ARCADIA NEWS

VOL. 32 NO. 3 ARCADIA • BILTMORE • CAMELBACK CORRIDOR JUNE 2024



LET'S GO, LADY TITANS

Arcadia High's beach volleyball team made it to the Division II AIA Arizona State Championship.

PAGE 44

THANK YOU, TEACHERS!

Find out how our area parent-teacher organizations celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week this year.

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25 YEARS OF V'S

The inspiration for V's Barbershop Arcadia came from a time-honored, father-son tradition.

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ARCADIA NEWS
AWARD WINNING NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS SINCE 1993

Owned & operated by Arcadians for Arcadia

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acp Association of Community Publishers MEMBER PUBLICATION

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JUNE

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44 Play like a champion
Arcadia's lacrosse team put it all on the field and finished the season strong, earning the title of Desert Conference Champion, plus a shot at the quarterfinals.



Arcadia High sophomore Alexa Helms and junior Lane Sheedy won the Girls Beach Volleyball Pairs State Championship this season.
PHOTO COURTESY JEN SHEEDY



EDITOR'S NOTE



Building you the tree house you've been begging for. Tossing you as high as he can into in the deep end of the pool. Giving your date a stern look when he grabs your hand to leave for prom. Wiping that almost invisible tear away as he proudly watches you walk across the stage – or down the aisle. We're kicking off the latest edition with a huge shout-out to all the father figures out there – Happy Father's Day to you all!

June is here and with it, your good news newspaper is sharing stories that celebrate our area schools, local organizations and anniversaries. V's Barbershop Arcadia opened 25 years ago at 48th St. and Indian School Road – and it all started with one of Owner Jim Valenzuela's favorite memories: getting a haircut with his dad.

"Climbing onto the booster chair, watching a Saturday afternoon football game on a black and white TV with a clothes hanger antenna, the smell of the tonics, the four letter words from the barber and his patrons and the feeling of walking out of the shop with a fresh cut," Jim said. "The entire experience with dad was as a strong memory as any while growing up."

We'd like to congratulate all the graduates of our local schools and wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Our Summer Vacation Photo Spread is happening this year, so send photos to editor@arcadianews.com for a chance to be in the September issue. Your photo might be on the cover! The deadline to send in photos is August 9.

Happy summer days ahead, and thank you, as always, for reading the Arcadia News,

Mallory

– Mallory Gleich

UPCOMING THEMES:

JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
Summer	*Back to School*	*Fall Sports*

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"Life doesn't come with an instruction book – that's why we have fathers." *– H. Jackson Browne*

ARCADIA'S PETS









1. Karlie Lee is an 11-year old Miniature Schnauzer and the most lovable sister of Zöe Lee. An expert of celestial events, Karlie enjoyed watching the solar eclipse whilst wearing her ISO-approved glasses designed especially for seasoned canine astronomers.

– David K.

2. This is Joey, our 5-year-old Beagle/Australian Terrier mix – a combination that makes him walk with his nose to the ground and love to soak up the desert sun. He is smart, affectionate and loves all people, especially those willing to give him lengthy belly rubs.

– Brad W.

3. My name is Gidget and I'm a 12-week old Golden Retriever. I love living in Arcadia. My brothers, Wendell and Badger, have been teaching me the ropes around the neighborhood. Every morning we walk to our mom's favorite place, Little O's, for coffee. You can find me at happy hour on the patio at The Henry.

– Shari M.

4. Meow! My name is Charlee and I am almost two years old. The first year of my life was spent in various shelters. I now live in my forever home. Playing with toys, bird watching and sunbathing on the porch are some of my favorite activities.

– Cindy L.

*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!*





Arcadia News 2024 Scholarship Winner

By Mallory Gleich

If there's one thing Nola Williams knows, it's how to create a goal and make it happen.

Throughout her academic career, she's been active in student government, speech and debate, the Student Equity and Inclusion Committee and the Black Student Union. She's also spent time fundraising for various campaigns, and according to former Arizona State Senator Leah Landrum Taylor, was one of the top fundraisers for the Jack and Jill of America campaign in 2021 and 2022.

"It was exciting to witness Nola map out her course of excellence while still having fun," Taylor said. "She motivated our teen auxiliary group to work harder and that love of teamwork assisted our chapter in winning the highest fundraising goal at the regional conference."

> ***"I'm humbled and most excited to learn from the esteemed professors and participate in the hands on experience."***

While participating in these activities, Nola added one more to her impressive extracurricular resume – a hobby she's been active in for over a decade: tennis.

"Being part of tennis was my favorite, unequivocally," Nola said. "I've been captain for the last three seasons and it has been such a privilege to lead and learn from the girls on my team. It was also fun to win as much as we did."

Nola will head to the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in the fall to major in journalism and minor in economics.

