Simon Jude, where St. Theresa beat CLS for a second straight year in the championship game. Pitchers Meredith Schrager and Kennedy Hornaday combined for the win, with Mila Meinhausen behind the plate catching.

Second baseman Ainsely Kopp and first baseman Lexi Brown both had in-the-park home runs that put the game out of reach.

“My favorite part about winning the championship was bringing home a trophy for my school for the third year in a row,” eighth-grader Mila Meinhausen said. “Finishing my last season of softball with my favorite school was amazing.”

“The team was ecstatic. This championship was a culmination of an amazing and hard-fought season,” Coach Brown said. “Our team scored 168 runs over the 16 games played with two players, Catherine Clancy and Lexi Brown, ending the season with batting averages over .800.”

With a motto of “never give up and believe in yourself and your team,” Coach Brown is ready to start training next year’s team, hoping to continue the streak.

“We are losing four starters again to high school, so the team will need to reboot again to win our fourth consecutive title in 2025, but we’re ready for it!” Brown said.



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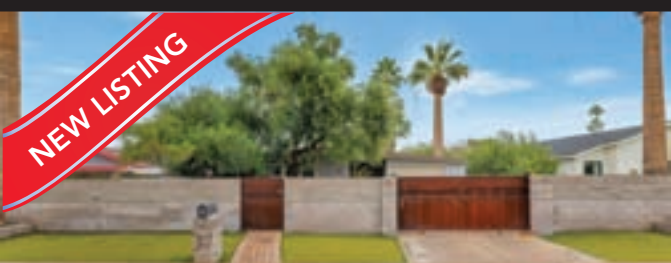
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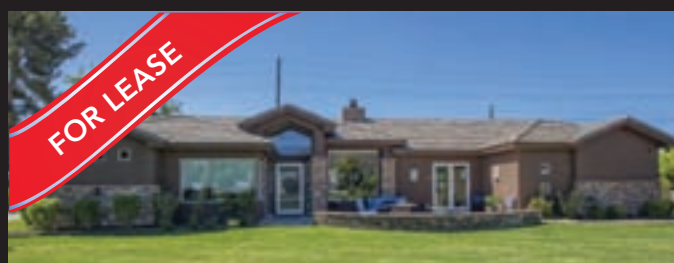


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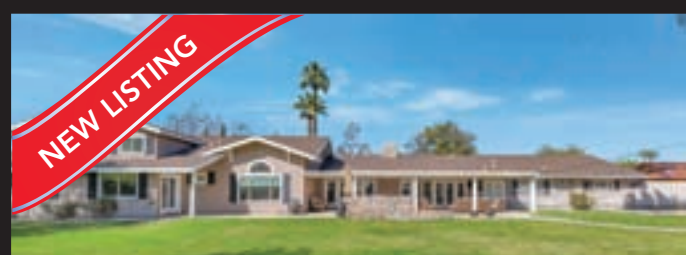
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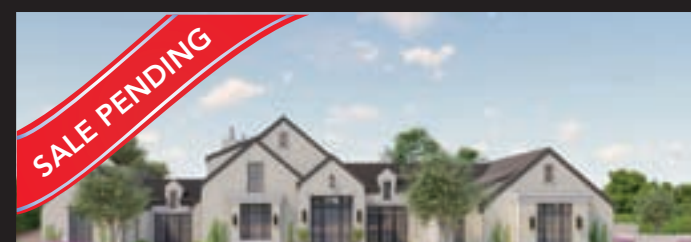
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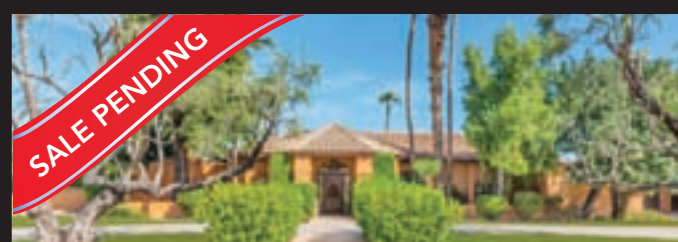
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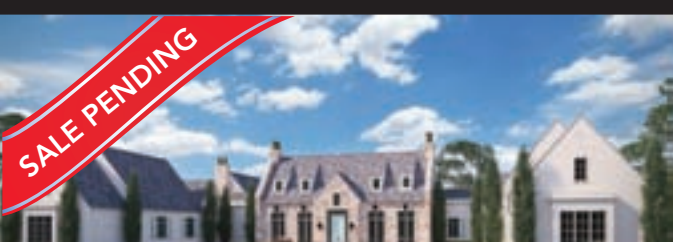
\$2,495,000 8628 East Sharon Drive
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8628sharondrive.com

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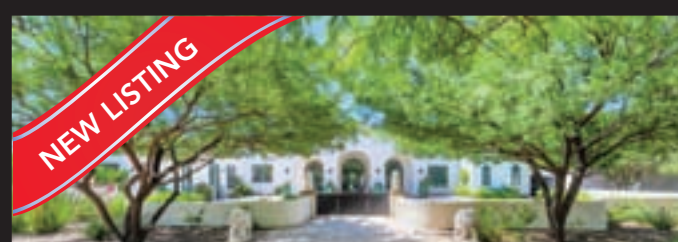
\$2,685,000 10746 East Whitethorn Drive
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,871 square feet
10746whitethorn.com

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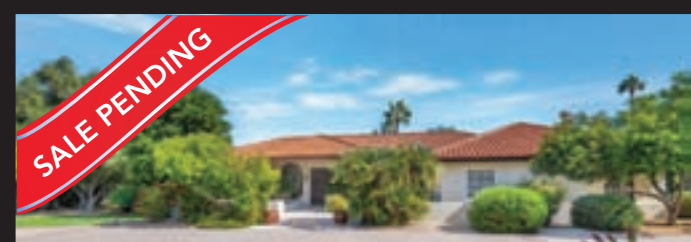
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Andrew Mehlman, Jen Sheedy, Robert Joffe, Meredith Lane, Jonah Joffe

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Pete's Fish and Chips, circa 1994.



In the Kitchen

with **Kathy Adams** and **Pat Foster** of Pete's Fish and Chips

4121 N. 44th St. • petesfishandchips.com

It's impossible to speak on the legacy that is Pete's Fish and Chips without first touching on its history: Peter Grant was a school teacher, coach, NCAA basketball player, and a PT Boat Skipper in the Navy during World War II. He got bit by a mosquito and came down with malaria and dysentery. The doctors back in Indiana told him in order to recover, he needed to move to a hot, dry climate. The doctor suggested Egypt or Arizona. As he didn't speak Egyptian, Pete and his pregnant wife moved to the Valley. He was also a pro golfer and had golfed in the U.S. Open 25 years in a row. While at these events, he had seen fish and chip stands popping up around the city. In 1947 – with \$900 in his pocket – Pete took a leap of faith and opened his own fish and chip spot. Since then, Pete's has grown to eight locations – and that's plenty, according to Pete's daughters Kathy and Pat, who grew up in those kitchens and now run the operational side of the business.



The first Arcadia location stood on the NW corner of 44th and Indian School – where Starbucks is now.

What year did you and Kathy take over?

In 1987. Kathy and my dad had been working together for several years when my dad was shot in his apartment. The robber took a \$30,000-coin collection, and it was a coin dealer that helped us find the killer and put him in prison in 1988. After my dad passed, I became involved, and Kathy and I have run it ever since.

What are your responsibilities?

Mostly clerical now, and managing the eight managers who run our restaurants. Kathy's son Kyle runs the store at 44th St., and Casey, her daughter, runs the Mesa location. Dave, my husband, manages the Tempe store. Three of the eight are managed by family members, and the other five might as well be family because they've worked for us forever.

Growing up, did you know you'd become part of the business?

When you're part of a family business, there's always that option, but there are other options. We didn't think we'd transition like we did, you know? We



Peter Grant with Pat, Kathy and their sister Babs, circa 1962.

started working at Pete's when we were old enough to hold a potato and peel it. There are four daughters, and we all own it, but Kathy and I run the corporation.

What is your favorite memory of growing up at Pete's?

Pat: I can't tell you – but it has to do with my friends and free milkshakes.
Kathy: I have a memory from the 44th Street store. When I worked there as a little girl, my dad had a soft-serve ice cream machine.
Pat: It was so good!

Kathy: Yes – and I was tall enough to reach up, put that ice cream cone underneath, pull the lever, and help myself to a free ice cream cone whenever I wanted.

What does the restaurant offer?

Fish, shrimp, chicken nuggets, sandwiches, burgers and specials. Fries, onion rings, drinks, and Pete's sauce, which people from other states request all the time. People plead with us to send them a gallon of the sauce – sometimes we send it, but most of the time, not.



Pete's opened in 1947 near a golf range on Van Buren.

What's the most popular item?

The fish and chips. There's nothing like it anywhere.

We have people calling from all over the U.S. asking us to please open a Pete's in their city... but we're content with our eight locations. We're known for our no-frills price, quality and service. We're dependable – we've been around for 77 years. Especially now, with inflation and high prices, it's true that at Pete's, you can eat out cheaper than you can cook at home.

The restaraunt has won a lot of awards over the years?

Our walls are plastered with awards and certificates – we've run out of room in our office to hang them! Arcadia is a very foodie-centric place, and they picked us as one of the favorites. That was so flattering.

What – in your opinion – makes Pete's so popular?

It's the same today as it was seventy-something years ago. It's a fifth-generation business, and there's comfort in that because businesses don't make it like they used to. I see comments across our Facebook page, in emails or just in conversation that Pete's is a staple. You know what you're going to get. We specialize in not changing because we know what works.

The one thing that has changed is we've gone from wooden picnic tables to metal ones. It's a little more comfortable, but you can't carve your name on the table anymore [laughs].

Any unique stories from your time in the industry?

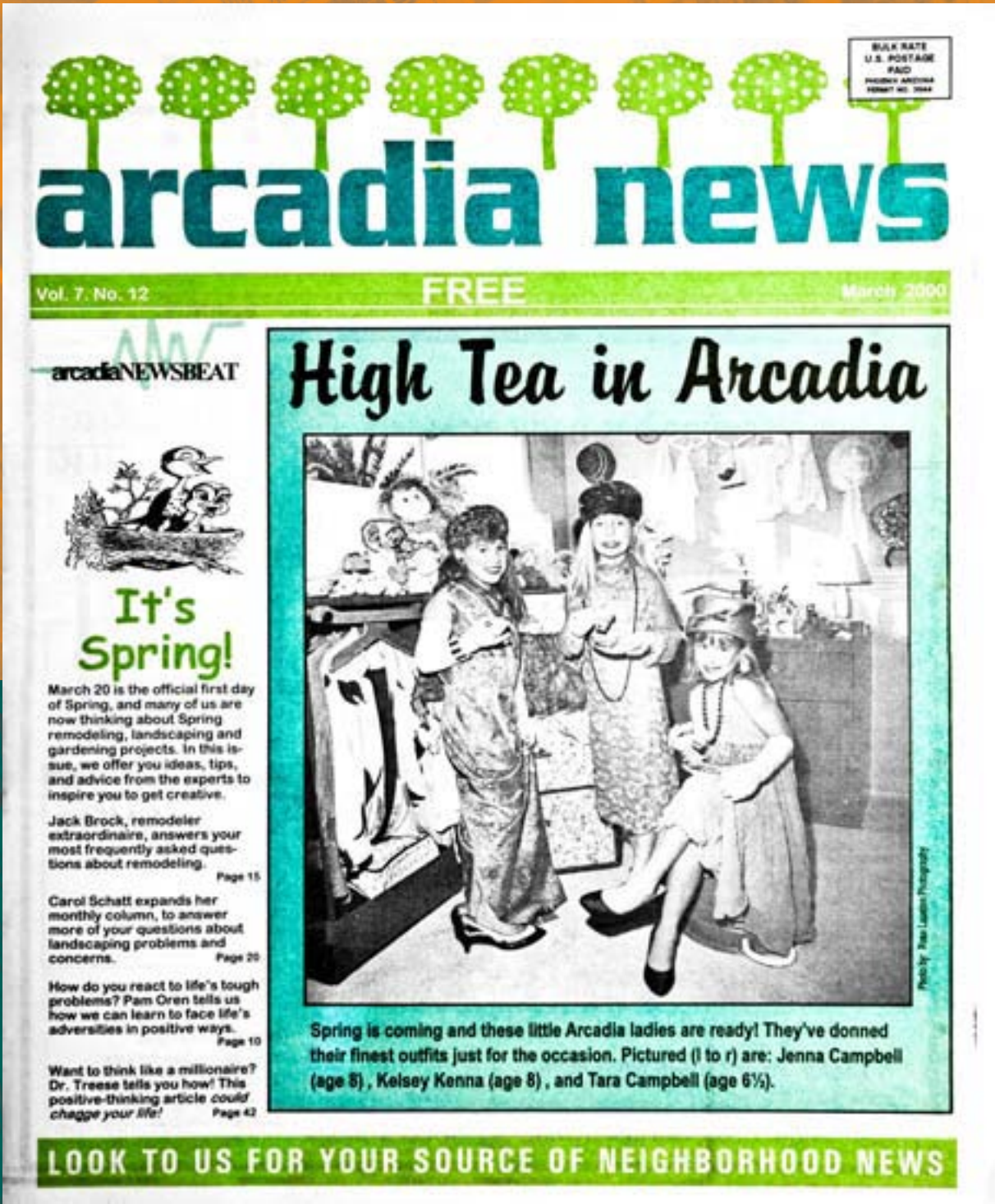
Oh boy. Pat and I could probably write a book from all our stories over the years. We hear from people who proposed 50 years ago at a Pete's picnic table; we get celebrities and famous baseball and basketball players in here all the time.

We're in five cities: Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe, Tolleson and Glendale. That involves a lot of people growing up in those cities, and the place to go on Friday nights was Pete's. Before and after football games – it's almost like people grew up with Pete's and are now taking their kids and grandkids there. It's an honor to be part of the story that our dad started.

What's next for Pete's?

Well, we've got concessions planned for our kids and grandkids to concede us – but other than that, we're going to keep doing what we're doing!

From the Archives



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

A mother's nightmare becomes a purpose to help others

By Kylie de Best

The Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children (ACFC) has a beginning embedded in heartbreak. Founder Chrisie Abramo learned that her daughter, Ava, was diagnosed with Stage 4 Neuroblastoma at just 18 months old. Ava fought as hard as her little body could, but the cancer was too strong, and at just five years old, she succumbed to the disease.

Abramo grieved in ways only a mother knows and decided that Ava's name would live on in more ways than one. This inspired ACFC, an organization celebrating 10 years of care for Arizona families going through similar situations.

"Losing a child is immeasurable pain that never leaves you. Ava fought for three and a half years, and during that time, we did not feel supported," Abramo said. "We were lucky to have amazing family and friends who stepped in when we needed help."

Her grief guided her to the organization, starting with raising the bar in pediatric cancer support. By catering to

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We're committed to expanding our reach, aiming to support 600 Arizona families in their time of need.
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the entire family, nobody is left out or feels alone.

Determined to make a change in the lives of families whose children are battling cancer, ACFC is dedicated to providing timely and comprehensive assistance to pediatric patients and their families.

"Operating from our purpose-built facility, we offer essential services ranging from financial assistance to emotional and engaging social programs," Abramo said.

The community has also worked to help ACFC grow. Individuals, companies, and other nonprofits have stepped up to assist – Abramo said that every donor and volunteer plays a crucial role in making a difference.

"The staff is small but mighty, stepping up in any way they can to provide for families," she said.

ACFC started at Abramo's kitchen table and has grown into a 12,000-square-foot building that offers multiple programs to children and their families.



ACFC volunteers help run various programs to financially and emotionally support Arizona families.

"The programs have grown over the years based on need," Abramo said.

The organization will commemorate the milestone at Ava's Tree House Gala, an annual event held at the Phoenician – but they plan to celebrate everything they've accomplished all year long.

"Our mission is clear: to serve as a centralized hub, offering relief and guidance to families navigating the challenging journey of pediatric cancer," Abramo said.

"We're committed to expanding our reach, aiming to support 600 Arizona families in their time of need."

ACFC also plans to unveil an Education Center and a Counseling and Wellness Center in the future, further enhancing their ability to provide holistic care.

"We are so proud and thankful for all of the amazing work that has been accomplished over the past ten years, and are looking forward to the next ten!" Abramo said.

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Jared Amzallag

It’s been said that there is ‘no going home,’ but that’s exactly what Jared Amzallag did – and in the process, he is providing unique housing opportunities for others to do the same.

In 2020, Jared and his partner founded Minimal Living Concepts, a company focused on altering the new-build experience, specifically creating minimal, modern guest homes. The concept has taken off. They have now built 70 such homes, with another dozen already on the books. The structures range from 350 to 1,200 sq. ft., and the company provides ‘total turn-key service.’

“Our company began with nothing more than a website, and the first day it went live, the phone started ringing,” Jared said. “And it just keeps ringing and ringing. We’ve found that there’s a real need for people to have additional space on their property. It can serve as a guest house, a remote office, a playroom for the children, or even a quiet haven for an aging parent.”

Most of their clients use these backyard casitas for multi-generational living because they are a better and more affordable alternative to senior living facilities.

Jared was born in Los Angeles but moved to the

Valley with his parents and three siblings at a young age. He earned his bachelor’s degree in business from ASU’s W.P Carey School. Upon graduation, his entrepreneurial spirit led him to start a marketing agency, and his list of clients ultimately reads like a who’s who.

He modestly name-drops a few: “We were lucky to have wonderful clients like Toyota, Nike and Samsung.”

Jared credits the overnight success of Minimal Living Concepts to his agency experience.

“The deep understanding I have in advertising and social media is a real advantage,” he said. “We are sensitive to consumer needs and wants. We know best how to speak into that.”

In addition to the homes, he and his team are developing a \$10 million multifamily project in north central Phoenix. They also have their first set of single-family residences in the works. His company has expanded to provide planning and permitting services, architecture, engineering, interior design, investor products, and complete construction.

“When I moved back to Phoenix, I immediately fell in love with Arcadia. The neighborhood is all about community, and it is more vibrant than anything I’ve seen. The connection among neighbors is heartwarming, and having Camelback Mountain as our point of reference is very special,” he said.

The 34-year-old entrepreneur enjoys traveling with his family, but when he is at home, you will usually find him at the gym.

“I wouldn’t say I’m a gym rat, but I do strongly



believe that blending physical health, diet and time with family and friends is critically important in keeping you balanced and effective in your life, whatever you may be pursuing,” Jared said.

His other passions are movie-going and sampling new restaurants.

“It’s a good thing I work out regularly because I love food, especially some of the unique southwestern cuisine,” he said.

Jared’s advice to young people just finishing school and considering their career choices is clear and direct: “Pick a path and stick to it because you will gain and benefit from an incredible depth of knowledge.”

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Little O's

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This Arizona reporter is swapping news for fiction

By Rachael Bouley

With a successful journalism career under her belt, on-air reporter Christina Estes has set her sights on a new goal: publishing a mystery novel.

Her dream is coming true with the release of *Off the Air*, a fictional tale that includes Valley businesses like Chicago Hamburger Company, Dos Vaqueros, Food City, Oregano's, Rito's and Welcome Diner.

"I've always loved mystery books. In the crime fiction genre, certain cities often pop up as settings, like Los Angeles, New York, Boston, and Chicago. I want to read more books set in Phoenix," Estes said. "There are a couple of phrases often repeated in literary circles: write what you know or love and write the kind of book you want to read."

After reporting in Phoenix for more than 20 years, Estes was inspired to create a character with a similar passion for community and local news. *Off the Air* introduces Jolene Garcia, a reporter trying to cover real issues in a world that seems more interested in clicks and reels.

When a controversial radio talk show host dies on air, Jolene's managers are ecstatic because she conducted his last interview. They've got the advantage – but not for long. National media descends on Arizona with bigger budgets and better scoops, and Jolene ends up fighting for her job and her life.

Estes, a current journalist for the NPR member station in Phoenix, found her fiction writing influenced by her reporting work.



Bob Pappanduros, owner of Chicago Hamburger Co., with the author. Bob's restaurant appears in a key scene of the book.

Some of her favorite stories feature residents who speak up to protect and support their community, and she references this bravery in her book while reflecting on a rewarding yet challenging career.

"Working in local news can be a roller coaster of highs and lows. From reporting stories that matter to your community to

covering tragic events that stay with you forever, from meeting co-workers who become lifelong friends to losing valuable colleagues due to cutbacks," Estes said. "Those experiences play out in *Off the Air* as I take people behind the scenes. After I finished writing, I realized it was a love letter to local news."

When choosing which places to feature in the book, Estes went with restaurants that have special meaning to her. When it came to Chicago Hamburger Co., that reason was for more than the Chicago dogs.

"When the pandemic hit and businesses were closing, and there was so much uncertainty, I wanted to follow two local restaurants for a year. My plan was to check in at various times and file updates on how they were doing," Estes said. "Bob Pappanduros, owner of Chicago Hamburger, agreed. He was always transparent when we talked. I appreciated him being available and honest, and that's why Bob and his restaurant appear in a key scene."

She is excited to help put Phoenix in the literary spotlight and is working on a sequel that involves the State Capitol as the setting.

"Pitching a Phoenix-based series to the New York City publishing world was difficult," Estes said. "I'll spare you the years of rejection and strange comments I got about Phoenix and share the best part: local support has made a big impact. I'm proud that our book – yes, this is Phoenix's book – is opening more eyes to our city."

Off the Air is available for pre-order wherever books are sold and hits the shelves on March 26, with early copies available at a launch event at The Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Old Town Scottsdale on March 25 at 7 p.m.