"Medill is one of the foremost programs in the country and continues to graduate alumnus who are titans of the industry," Nola said. "I'm humbled and most excited to learn from the esteemed professors and participate in the hands on experience and real world learning they offer."

She said she's had an interest in being on camera for her entire life, but it was only last summer that she realized journalism was something she was interested in pursuing. She attended the National Student Leadership Conference's Journalism Program at American University, learning about ethics and research strategies while hearing from other aspiring journalists.

"The potential to tell stories, advocate for others, and explore the world around me is the full package," Nola said.

Her love of journalism was inspired by the culture of the field. Growing up in a time in which access to media and information has rapidly shifted, she said she's grown to appreciate and admire individuals and organizations who prioritize a code of ethics around the true purpose of journalism, to inform without ulterior motives or bias.

Her ultimate goal is to one day have her own talk show.

"I will miss my life here at home, and I'll miss how entertaining Arcadia is. Every single day someone or something made me laugh," she said. "My parents, who are my biggest cheerleaders and support system, have always encouraged this appreciation and curiosity by exposing me to different environments, and helping me to never fear the unknown. I'm looking forward to the next chapter!"



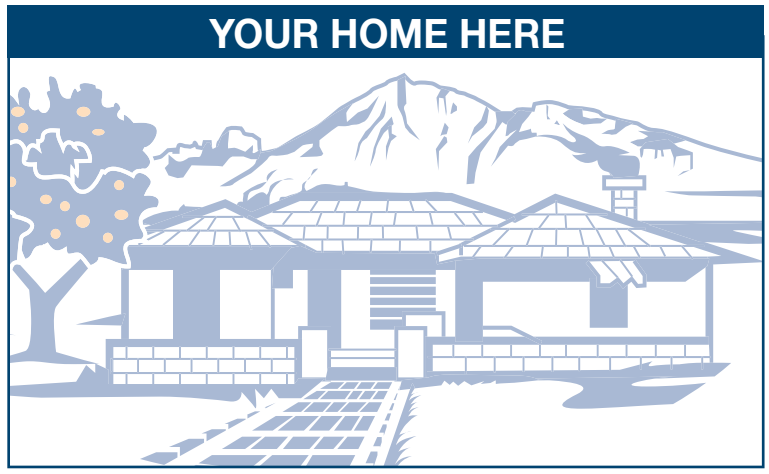
PHOTO COURTESY OF NOLA WILLIAMS

Arcadia graduate Nola Williams.

Arcadia graduate Nola Williams was selected to receive the $500 unrestricted Arcadia News Scholarship. The program was created in 2004 by publisher Greg Bruns to encourage the pursuit of journalism or a related field. Since then, Arcadia News has gifted over $18,000 to graduating seniors, some of which have come back to write for the community paper. Nola is the 30th recipient of the award.

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Arcadia Real Estate Stats

2024 HOPI SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/1/2024-4/30/2024)

Active Homes -	115 Homes
Homes Sold -	93 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$2,803,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$757
Average Days On Market -	52 days

There is currently 7 months of home inventory. (based on 2023 sales results)
2024 home sales have increased 26% this year. (based on 2023 sales results)
2024 home prices have increased 13%. (based on 2023 sales results)
2024 $ Per Square Foot prices have increased 12%. (based on 2023 sales results)
2024 homes are taking 35% less time to sell. (based on 2023 sales results)

2024 TAVAN SCHOOL DISTRICT SALES RESULTS

(1/1/2024-4/30/2024)

Active Homes -	56 Homes
Homes Sold -	59 Homes
Average Sale Price -	$1,352,000
Average Sold $ Per SF -	$505
Average Days On Market -	82 days

There is currently 4 months of home inventory. (based on 2023 sales results)
2024 home sales have increased 13% this year. (based on 2023 sales results)
2024 home prices have increased 3%. (based on 2023 sales results)
2024 $ Per Square Foot prices have increased 3%. (based on 2023 sales results)
2024 Homes are taking 0% more time to sell. (based on 2023 sales results)

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WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

BRIEFS



The Workshop Pilates opened its third ocation at 3802 E. Indian School Road. ow known as the **Arcadia Improvement lub**, the business will house an Infrared eated Mat Pilates class, plus four other ourses for all levels. Founder's Rate romotions – 10 mat classes for $99, 10 eformer classes for $199 and unlimited IP classes for $239 per month – are vailable.

theworkshoppilates.com

Pure Green Arcadia (4730 E. Indian chool Road, Phoenix) will celebrate its ne-year anniversary with an all-day event n Sunday, June 16. From 8 a.m.-6 p.m., here will be an on-site DJ, balloons, a orning community bike ride and a 15 ercent discount on menu items.