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Ryan's main responsibility as the Notre Dame Leprechaun is to energize the crowd.



Chris, Renee, Ryan and Katie Coury.

THE FACE OF THE FIGHTING IRISH

How this Arcadia local became a Leprechaun

By Mallory Gleich

There are 80,000 screaming fans packed into Notre Dame Stadium, anxious for the moment their team will burst onto the field. The energy is palpable, dulling the chill of a winter afternoon in South Bend, Indiana. The masses will be led by the glowing cheerleaders and the vibrant Notre Dame Leprechaun, who will encourage everyone to match their spirit and energy through a football battle steeped in tradition.

The Leprechaun is decked out in his bright shamrock green jacket complete with tails, a gold vest, silk tie, matching Irish Bowler Derby hat, and his *shillelagh*, an Irish walking stick typically made from a knotted hunk of blackthorn.

The Leprechaun is fired up. He's ready to do push-ups for every touchdown (there will be a lot today). He's ready to run around and do his Irish jig for what seems like a hundred times. He's ready to jump into the crowd, who all want to take a selfie with him. He's enthusiastic, with a genuine smile. They only pick the best to be The Leprechaun, after all.

For the past two years, Arcadia's own Ryan Coury has been that Leprechaun.

Ryan's parents attended Notre Dame and growing up, the whole family "bled gold and blue," so it was little wonder that Ryan followed in their footsteps.

In 2022, the finance major saw some social media posts about mascot tryouts at the school. He was also friends with some people on the cheer team. One day, he joked to those friends that he was going to try out and was met with an overwhelming "Yes, you absolutely should."

The earliest evidence of a leprechaun joining the Notre Dame cheerleading squad was in 1960, when a student named Terry Crawford, dressed in all green, would walk back and forth on the sideline with the team's Irish terrier mascot.

Over 60 years later, the Notre Dame Leprechaun has become a famed – and expected – part of every sports competition within the university – and much more.

The first thing Ryan had to do was fill out

an application, but thought he should call his mom first to see what she thought of him trying out.

"She said, 'Oh honey, you can't do a backflip!'"

Ryan laughed.

He went to the tryouts anyway. Once the athletic department decided on the finalists, Ryan and eight other potentials were invited to a two-day, in-person "gauntlet" to whittle down who would be the four official mascots for the upcoming sports seasons at Notre Dame.

"In our case, the mascot is more performance-based, rather than just 'wearing a big head.' There's a public speaking aspect, too," Ryan said. "Those two days were filled with prompts and game day scenarios where they tested how we would react in front of a big crowd."

Ryan and his compatriots were over the moon after they were chosen. Their first order of business was to be fitted for the uniforms – and to learn the Irish jig.

A far cry from the stone-faced mascots of the 60s, Ryan's primary responsibility is to be present at all athletic events – and to fire up the crowds as much as possible, throwing the jig in his routine whenever the school song comes on.

"There's a lot of fan interaction. During the games, I'm running around; I'm a chaotic force," he said. "I try to get the fans to do the jig with me, which is a lot of fun."

Each of the four mascots divvy up which sport they cover, and it switches each year, depending on schedules.

They all cover at least one fall, winter, and spring team. The main *requirement* is to have fun – and the number one *rule*? No two leprechauns can be seen on the field – or in the arena – simultaneously.

"There's no official reason for that," Ryan said, "other than we wouldn't want someone to see us and be like, 'Okay, who's the actual, real leprechaun?'"

Ryan took over the football, basketball, and women's lacrosse games in 2023-24, and aside from being at the actual games, he was also present at pep rallies, kick-offs and media events.



HOW NOTRE DAME BECAME THE "FIGHTING IRISH"

Four of the six religious men who founded Notre Dame in 1842 with French priest Edward Sorin were Irish – but the true origin of the slogan didn't really begin with them.

The first use of "Fighting Irish" regarding Notre Dame sports teams may have happened in 1909, when – according to legend – a player's speech at halftime during a game against Michigan inspired a comeback. He reportedly yelled, "What's the matter with you guys? You're all Irish, and you're not fighting worth a lick."

During the 1920s – the Knute Rockne era – the press often referred to Notre Dame as the Catholics, the Papists or the Dirty Irish because Catholic immigrants largely occupied the school.

Rockne hired student press to tell the team's story, and some used the "Fighting Irish" nickname to characterize his team's determination. The press turned the insult (which calls to mind drunken brawling) into a triumph. It then became a symbol of pride. In the 1960s, the same thing happened to the leprechaun: It started as a mockery. Now, it's the team mascot.

nd.edu

"We do interviews, content creation and recruit for the next set of Leprechauns," he said. "I've also been in costume on TV and in a Nissan commercial, which was a ton of fun."

When he's not running around in his fitted green ensemble, Ryan can be found operating a camera at various games. While his "sport" is technically cheer-based, he makes sure he's part of every Notre Dame team in some aspect.

Ryan will graduate with a major in finance and minors in real estate and sports media and culture in May 2024.

"The coolest part of this is what I get to represent at Notre Dame. Both of my parents went here," Ryan said. "Being part of that on the other side and sharing that joy and what Notre Dame is about with other people is a really unique experience."

After graduation, he plans to return to Phoenix and immerse himself in the real estate world. Undoubtedly, his experiences as the Fighting Irish Leprechaun will come in handy for many years.

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PHOTO: JANAIA PAPPAS

Members of F3 and their sons gathered for a fifth anniversary celebration last year.

Phoenix men's group offers fitness, fellowship and faith

By Jennifer Marshall

In 2011, two friends – David Redding and Tim Whitmire – started a men's group focused on three things: fitness, fellowship and faith. The organization, which started in North Carolina, grew rapidly, and now there are groups in more than 30 states, with 2,000 workouts happening every week. The Phoenix chapter debuted in 2018 and is celebrating its sixth year in the Valley.

"F3 is a network of free, peer-led workouts for men," Central Phoenix Region Leader Micah Pappas said. "The mission is to plant, grow and serve small workout groups for men to invigorate community leadership." F3 is open for men of all fitness levels, with no cost to join or participate.

"My brother often reminds me that nothing is free, including our group. F3's cost is discomfort – we wake up early and work out rain or shine. Most of our workouts begin at 5:30 a.m. and last for 45 minutes, so plenty of time to get ready for work and other responsibilities."



Micah Pappas

The workouts (what F3 refers to as beat downs) start with 10 minutes of warm-up to get muscles loosened and the blood flowing: arm circles, jumping jacks or jogging, for example. The workouts are peer-led in a rotating fashion. The leader of the workout is referred to as the Q.

The workouts vary depending on the leader. One day, it might be doing lifts with cinder blocks; another, it could be doing push-ups, squats, etc. The workouts usually end with 5-10 minutes of ab/core exercises.

When the workout is over, the Q leads a Circle of Trust, where men can offer intentions, ask for/give guidance, promote community events, etc.

"F3's Credo is 'Leave no man behind, but leave no man where you find him.'"



PHOTO: TIMOTHY CLARK

F3 has an annual Thanksgiving beat down event – these members are part of the losing team, celebrating not being in the title game and on their way up "A" mountain.

We welcome men of all fitness levels and all physical abilities to our workouts," Pappas said. "We have no requirements other than show up on time and follow what the workout leader has planned."

Arcadia Park at 56th and Indian School was home to the first official boot camp in Phoenix and has since expanded to Los Olivos Park and Granada Park. Workouts take place every day in different locations.

In addition to workouts and friendship, the men of F3 also give back to the community through volunteer work and the support of local charities such as Phoenix Children's Hospital and the Red Cross.

"I can speak to the positive effect F3 has had on my mental and physical health since I've been involved the past couple of years,"

Pappas said. "We promote community leadership, and you've probably seen us picking up at the park, running the canal, etc. We've also donated nearly 500 pints of blood to the American Red Cross since 2018."

F3 also hosts a variety of social events for the group and sometimes their families.

"Members are encouraged to meet for coffee once a week, and we typically go out to lunch on the second Friday of the month," Pappas said. "Any F3 participant can develop an idea or bring awareness/attention to a community event. I'm really proud to say the men lead any event and volunteer work we do in the group."

For more extensive workouts (known as convergences), F3 invites their sons to join

in. For Monday holidays this past year, the chapter invited family members to summit Camelback Mountain. They also host cookouts, have birthday parties, volunteer at St. Mary's Food Bank, and attend dinners with members and their families.

"Phoenix is the fifth biggest city in the nation, and we know there are a ton of men in the Valley who want to celebrate what their bodies can do through exercise, grow friendships with like-minded men, improve their mental health and be better men/husbands/fathers for their local community," Pappas said. "Our plans are tied to that mission. We aim to quadruple our footprint in the Valley by the end of 2024."

f3nation.com

'Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy' inspires local alt-rock band

By Mark Hays

Brophy junior Aiden Ohm and senior Zane Mertel, along with friends Miles Naffah and Tanner Tate, share a few similar interests, but none compare to their love of music – especially bands like Blink 182, American Football, Coldplay, Sublime and Pepper. This love of music brought the foursome together to create Prefect, an alt-rock and reggae band formed in 2022.

"I was always writing music and wanted to start recording it and playing live shows," Aiden said. "I want to make music for a living and to be able to tour around the world, performing in other countries." Miles feels the same:

"The other band I was in wasn't doing much, and I wanted to play shows, so I joined Prefect," Naffah said. "I don't have a plan B. I want to do music full time."

Prefect was formed by a mutual friend who is no longer in the band, according to Manager Ami Rogers. The friend was in a different project with lead singer/guitarist Aiden Ohm when he introduced Tanner, and Tanner then brought Zane to be the group's bassist. From there, the music was flowing.

The name came from *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* – after the character Ford Prefect.

"People always confuse it with perfect, so



Drummer Tanner Tate, guitarist Miles Naffah, guitarist Aiden Ohm and bassist Zane Mertel of Prefect.

the band had a shirt made that says 'Prefect, not Perfect,'" Rogers said.

Tanner said he'd played drums for a few years and wanted to do more than "sit in his room playing drums by myself."

"I thought that playing live shows would be fun. We'd like to be able to do music and not have to get a real 9-5 job," Tanner said.

Most of the inspiration behind the band's songs comes from their day-to-day experiences and the challenges that go along with getting through high school.

Aiden is the primary lyricist. He wrote 'Mango' and 'Paradise' about his life experiences as a high school student.

"Rather than being about specific events

or relationships, he writes about general scenarios and feelings that people can relate to whether they are currently going through something similar or can listen and feel nostalgic," Rogers said.

Thus far, Prefect has opened for reggae acts like Fayuca Kash'd Out and played alongside Kaleidoscope Kid with Roger Clyne and the Peacemakers. They played at the We Care Festival in Los Angeles this year and at the Desert Sol Festival in February.

So, what do the four do when they aren't playing music?

Guitar player Aiden said he likes reading, rock climbing with his brother, and going to Dodgers games. Miles, who also plays guitar, is into sports like hockey and soccer. Tanner (drummer) and Zane (bassist) will attend the University of Oregon next year.

"I want to keep playing music, but if that doesn't work out, I'd like to live in the middle of nowhere and just enjoy my days," Tanner said.

Prefect released its debut EP, *California Button Up*, to all streaming platforms in January. They plan to release two new singles and an LP by the end of the year. Readers can catch them at the Mesa Music Festival in April.

Learn more on Instagram at @prefectband

Arcadia High student grabs the Girl Scout Gold Award

By Mallory Gleich

Arcadia High senior Madilyn Messenger joined Girl Scouts when she was a kindergartner at Hopi Elementary. In the 12 years since, she's fully immersed herself in the duties and adventures within her Troop, leading to the ultimate accomplishment: The Gold Award.

About five percent of eligible Scouts earn the award each year. According to Madi, the Gold Award "represents the highest and most prestigious individual achievement in Girl Scouts." Scouts must be in grades 9-12 and complete two "journeys" to achieve this honor.

"Journeys are sessions where the girls learn a new skill and make a difference in the community," Madi said. "The Gold Award is part of that. The project must make the world a better place."

The criteria include two objectives: to be a sustainable change, and teams must work over 80 hours to complete the task. Madi decided her sustainable change would come from creating a safe environment for the Western Burrowing Owls of Arizona.

"They're having issues with their population due to construction destroying their habitats," Madi said. "Burrowing owls cannot dig and create new burrows, so I worked with Wild at Heart, building new hideaways in Salome and Gila Bend for relocated and rescued owls."

Wild at Heart (WAH) is an Arizona-based raptor rescue organization founded in 1993



Madi worked over 80 hours with Wild at Heart's Burrowing Owl Recovery Project.



by Sam and Bob Fox. According to WAH, Western Burrowing Owls have experienced declining populations for decades. The organization's Recovery Project includes rescue, reengineering habitat identification, relocation, release, and continued monitoring to ensure survival.

Madi said she was excited to help further the mission of WAH and started working on her project at the end of August 2023. It was completed in January 2024, after she worked over 80 hours to help build safe homes for the species.

While working in Salome, she saw

burrowing owls that had been previously relocated to the site together with baby owls – which demonstrated that the owls had made this place their new home.

"Seeing an un-banded owl at the Salome site, I knew my hard work was worth it," Madi said. "The project was working and these owls had a safe place to raise their young!"

Joining Girl Scouts was a way for Madi to meet new friends and do community projects while working together with others – but that original idea grew into so much more.

"I learned to think of different ways to

solve problems, I have more belief in myself, and I know how to be kind and courteous to others," Madi said. "I also learned to be more independent and to have patience. My favorite part was being able to help others and learning new skills."

After graduation, Madi plans to continue working at The Hermosa Inn as she pursues a degree in Hotel Restaurant Management through the WA Franke College of Business at the NAU Scottsdale campus.

Madi will receive her Gold Award at a ceremony this spring.

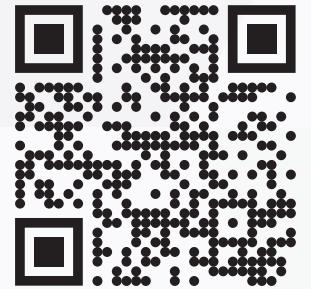


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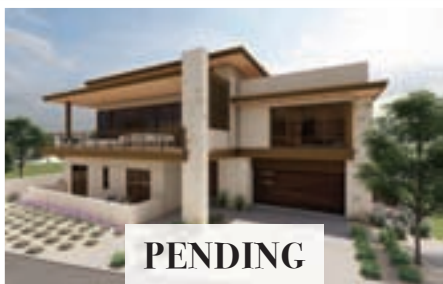
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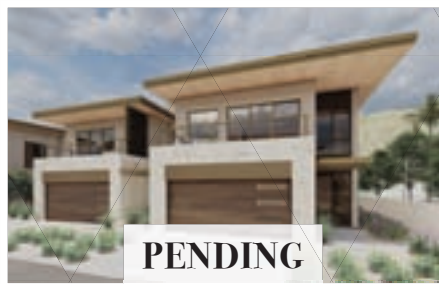


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Luxury, skill and competition – all in one game

By Tiffany Gonzalez

Mahjong is a traditional Chinese tile-based game that dates back hundreds of years. The exact origins are unclear, but it is believed to have evolved from various card and tile games in the mid-to late-19th century – and is still popular among millions of players worldwide, including Arcadia local Leah Seidelmann.

After taking an instructor-led mahjong course in 2023, Leah realized how much she loved the game – so much that she said she “slept, ate, and dreamed about the tiles.”

From that fateful class came Luxe Mahjong, Leah’s latest venture that combines passion, luxury and fun in the form of tile sets.

Luxe Mahjong debuted in December 2023. To start, Leah wrote down ideas and created the designs. Then, she reached out to a company called Shenzhen Sammyhung Electronic Co., based in China, that manufactures parts for games, like dice, tiles and spinners. Shenzhen Sammyhung helped Leah develop a brand and create the tiles. She explained that bringing her ideas to life wasn’t too difficult – thanks to her background in corporate industries.

“In learning and playing mahjong, I realized every person around the table has



Leah Seidelmann



The Southwest tile set includes images of cacti, roadrunners and cowboy hats.

been brought to this game through different avenues: common interests with friends, a love of learning new games, expanding family traditions and more. The strategic depth of the game and the social bonds it fosters lit a creative flame within me,” Leah said.

Driven by passion and what Leah said was many sleepless nights, she launched Luxe Mahjong. The brand “aspires to incorporate the timeless and classic history of mahjong with designs and themes that resonate with different personas.” Current designs include Country Club Luxe and Southwest Luxe.

Country Club Luxe blends original

mahjong details with a vibrant combination of green, pink, blue, and yellow hues to ensure that it matches the green fairways of a country club.

The Southwest Club Luxe set is geared toward players who are inspired by a sunset and appreciate the beauty of a desert landscape. This set includes shades of sage, rose gold, beige, champagne and merlot with fun designs of cowboy hats, cacti and roadrunners. Luxe Mahjong plans to unveil a few more tile sets this year.

When Leah isn’t working, she plays tennis and spends time with her family and her dogs.

THE BASICS OF MAHJONG

Mahjong is typically played by four people. Tiles are shuffled face down, and each player builds a wall of tiles in front of them. The goal is to build a complete hand of tiles by drawing and discarding them with combinations called melds.

Players take turns drawing a tile from the wall or picking up a tile someone has discarded. One tile must be castoff.

The game continues until a player creates a winning hand, which consists of a pair and four sets of three melds.

Melds can be either a Pung (three identical tiles), a Kong (four identical tiles), or a Chow (three consecutive tiles of the same suit).

Players receive points based on the value of their winning hand and specific conditions, such as drawing the winning tile themselves or completing the hand with a tile another player discarded.

“I have business goals I want to achieve, but overall, I want to continue doing what I’m doing: creating beautiful tiles that bring joy to mahjong tables across the nation,” Leah said.

The sets can be found online and at Paradise Valley Country Club.
luxemahjong.com



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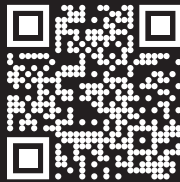


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The Dining Scoop

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

Spring Training is in full swing, so for this month's Dining Scoop, Arcadia News is sharing meal and hotel deals and specials for those wanting to make the most of a day of sunshine, baseball and fun.

The Spot at Arcadia (4801 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix) is offering 20 percent off the bill with proof of attendance. Guests can check out brunch specials like the lobster benedict or southwest breakfast bowl, or partake in the bottomless food special for \$35 with a choice of wings, street tacos, sliders, pretzels and more.

thespotarcadia.com

CRUjiente Tacos (3961 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix) now boasts Happy Hour for bar seating all day, every day. In addition, CRU offers specials for Margarita Monday, Taco Tuesday, and Happy Hour all day on Wednesday. HH highlights include \$2 off salsa trio and chorizo queso, plus \$5 well drinks and a dollar off all crunchy tacos.

crutacos.com

At **Hash Kitchen** (4315 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix), when you present your same-day ticket or come in wearing your team's jersey or memorabilia, you can get a mimosa for only \$4 (50 percent off) with the purchase of an entree.

hashkitchen.com

The oldest bar in Scottsdale, **Rusty Spur Saloon** (7245 E. Main St., Scottsdale), has a new Spring Training t-shirt for sale, along with daily live music starting at 11 a.m. The Cattle Dog hot dog, South of the Border Burger and Sampler Platter will be on special throughout the season.

rustyspursaloon.com

Pita Jungle (4340 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix) will offer a free small hummus for guests who bring in their same-day spring training game ticket.

pitajungle.com

Until March 26, **Koibito Poke** (4280 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix) is



The Spot at Arcadia



Streets of New York

hosting a raffle to win exclusive signed baseball merchandise, including cards, baseballs and more. To enter, scan the raffle QR code when dining in.

koibitopoke.com

Diego Pops (4338 N. Scottsdale Road), **The Hot Chick** (4363 N. 75th St.) and **The Montauk** (4360 N. Scottsdale Road) in Old Town are hosting a Spring Training special: bring in your same-day ticket from any game to receive a \$4 Bad Birdie Juicy Golden Ale draft beer by Four Peaks Brewing.

jocqueconcepts.com

Morning Squeeze (4233 N. Scottsdale Road) invites fans to breakfast before the game with a specialty cocktail called Out of Your League – a strawberry lemon spritz with simple syrup, limoncello liqueur and bubbly. The drink is available throughout March for \$3.

morningsqueeze.com

Less than a mile from Scottsdale Stadium is Chef Beau MacMillan's restaurant, **CALA** (7501 E. Camelback Road, Scottsdale). The eatery offers brunch with items like Turkish eggs, flaming saganaki, and specialty drink menus with single and "for the table" options.

calascottsdale.com

After attending the game, bring your ticket to **Los Sombreros** (2534 N. Scottsdale Road) and receive a draft beer for only \$2.

lossombreros.com

WORTH THE DRIVE

At **Streets of New York** (6730 E. Thomas Road, Scottsdale), patrons who bring in their ticket from any spring training game will receive \$5 off a minimum of a \$25 purchase.

streetsofnewyork.com

Anyone who brings in a Cactus League spring training ticket will get a free appetizer at **Federal American Grill** (7000 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix). Items include sticky ribs, oysters, chicken wings or a half-baked chocolate chip cookie.

thefederalgrill.com

Scottsdale hangout **18 Degrees** (9375 E. Bell Road, Scottsdale) will take 20 percent off your bill when you show your same-day spring training game ticket. The restaurant offers items like pizza, wings, pasta, sandwiches, and shareable appetizers like Italian meatballs, and spicy teriyaki tempura cauliflower.

18-degrees.com

Until March 26, **Lakeside Bar and Grill** (9980 W. Happy Valley Pkwy., Peoria) will offer two specialty hotdogs: The Lakesider Classic and The Chili Cheese Monster-Dog. Both are \$13.99, with the option of adding a domestic pint or bottle for \$2.

lakesidebarandgrillaz.com

Red, White and Brew (6740 E. McDowell Road, Scottsdale) will offer a classic Chicago-style hot dog – two Vienna beef hot dogs in a poppy seed bun, with mustard, relish, tomato, white onion, pepperoncini and a dill pickle spear – until March 26.

rwbaz.com



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WHERE TO STAY

Spring training savings abound at **Hotel Valley Ho** (6850 E. Main St., Scottsdale) with 20 percent off a room, including a \$50 daily food-and-drink credit for use at ZuZu, the OH Pool or breakfast in bed. This deal is available until March 28.

hotelvalleyho.com

Mountain Shadows (5445 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley) has a Ballpark Package that includes 25 percent off a spring training stay and a \$50 daily credit for food and drinks until March 28.

mountainshadows.com

Until March 27, **Rise Uptown Hotel** (400 W. Camelback Road, Phoenix) will offer the Home Run package, including a room stay, a cooler with a six-pack, baseball cards, and locally made popcorn from Cactus Corn. Prices vary.

riseuptownhotel.com

Sheraton Phoenix Downtown (340 N. 3rd St., Phoenix) has a Spring Training deal with accommodations and a tailgate-to-go package. Two entree options, canned alcoholic beverages, water, a \$20 rideshare credit, and peanuts and cracker jacks are included. Carcara will have Sonoran-inspired bites and cocktails available, too. Starting rate is \$434 per night.

marriott.com

EASTER SPECIALS

As 2024 is a leap year, Easter is happening early! Here are a few dining specials for those holiday celebrations:

On March 31 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., **Royal Palms** (5200 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix) will offer a brunch buffet curated by Chef Lee Hillson. On the menu is breakfast favorites, carving station, sushi station, waffle bar and dessert stations. Easter Brunch at **T. Cook's** will feature a prix-fixe menu with dishes like a deviled egg flight, blueberry cream-cheese stuffed French toast, and carrot cake cheesecake. Price: \$75 for children and \$175 for adults, including a complimentary glass of sparkling wine.

royalpalmshotel.com

Arizona Biltmore (2400 E. Missouri Ave., Phoenix) is hosting its annual brunch on March 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mr. and Ms. Easter Bunny will supervise the Easter egg hunt and host crafts and activities for children. There is an espresso martini cash bar for adults before and after brunch. Menu items include a raw bar, sushi, a salad station, a ravioli station, a butcher block, and plenty of breakfast dishes. Price: \$199 for adults, \$85 for kids.

arizonabiltmore.com

Festive eats and treats happen at **Hotel Valley Ho** (6850 E. Main St., Scottsdale) with a chef-attended brunch buffet featuring a seafood bar, omelet station, and more. **ZuZu** is also open for brunch and dinner, with dishes like fried chicken benedict, ribeye + frites, Chilean sea bass and Devasa Argentinean New York strip. Hotel Valley Ho will host an Easter egg hunt at 8:30 a.m. Price: buffet is \$79 for adults, \$29 for children.

hotelvalleyho.com

Hearth '61 at Mountain Shadows Resort (5445 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley) has a brunch menu with starters and desserts served family-style and a choice of five à la carte entrées cooked to order. Holiday specials include crab benedict, smoked beef brisket, mushroom tortellini, and more. Price: \$98 for adults, \$19 per child.

mountainshadows.com

A special four-course brunch menu is available on March 31 at **Lon's at the Hermosa Inn** (5532 N. Palo Cristi Road, Paradise Valley). Price: \$99 for adults and \$25 for kids.

hermosainn.com

The Uptown Plaza Easter Extravaganza (100 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix) will happen on March 23 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. There will be three egg



Lon's at the Hermosa Inn

hunts broken into age groups: 0-4 years, 5-8 years and 9+ years. Participants can hunt 1,500 pre-filled Easter Eggs and win fun prizes from participating businesses in the plaza. Afterwards, families can check out Easter-themed games, an egg decorating craft station and photos with the Easter Bunny.

uptownplazaphx.com

The third annual **Rooftop Easter Brunch** is taking place from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Renaissance Phoenix Hotel (100 N. 1st St., Phoenix) on March 31. Menu items include bottomless mimosas for the grownups, a seafood buffet, ham, prime rib and chicken dishes, a salad bar and dessert. Price: \$95 for adults, \$55 for kids.

renhotelphx.com

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Two Arcadia eateries still standing the test of time

Last month, we showed you some mouthwatering, award-winning restaurants around the state and off the beaten path. Now, let's explore a few neighborhood haunts that have been around forever and are as good today as they were when they first opened their doors.



Robin's Adventures

BY ROBIN SEWELL

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

Forbes magazine once referred to owner/ restaurateur Bob Pappanduros as the restaurant world's biggest Cubs fan. One step inside Chicago Hamburger Co., on the Southwest corner of 38th Street and Indian School, and you'll immediately see why. Pappanduros grew up working at his dad's hot dog stand on

the Southside of Chicago for ten years, then brought that Chicago-style menu to Phoenix. The building itself has been around since the mid-1970s. Bob took it over in 1989 because he felt it was part of the fabric of the community. This



The sliders at Chicago Hamburger Co. are one of the most popular items on the menu. (right) TeePee's chili relleño dish is an egg soufflé with egg whites, green chili and cheese.

neighborhood hot dog and hamburger joint is known for its sliders, cheese steaks, wings and milkshakes. Chicago Hamburger serves a balance of classic American flavors with a pinch of nostalgia and a dash of the American melting pot, reflected on the menu and walls. You'll see everything from Chicago sports team vintage pennants, graphics from the Chicago Tribune, and actual street signs like Addison and Clark, home of the famous Wrigley Field. There is one entire wall devoted to people wearing a Chicago Hamburger Company shirt somewhere in the world. He has all seven continents, a



picture from someone on top of Mt. Kilimanjaro, and people skydiving and scuba diving. Bob says the key to his success is the people. The customers are like family and have been coming in for decades, and his staff has been working there for 25-30 years – a true testament to loyalty, relationships, and great comfort food. A little further east is another staple of the Arcadia community that everyone knows: TeePee Mexican Restaurant. Owner Kathy Killeen started working as a server at the neighborhood eatery during high school. At the time, her dad was the accountant. In 1960, the former

owners decided they wanted to sell to Kathy's dad, so he went from counting beans to serving them, along with enchiladas and their signature Chili Relleno. The *Arizona Highways* crew had to ask...what makes the Chili Relleno so unique? "It's an egg soufflé made with egg whites. The yolks are whipped into a meringue, and then they add green chili and cheese and bake it," Killeen said. She gives credit where credit is due: "We inherited the recipe. It came with the restaurant – no one else makes them like that." Another popular dish is the Presidential Special. Two cheese and onion enchiladas, rice and beans – this dish was named after President George W. Bush, just one of TeePee's famous diners. Waylon Jennings, Jimmy Buffett and Senator John McCain have been to this mom-and-pop restaurant, along with generations of regulars. Like Chicago Hamburger Company, TeePee is a place where everyone knows your name. It's a relaxed, kicked-back atmosphere combined with good comfort food, and it's one of the reasons why these word-of-mouth hangouts will always stand the test of time.

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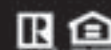


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Join in on the “herb madness!”

As the chilly days and nights are dwindling and we start to get warmer weather, it’s a great time to garden. If you aren’t already on the bandwagon and want to dip your toe into growing your own produce, an herb garden is a great place to start. Many people don’t realize that having an herb garden is like having an extension of your medicine cabinet. Herbs are rich in antioxidants, anti-inflammatory, immunity building, good for digestion, good for your heart, and also stress relieving. Plus, if you have them on hand, they’re much easier to add to your meals. Here are the herbs that I grow and how I use them:

- **Basil** – Add to salads, pasta, and soup or make pesto (but don’t plant this until cold nights have passed!).
- **Thyme** – Put a sprig in a cup of hot water and drink it like tea for relaxation.
- **Rosemary** – Add it to a baking tray with roasted vegetables.
- **Parsley** – Along with salads, also throw it into a smoothie for detox benefits.
- **Chives** – Can add to anything as garnish for a pop of color and add antimicrobial properties.
- **Mint** – Add to your water bottle, salads, and dressings.

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

To get started, designate a sunny area in your yard or buy a raised bed planter. Or you can make your own using untreated redwood from a lumberyard. You can also buy “grow bags,” portable and lightweight containers made from fabric or other breathable materials designed for growing plants. Use a mixture of vegetable potting soil and sand for good drainage. I like to cut a variety of herbs and put them in a mason jar filled with water on my counter as a reminder to add them to my food and drinks for the day.

For this month’s recipes, I’m including two green recipes with herbs in honor of St. Patrick’s Day and a buffalo quesadilla that might be perfect for a March Madness party!

Join my monthly membership for recipes, health videos and live Zoom cooking classes for only \$10 per month!

Green detox juice SERVES 2

Ingredients

- 1 bunch celery
- 1 cucumber
- 1 green apple
- 1 pear
- ½ cup parsley
- 1-inch ginger root
- Juice of one lime

Directions

Run the vegetables through a juicer and squeeze in the lime juice. Drink right away!



Green goddess sandwich SERVES 4



Ingredients

- 1 avocado
- ½ cup parsley
- ½ cup fresh basil
- ½ cup cilantro
- 2 tbsp. chopped chives
- Juice of one lemon
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- ½ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- Sliced bread
- 4 slices dairy-free mozzarella cheese
- ½ English cucumber, sliced
- ½ sliced green heirloom tomato
- 4 butter lettuce leaves
- ½ cup sprouts

Directions

1. Add the avocado, parsley, basil, cilantro, chives, lemon, olive oil, salt, and pepper to a food processor.
2. Blend the mixture until smooth.
3. Toast the bread.
4. Spread a layer of the green goddess herb mixture on each side of the toast.
5. Add the dairy-free mozzarella cheese to one side of the bread.
6. Add the sliced cucumber on top of the mozzarella cheese.
7. Add the green tomato slices on top of the cucumber.
8. Finish with the sprouts and lettuce layered on top.

Buffalo cauliflower quesadilla SERVES 2



Ingredients

- 1 head cauliflower, chopped small
- 2 tbsp. avocado oil
- ½ tsp. each: garlic granules, chili powder
- 1 ½ cups buffalo sauce
- 2 avocados
- 3 large tortillas

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 425 F.
2. Mix the cauliflower with the oil, spices and buffalo sauce. Spread it out on a baking sheet and bake for 30 minutes.
3. Mash avocado and add a little salt.
4. Spread the avocado over half of the tortilla and top with a layer of buffalo cauliflower. Fold over.
5. Add a little oil to a heavy skillet and bring the temp to medium-high. Sear each side of the quesadilla until browned. Slice and serve!



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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PARADISE VALLEY AREA LUXURY - TATUM FOOTHILLS

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DID YOU KNOW? GUITARS

HOW MUCH? \$6,010,000

Kurt Cobain's MTV Unplugged guitar sold for a massive \$6,010,000 at auction in June 2020 and became the world's most expensive guitar at the time. The Nirvana front man played the 1959 Martin D-18E acoustic-electric guitar for the band's MTV Unplugged set at Sony Music Studios in New York City on November 18, 1993 – just five months before his untimely death at age 27.



WHICH HAND? Left

Almost all guitars are right-handed, but Jimi Hendrix (a left-handed guitarist) refused to use his right hand. Instead, he turned the guitar upside down and rearranged the strings to create a left-handed guitar. Other notable lefties include Paul McCartney, Tony Iommi, Kurt Cobain, Albert King, Otis Rush and Al McKay.



HOW TALL? 43 FEET

The largest playable electric guitar in the world is 43 feet tall, over 16 feet wide and weighs 2,000 pounds. Modeled from a 1967 Gibson Flying V and built to a scale of 1:12, it was made by students from Conroe Independent School District Academy of Science and Technology in Conroe, Texas. Construction began in October 1999 and the instrument was played at the Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in June 2000 – the opening chord of 'A Hard Day's Night'.



WHODUNIT?

Fifty years ago, Paul McCartney's electric Höfner guitar went missing. He paid about \$37 for the bass in 1961 in Hamburg, Germany. After an extensive search, including a worldwide endeavor called The Lost Bass Project, the stolen guitar was found in the possession of a family in Hastings, England, still with its original case. Oh, and the guitar's estimated value today? More than \$12 million!



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DID YOU KNOW? GUITARS

One of the most famous guitars in the world is considered to be the “Black Strat” played by David Gilmour of Pink Floyd.

David DiDonato holds the Guinness World Record for the longest guitar solo, playing for 24 hours and 55 minutes straight in 2011. The record for longest guitar play, however, goes to Scott Burford, who played for over 124 hours straight in 2018.

The first guitar was created in ancient Egypt, more than 3,500 years ago. It was made from cleaned cedar with a rawhide soundboard and had three strings.

The guitar belongs to a family of musical instruments called string instruments. It has six strings that are typically made of steel or nylon, and each one creates a unique sound.

Acoustic guitars produce sound through the vibrations of their strings, while electric guitars use electronic pickups to amplify the sound.

The fretboard is the long, thin piece of wood on the neck of the guitar. It contains metal bars called frets, which allows players to produce different notes and chords by pressing the strings against them.

The 40th annual Perth Festival in 2020 broke a Guinness World Record for the largest air guitar ensemble when 3,722 fans gathered to “play” AC/DC’s Highway to Hell.

On May 1, 2023, 7,900 guitarists gathered in Wroclaw, Poland to play Jimi Hendrix's "Hey Joe" together. The group was led by famed artist Steve Vai.

While the “greatest guitar solo in the world” is up for debate, depending on who you ask, there are a few that folks agree on: Bohemian Rhapsody, Sweet Child O’ Mine, Comfortably Numb and Hotel California are some that grace the lists.

WORD SEARCH

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SAY WHAT?

WEDDING BELLS

In 2001, a British performer named Chris Black fell so “in love” with his red Fender Strat (named Brenda the Fenda) that he married it after “35 years of dating.” The wedding was held in a congregation in London and was overseen by a friend. The guitar was his second love, as Black was married to a woman – and that woman’s nagging is what pushed him to “marry” Brenda.

"I've spent many hours practicing, and my wife would often come and say, 'Why don't you marry that? You love it more than me!' So I did. And it doesn't answer back! She's quite content [the guitar]... she never frets," Black said.

The guitarist, nicknamed Fenderman, remained married to both Brenda and his human wife until his death in 2016.

(Source: ultimateguitar.com)



High school wrestling teams advance to State

By Mark Hays

Arcadia High and Brophy Prep's squads both had successful seasons characterized by constant improvement and reaching their ultimate goal: making it to the State Championships.

ARCADIA

Coach Clifford Nafrada said that between the school's varsity, junior varsity, and girls wrestling programs, the school competed in seven meets and nine tournaments for the 2023-24 season.

He highlighted that the Arcadia Titans wrestled well against some solid competition.

"We had tough matches with Desert Mountain and Paradise Valley, but Horizon and Campo Verde may be the strongest opponents in our section," Nafrada said.

"We have a very young team with 16 freshmen or first-year wrestlers, but they have shown heart and grit when facing older, more experienced opponents and were still able to perform admirably."

Nafrada said that because Scottsdale Unified School District doesn't have middle school wrestling, Arcadia High's freshmen can have a hard time against more experienced wrestlers.

"Our goals are to get wrestlers to a



varsity level, then to qualify for state, and ultimately to place during their careers here at Arcadia," he said. "To help support this timeline, I will be partnering with two D1 ASU wrestlers to create a wrestling club, debuting hopefully in March and open to middle and high school kids."

Nafrada said that this year's training schedule focused more on running drills than practicing live wrestling.

"I try to emphasize technique and mechanics with a layer of physicality and body awareness," Nafrada said. "Over time, we start to individualize each wrestler's skill set based on their physical gifts, as no two wrestlers are built the same."

Senior wrestler Nolan Field became Arcadia's first four-time Boys Wrestling State Championship qualifier. Junior Yvette Sigelski qualified for Girls State – she and Nolan headed to the Veterans Memorial Coliseum for the AIA Division 2 State Championships in February. Both battled several tough opponents in their brackets and finished 2-2.

BROPHY

At Brophy, Head Coach Wayne Catan has similar objectives.

"The main goal is to get everyone to the state tournament with a top-four finish," he said. "When you get to state, anything can happen."

Throughout the season, sophomore heavyweight Josh Finch-Logan held a solid record with 24 wins and seven losses. Sophomore Blake Sweetman had a record of 32-7 followed by junior Jackson Sweetman with a record of 29-5.

Catan highlighted another stand-out wrestler, Adam Angulo, who led the team with a 35-4 record. He placed first in the Central Arizona Classic in January.

Brophy also attended the 2024 AIA Sectional Tournament. Catan said he had high expectations for three to four wrestlers to place in the finals with a seeding at the State Championship.

Four wrestlers who competed for the Broncos in last year's state tournament returned this year: Adam Angulo, Sean Kennedy, Woody Bayless, and Jackson Sweetman.

The Broncos finished ninth at the AIA Division I State Championships in February, with 75 points behind sophomore finalist Adam Angulo and four overall top-five finishes.

"I am proud of the whole team. We accomplished Top 10 in the state without injured athletes Ty Trickle, Copper Carey, and Micah Blackburn," Catan said. "Josh, Blake and Jackson all had great matches. We are going to be good next year!"



Angulo reached the final after entering as the No. 2 seed and winning the section title at 144. He won matches over Blake Veldhuizen from Morenci High via fall, Kori Kemper of Desert Vista on a decision (3-1), and Josiah Brown of Westpoint in a tiebreaker, 2-1.

"Adam did what we expected," Catan said. "He competed against the No. 2 wrestler in the nation. The goal was to get to the final this year. He had a tough bracket and defeated the No. 3 and 4 wrestlers in the quarterfinals and semifinals."

He lost in the final to Sergio Vega of Sunnyside High (who is ranked #2 in the nation, undefeated in high school, and committed to Cornell), and finished the season with a 43-6 record overall.

Jackson Sweetman (38-8) was a semifinalist and placed fifth overall in the wrestle-backs, defeating Bryce Crawford of Liberty High. Blake Sweetman was third overall by defeating Rene Bostick via fall in the consolation final. Josh Finch-Logan was also third at 285 with a win thanks to a 9-3 decision.

"We trained hard this season. The culture was really good. It counts," Catan said. "They guys were gelling, the parents were great, and I thank Coach Klein and Coach Catan Jr. for their assistance."

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High School Spiritline squads season wrap-up

By Rachael Bouley

Arcadia High and Xavier Prep's Cheer and Pom teams have taken the Spiritline world by storm, with performances that culminated in the AIA State Championships in December and January and USA Spirit Nationals in February.

ARCADIA

At Arcadia, the teams supported boys and girls sports while honing their skills during competitions. Varsity Cheer took first place in Show Cheer at Regional USA Spirit Qualifiers, fifth at the AIA State Championships and second at the TSC Sonoran Desert Classic. These competitions helped them prepare to finish strong at the Nationals in Anaheim in February.

"Every season comes with challenges, but we are so proud of the girls and their ability to adapt," Cheer Coach Sophia Digati said. "They have pushed through any obstacles with grace and resilience."

Varsity Pom came in third at the USA Regionals and the Desert Classic, with a fifth-place finish in Division 2 State. In addition to the nationals-bound Varsity Cheer and Pom, the program had some standout newcomers.

"Our JV Cheer team has progressed solidly all year, earning their best finish yet at the Desert Classic. They finished third with a great routine with zero deductions," cheer mom Katie Gilbert said.

Coach Digati is new to the squad, but with

help from returning assistant coach Moriah Taylor – and plenty of support from the Spiritline – the season was a success.

"We have had an amazing season. We competed at TSC and won first in jazz and third in pom and also won grand champion in the whole jazz division, but also had an amazing time cheering on our football team in the fall," member Brooke Tessmer said. "It was incredible cheering them through an undefeated regular season and into the playoffs."

Brooke's favorite part of competing is the moment they step foot off the stage.

"That feeling is one I will never forget. Running to all of our supporters and knowing all of the blood, sweat, and tears we put into our dances has paid off, is amazing," Brooke said.

Pom made it to finals in jazz and placed seventh overall at Nationals. The Titans also thrived in a new event.

"The brightest spot was our All-Girl Stunt team, who advanced to the finals in our first year ever competing in Stunt," Gilbert said. "They took fourth place out of 18, which was very exciting."

"This is the first time Arcadia has advanced to the finals in five years, so just advancing was a huge win for the teams," Pom mom Sue Tessmer said.

XAVIER

At Xavier, the Gators looked to follow up on a strong 2023 competition schedule, which saw Varsity Cheer finish second in Crowdleader and Show Cheer.

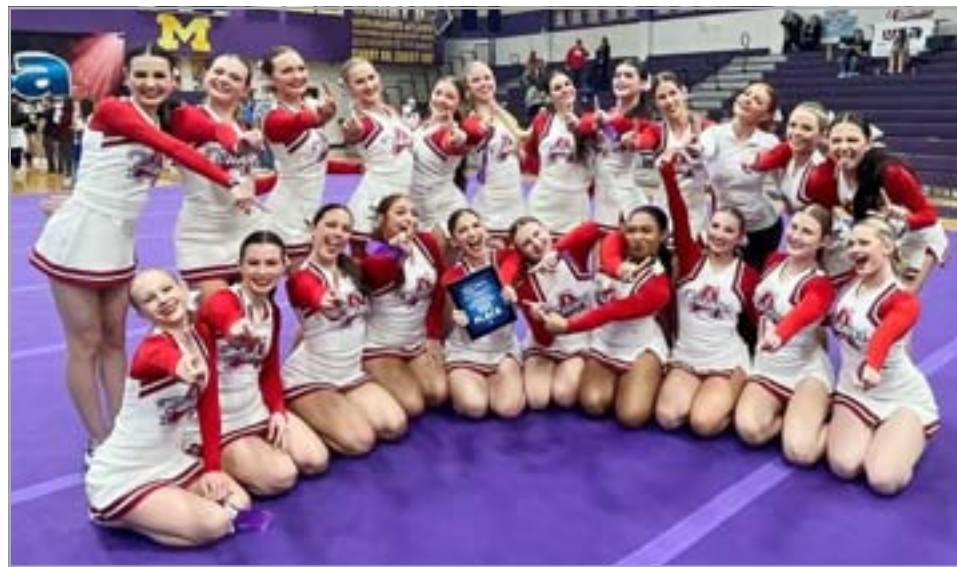
The season kicked off with a bang as they qualified for Nationals in November, finishing first in Gameday, second in Show Cheer and Pom, and fifth in Jazz.

Xavier started 2024 with a competition at the Cactus Cup Challenge, ending the day with Top 10 finishes: Show Cheer finished first and Gameday second, followed by Pom in third place and Jazz in sixth. The Gators also went 3-for-3 with all routines competing in the state finals for Division 1 Show Cheer, Division 1 Pom and Medium Jazz.

"Our girls have done amazing this year," Coach Monica Gaspar said. "Not only have we placed well in several competitions, but we also are proud to have a team GPA of 3.94."

Their hard work culminated in two National Championship wins: the top honor in Medium Show Cheer Advanced and Super Crowdleader. They came prepared, although a stomach bug forced the team to do some re-working to the routine before hitting the floor.

"Their resilience is unmatched. They all pulled together when they needed to and overcame illness and injuries along the way, all in one weekend," Gaspar said. "And despite all of the issues, they were still able to hit their best routine and come out on top. I could not be more proud of who this team is, and all that they fought for. It was a wonderful weekend, and they are much deserving of these national titles!"



Arcadia High's Cheer Team at the USA Regional competition in January.



Arcadia High's Pom Team.



Xavier Prep's Cheer Team won the top honor in Medium Show Cheer Advanced.



Xavier Prep's Pom Team.

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Arcadia High's girls varsity soccer team.



Veritas Prep's girls varsity soccer team.

High school soccer season round-up

By Tiffany Gonzalez

Arcadia, Brophy, Veritas, and Xavier set off this year's soccer season in November. Read on to see how our 2023-24 high school soccer teams did this year.

ARCADIA HIGH

BOYS

This being Coach Andrew Petrucelli's second year, the team and the coach were still establishing the lay of the land when the season began. However, they quickly found their footing with a 4-2 record in late December.

"Those two losses were at Flagstaff, who was ranked second in the state, and at Chaparral, a division higher than us," Petrucelli said. "It opened our eyes that we can be successful, but we have to stay the course and improve every day."

The final regular season games against Seton Catholic Prep and Mesquite High pushed Arcadia to a 9-3-1 record, ranked first in the 4A Desert Sky Division.

"We have faced a substantial amount of challenges this year, overcoming a great deal of adversity, but as a team, I know that we can win it all," Captain Jack Buchanan said.

The boys have established strong connections, communications, and a firm player-led team with each other. Their only weakness, according to Coach Petrucelli, is how much they enjoy being around each other – which is not necessarily a bad thing!

The Titans lost their final game against the Pueblo Warriors, 1-3 – but they didn't let the loss get them down.

"Usually, we will all take about a month off to fully recoup with the demand and stress of the season," Petrucelli said. "We start thinking about what new things we can add to enhance our program, and our new summer program will hopefully get the guys playing more."

GIRLS

The Lady Titans finished the regular season ranked first in the 4A Desert Sky

Region, with their first game win against the Eastmark Firebirds in November.

"We were hampered at the beginning with some injuries to key players on our defense, which led to a slow start as new players were asked to play new roles," Coach William Christenson said.

They entered the holiday break with a regular season record of 2-2 and then played in the Desert Ridge Cactus Cup, finishing with two wins and two losses. Those games helped propel them to the State Championships in February.

The first match was a success: 2-0 against Paradise Honors High School. Their next opponent was Walden Grove, where the Titans lost 1-5 against the Red Wolves.

"Every year, my priority is to create positive experiences where the girls can bond and create lasting memories," Christenson said. "Last year, we made it to the quarterfinals, and we expect to improve upon that next season. We truly feel we can compete with any team in the conference."

BROPHY

The varsity squad began the season with the Washington High School Rams Invitational, going 2-1 over three games with wins over Washington and Glendale. The team went on to play in the Freedom Tournament and Premier Region play, where they finished fifth.

One highlight of the season was making it to the postseason AIA Play-In Game in double overtime, which resulted in a No. 19 rank in the AIA at the end of the season.

"Our boys didn't quit, and it was the best performance of the year in terms of heart," Head Coach Marc Kelly said. "They got a goal at the very end, which is how these things are decided in a tournament game. It is difficult for the team. They worked hard."

Their final game started with a 1-0 lead from senior Lucas Roland, which lasted midway into the second quarter when Hamilton High tied the game, eventually forcing the overtime periods.

In the end, the Broncos were eliminated with a 2-3 loss.

The 2023-24 team said farewell to 14 seniors and student manager Sam Kerkhove, who were able to represent Brophy for a final time.

"The group is made up of so many amazing guys," Kelly said. "They were all fantastic this season. They were great leaders and so much fun to coach."

VERITAS PREP

BOYS

With a No. 1 ranking in the 3A Metro Division, the Veritas boys varsity soccer team was riding high as they won their first playoff game versus Yuma Catholic and headed to Tucson to play Pusch Ridge Christian Academy in early February. Unfortunately, the Lions took the win 3-1.

The regular season started with a 1-0 loss against Northwest Christian School but the boys finished strong with six wins and just that one loss.

"We won the state championship in 2020 and have made it into the semifinals of the State Cup since then," Coach Richard Cardenas said. "Our style has not changed, and our tactics will always be to start with a strong defense and build from there."

After playing 14 games against five teams ranked in the top 10, explicitly playing the No. 1 and No. 3 ranked teams – and making it to the quarterfinals – Coach Cardenas says his only plans and changes for next season are "lots of weight training and running!"

"We have many talents on this team and are excited that we won the region," Captain Noah Zook said. "The team's confidence was very high going into the playoffs, and we played at our highest level in competing for the State Championship."

GIRLS

The Lady Falcons made strides in the beginning, but unfortunately, it didn't carry through the playoffs. The team finished the season with a 2-4 playoff loss on February 7 against Safford High and a record nine

wins, five losses – ranked first in the 3A Metro Division. The girls said they couldn't wait to get back on the field.

"The team worked hard throughout preseason to be ready for the start," Coach Cesar Mexia said. "We were 1-2 in the first three games, having just a few players returning from the previous season and others that had never played competitive soccer. We knew it would take time before the team started clicking."

"We might not have made it as far as we hoped, but we developed so much as a team from the beginning to the end," Team Captain Maddie Lucas said. "We had a lot of new players and a new coach, plus our existing core team, all of whom made my senior year a positive, special experience that I will always remember."

XAVIER

The Xavier Gators went to the State Championships in February, thanks to regular season that resulted in nine wins and three ties.

The first game against the Liberty High School Lions was a blowout with a 6-0 win for the Gators. At their next game against Mountain View in Mesa, Xavier continued their streak with a 4-1 win against the Toros, a 3-1 Game three was against Desert Vista, where the Gators beat the Thunder 3-1. At press time, the team was headed to a championship game against Mesa's Hamilton High.

"We play a real possession-oriented style that most players have adjusted to. Our only weakness would be losing ten seniors from last year and the question mark of how we'd modify this year," Coach Barb Chura said. "It's been a process, but we've gotten better, and it's just an adjustment period along the way."

"We have excellent players, from the back to the front of the field, who all had some great performances," senior goalkeeper Kate Willmering said. "I think I have also had a good season, and a lot of this is due to my defenders, as each has played incredibly well."

High school basketball ends season on a high note

By Shi Bradley

The winter sports season has wrapped, and high school basketball teams are reflecting on their achievements while looking ahead to next season.

ARCADIA

BOYS

The Titans capped off their season by tripling their win total from the 2022-23 season – although they didn't make it to the playoffs, they were happy with the successes they did have.

Junior Braylen Rooney averaged 2.5 blocks per game and was third in blocks in all 4A. Sophomore Mason Kendrick grabbed 22 rebounds during the Maryvale game, where the Titans won 60-47.

"We made it to the championship round in the Thanksgiving Tournament, where we lost to Mica Mountain. We also made it to the championships at the Winter Hoops Invitational, where we lost to the host team, Cactus High," Coach Kyle Diemer said.

Despite a final record of 4-6, Diemer said he is proud of every player – some of whom finished the season with honors: Junior Jamison Fox made Second Team All-Region and sophomore Mason Kendrick and junior Braylen Rooney were awarded Honorable Mentions.

"We improved as the season went on, even though the team dealt with adversity throughout because of injuries," Braylen said. "We finished just below a .500 record and that is a huge improvement. We are looking forward to next season and are going to put in the work!"

GIRLS

Some of the most noteworthy victories from the Lady Titans include winning 54-26 and 52-26 against Marcos de Niza High, gaining a No. 5 standing in the 4A Desert Sky Region, and ranking top 40 in the state. Coach Gavin Tolan expressed that the team was solid, continuously worked, and grew to be even better and fiercer players.

"Our goal is to be known for our hard work and competitiveness," Tolan said. "I expect us to have a great offseason together and be ready to battle in November!"

They also celebrated their point guard, Tianna Knighton, who broke a record with 1400 points scored across her three-year high school athletic career. Knighton has a free throw record of 93/100 and made All-District three years in a row. She was also named 4A Desert Sky Offensive Player of the Year.

"I play basketball because I love the grind," Knighton said. "It's true poetry. There's no better feeling than being out on the court."

"We are in the middle of building the program back up," Coach Tolan said. "The team played heavyweights Seton Catholic, Mesquite, and Saguaro and missed the playoffs this season. With the hard work the girls put in over the past year and some



Arcadia High's girls varsity basketball team.

promising eighth graders coming in, we hope to return next year!"

XAVIER

The Gators accomplished several feats during the regular season over 25 games – just shy of undefeated, with one mid-season loss against Hamilton High. Despite that, Xavier basketball maintained a No. 2 rank in the 6A Premier region.

Coach Jennifer Gillom said she was proud of the team's success and hopes to continue watching their growth. Thanks to strong offense and defensive plays from the team, the Gators headed to the State Championships in February, playing – and winning – their first three games against Horizon High (69-12), Sahuaro (83-45) and Sunnyslope (60-39). At press time, the Gators were getting ready for game four against the Pinnacle Pioneers.

BROPHY

Brophy finished the season with a spot in the AIA Open Division Championships after an 83-70 win over Desert Vista in the second round. Ninth-seeded Brophy advanced to the quarterfinal round against top-seeded Perry.

"I am proud of the way the guys responded throughout the game," Head Coach Matt Hooten said. "They put us on our heels a little bit. But we came back after it, staying together and responding well during moments of adversity. We pulled each other together. I think that is what it takes to win a playoff game against a really good and well-coached team. We are excited about moving on and getting a chance to extend our season."

The run toward the State Championships was built on a difficult schedule that prepared the team to face the best in the state. Brophy finished in a tie for first in the 6A Premier Region to earn a No. 9 seed in the open playoffs.

"We follow the idea of 'cura personalis' or 'care for the whole person,'" Hooten said.



Brophy Prep's varsity basketball team.

"Our coaching staff approaches basketball as an opportunity to help the young men grow on and off the court."

Brophy was led by senior Braeden Speed, who averaged over 15 points per game this season.

"Braeden is such a great competitor," said Hooten. "He is elite with his competitive spirit. When we were looking for leadership in the first half, he stepped up in a big way. He gave his teammates – who each have their own advantages – confidence."

Braeden surpassed the 1,000-point mark for his career back in December. He scored 33 points in a recent win, propelling his team to the next round.

"It has been a really fun year, and we have just continued to focus on getting better every day," Braeden said.

VERITAS

Both the girls and boys varsity basketball teams made the Arizona State Tournament this year, but before that, they played a rousing 18 regular season games – one of which was against Chandler Prep in the Footprint Arena in Phoenix.

"This is the first time our girls have made an appearance in the state tournament, and we were excited for the opportunity to play amongst the best 16 schools in 2A basketball," Athletic Director Chase Beebe said.

The boys received the #13 seed, and the girls are in the #16 seed, with the boys team finishing the regular season with an 10-7 record and the girls finishing 11-7.

"My coaching style is all about fundamentals. If we can't do the small things consistently, we have no business doing the fancy things, simple wins games. Defense, defense, defense!" Girls Coach Rebecca Lane said.

She added that one of the biggest accomplishments from this year's team was figuring out how to overcome mental battles in the game.

"Basketball is a lot like a rollercoaster – you must expect to have ups and downs. Either buckle in or don't get on the ride," she said. "As a team, we have started to get to a maturity state of understanding that every game is not a blowout in one direction or another."

"The details are so important in basketball," Boys Coach Brooks Dockter said. "We focus on playing great man-to-man defense with a lot of ball pressure, rebounding and getting out in transition offensively."

One season highlight was the Hoopcoming games, where the boys beat Scottsdale Prep 56-37, and the girls had a big upset win over Scottsdale Prep 33-27.

The boys team also participated in and won the Epic Tournaments New Year's Basketball Classic "Blackhawk" Division. They battled through some tough competition to go undefeated in the tournament and receive the title.

Ten Veritas players were also voted as region award winners:

Carter Perry, Casen Lentz and Valeria Castaneda are All-Region 1st Team; Mason Twist, Jared Barrett, Jaz Cobb and Dorothy Maaфу are All-Region 2nd Team; Miles Perry and Natalia Ortiz are Honorable Mentions, and the Region Defensive Player of the Year is McKenzie Perrault.

"My girls and I made history this year, but not for the first time but for the second time in Veritas history for women's basketball," senior Dorothy Maaфу said. "Back in 2022, we went to our first game for State, and this year, we are competing in the first round of State. I am so proud of how far we have come to achieve this goal!"

The 2A State Finals ended after the first round for the Falcons this year. The girls lost to the #1 seed, Phoenix Country Day (who is in the semi-finals as of press time), and the boys dropped a heartbreaker against Leading Edge Academy, 43-45.

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2023 Jeep Gladiator Rubicon

Barrett-Jackson brings in \$1 million for charity

It was 1967 when two car-loving friends named Tom Barrett and Russ Jackson got together and put on a car show and parade called "Fiesta de los Autos Elegantes." It was more than just a car show – from the very beginning, they were raising money for charity. Their first event raised enough to donate to the Scottsdale Art Center and purchase some books for the community library.

Four years later, in 1971, the first Barrett-Jackson Collector Car Auction was held in a dirt lot next to the old Safari Hotel in Scottsdale. From there, the auction grew rapidly, along with the duo's philanthropic endeavors. They moved the event to WestWorld in 1989, and the collector car auction became a social spectacle, earning its place as one of the most significant and most-attended events in the Valley – up there with the Super Bowl and the Phoenix Open.

More than 300,000 people came out to experience the 53rd annual Barrett-Jackson Scottsdale Collector Car Auction over nine days this year.

From January 20-28, entertainment icons, athletes and industry professionals joined auction guests at the self-described world's most immersive automotive event. Celebrities in attendance included Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Sammy Hagar, Michael Anthony, Chase Rice, Daymond John, Rob Schneider, Adam Ferrara and David Spade.

The event featured its most extensive auction docket in company history, with over 2,000 collectible vehicles, all selling with no reserve, for \$200.9 million in auction sales.

The auction sold 1,180 pieces of authentic automobilia for \$6.7 million, bringing total auction sales to \$207.6 million – the most for a single auction in Barrett-Jackson history. Top auction sales included a 1956 Mercedes-Benz 300SL Gullwing for \$3.41 million and a 2018 Bugatti Chiron for \$2.97 million.

This year, Barrett-Jackson put four vehicles

on the block for charity, with 100 percent of the price from each vehicle collectively benefiting local and national nonprofits for over \$1 million.

1. **2023 Chevrolet Corvette Z06 3LZ:** \$270,000 to benefit the Chip Miller Charitable Foundation for Amyloidosis Research, including \$50,000 donated by philanthropist Michelle Mauzy.

2. **1968 Shelby GT350 Convertible Re-Creation:** \$100,000 to benefit the Northeast Texas Community College Foundation by providing scholarships to students enrolled in the Carroll Shelby Automotive Program.

3. **2023 Jeep Gladiator Rubicon Custom Pickup:** \$325,000 to benefit Building Homes for Heroes, including \$50,000 donated by Mauzy and \$25,000 donated by Barrett-Jackson President Steve Davis.

4. **2024 Ford Mustang Darkhorse VIN 001:** \$375,000 to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, including \$50,000 again donated by Mauzy and \$25,000 donated by The Elayne Snyder Acts 20:35 Foundation.

Barrett-Jackson announced a return to Westworld this fall, from October 10-13, for an unprecedented second event in the same space in the same year. The centerpiece of the auction this fall will be Sammy Hagar's custom 2015 Ferrari LaFerrari, which was struck from the January auction for an issue with the battery. Barrett-Jackson's next event will be in Palm Beach, Florida in April. The auctions are broadcast on the History Channel and FYI.

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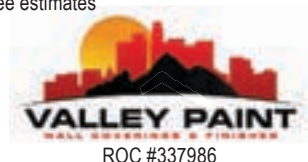
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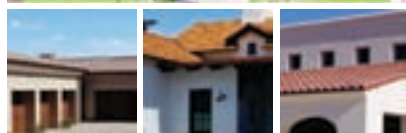
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AGORA: Arcadia High's fine arts festival

By Amelia Guzman

What is an Agora? The word comes from ancient Greece, defined as “an assembly of the people.” Every spring, Arcadia High has its very own Agora. This annual fine arts festival is planned and run by studio art teacher Cira Riccio and the club she sponsors, the National Art Honor Society (NAHS). All proceeds made during the event go to an art-related organization, such as Free Arts for Arizona, or directly to NAHS and Arcadia's Arts Department.

At Agora, art from Arcadia students and pieces picked from Tavan, Hopi, Echo Canyon and Ingleside are displayed in the auditorium. Artwork presented ranges from paintings and drawings to photography and sculpture. Activities such as face painting and henna (done by NAHS members), food trucks, and student-made items for sale are held outside around the grassy knoll.

Student-made items include hand-drawn cards, ceramics and jewelry. The festivities include live performances from the Arcadia Orchestra and the CMAS students.

This year, the event takes place on March 28 from 5-7 p.m. There is no entry fee, and it is open to the public. These students put many hours of dedicated work into their pieces. The event allows them to give back to the community through their talents. This is the night fine arts students get to shine!

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF GIRLS

Taylor Swift made Grammy history at this year's award ceremony. Her win for the 2023 record “Midnights” puts Swift down in history as the only person to ever win four Grammys for Album of the Year,



PHOTO: CIRA RICCIO

Vanessa Maldonado Mendoza and Lily Baird at the Arcadia Agora.



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male or female. The win cements her as a legend in the music industry, but she has an even bigger impact on young women and girls across the world. On top of writing and putting out 11 albums, Taylor is also a savvy businesswoman who runs her image impeccably. She is inspiring a whole new generation of girls to aim higher.

The pop star's impact is seen on a large scale and in small communities. At Arcadia High, students have started a Taylor Swift Club to discuss her and her music. Junior member Kendall Sawkiw says, “I love the club because I feel like it gives me space to be a teenage girl – something I think is lacking everywhere else.” The club has created a community of young women who feel free to be themselves because of Taylor and her impact. She has never shied away from paving a path for herself when there is none. Taylor's success has led to more room for women in the music industry and the ability for us to feel comfortable expressing ourselves and not be scared to reach for the stars.

– Maya Cambell

EXPLORING THE VIBRANT LOCAL ART OF PHOENIX

The Phoenix Art Museum is one of my favorite places. There's something otherworldly about it. Maybe it's the way the natural light illuminates the rooms and hallways, the way that the sculpture garden

is always bright green, or the coolness of it – even in summertime.

A current exhibit I admire is a collection of works by Amalia Mesa-Bains entitled *Archeology of Memory*. Mesa-Bains is a multimedia artist. Her work includes wardrobes and altars with silks, ornate knick-knacks, foreign materials, broken glass, and seashells. Her works are derived from Mexican Indigenous practices of honoring one's ancestors with *altares*, *ofrendas*, and *descansos*. They have a thoughtful shimmer that resonated in my mind even after leaving the museum. It is interactive, observant, and grabs your attention without demanding it.

While the exhibits that move in and out are wonderful to observe, the museum also has unforgettable permanent installations. My favorite is Yayoi Kusama's *You Who Are Getting Obliterated in the Dancing Swarm of Fireflies*. It's hypnotic and forces introspection and attention to one's humanity, like the works by Mark Rothko: a room with mirrors on all sides, darkened, with blinking lights of all different colors hanging from the ceiling; an ocean of thoughtfulness that you take home with you. The Phoenix Art Museum is almost a breathing entity, something you form a relationship with, an oasis in the desert.

– Georgia Ebbert

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