puregreen.com

Arcadia Youth Basketball summer amp registration is now open. Ages 6-13 an join the "Rec" summer camp on June -6, 10-13 or 24-27 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Arcadia City Church (3313 N. 40th St., hoenix). Ages 9-14 can join the "Club" amp on June 3-6 or 10-13 at Arcadia High 703 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix) om 2:30-5:30 p.m. Camps start at $190.

arcadiayouthbasketballaz.com

The Saguaros annual Olympiad vent raised over $775,000 for Saguaros hildren's Charities. Founded in 1987, he philanthropic and social club has raised millions of dollars for local Arizona nonprofits. Composed of 50 men under the age of 40, The Saguaros give back to the community and support children's charities through three fundraising events: Niteflite, Cards for Kids and the Olympiad.

saguaros.com



Former Arcadia resident A. Thomas Cole (whose parents owned Clark's Citrus and Arnie's Health Foods) has published his first book, **Restoring the Pitchfork Ranch**. The novel tells the story of a decades-long restoration project in southwestern New Mexico. Cole shares the past and present history of the 11,300-acre ranch, which is home to a "regional wetland, a desert grassland ecosystem, archaeological sites and a critical wildlife corridor in a drought-stricken landscape."

pitchforkranchnm.com

The **Scottsdale Resort & Spa** (7700 E. McCormick Pkwy., Scottsdale) unveiled the completion of a $40 million property-wide renovation that includes guest rooms, spa, gym and the introduces four new dining concepts: La Fogata; Barnaby's Café + Wine Bar; The Madam and The Social Boardroom. The hotel has 278 rooms, two pools, an adjacent championship 18-hole golf course and an on-site golf simulator.

thescottsdaleresort.com

Four Peaks is kicking off its 13th annual **Four Peaks for Teachers Program**. One area teacher will be named Teacher of the Year and will win a $3,000 grant plus a lunch. Ten runners up will each receive a $1,000 cash grant for their classroom. Nominations will be accepted through June 30. Teachers with a valid ID will receive $3 pints at the Four Peaks in Tempe every Tuesday until July 30.

fourpeaksforteachers.org

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HonorHealth invites students to apply for the 2024-2025 **Explorers Clubs**. Medical Club students will learn from nurses, physicians and other professionals about education and career paths. Nursing Explorers will focus on the profession and nursing school. The program runs August-May and is open to teens in grades 9-12. Applications are accepted until June 18.

honorhealth.com

EVENTS

SATURDAY 6/1

The Scottsdale Chorus

3 p.m. at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts, 7380 E. Second St. Take a familiar melody, blend in fascinating rhythms, and multiply it by 80-plus energetic singers and performers, and you get the Scottsdale Chorus. This acapella group might have fans dancing and singing along during this show. Tickets start at $30.

scottsdaleperformingarts.org

Whiskies of the World

6:45 p.m. at Sanctuary Camelback Mountain, 5700 E. McDonald Dr., Paradise Valley. Attendees can sample more than 150 different whiskeys – single malts, scotch and bourbons – from prestigious and small batch distilleries at this event. A souvenir tasting glass with complimentary engraving, light bites and cigar pairings will also be offered. For an additional $10, guests can attend a masterclass led by a head distiller or whiskey expert. Tickets are $150 for general admission; VIP packages available.

whiskiesoftheworld.com

World Atlatl Day Competition

9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the S'edav Va'aki Museum, 4619 E. Washington St., Phoenix. Come out and test your prehistoric hunting skills at the S'edav Va'aki Museum (formerly the Pueblo Grande). The Study of Ancient Lifeways and Technology group will host an atlatl competition in honor of World Atlatl Day. There will be a demonstration, a distance and accuracy contest, and free museum entry.

pueblogrande.com

SATURDAY 6/1 – SUNDAY 6/2

Heritage Mineral Show

9 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the El Zaribah Shriners Auditorium, 552 N. 40th St., Phoenix. Get ready to rock with the fourth annual Phoenix Heritage Mineral Show. Guests will find vendors with various minerals available for purchase, raffles, exhibits, kid's activities, a spinning wheel, a geode cracker and live music. Admission is $5 per person.

msaaz.org

TUESDAY 6/4

Stories and Sweets

7 p.m. at Community Design Studio, 7506 E. Indian School Road. The third annual Scottsdale Stories & Sweets is back. Each Tuesday in June, stop by the Community Design Studio for a sweet treat and listen to Citizen Advisor Bruce Wall as he shares a fascinating story about Scottsdale's history. This event is free, but registration is required.

oldtownscottsdaleaz.com

FRIDAY 6/7

PHXArt After Hours

5-9 p.m. at Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Ave. Experience the museum after the sun goes down! Guests will find free general admission, live music, art-making workshops and specialty food and drinks. This month's event also has a presentation by the Hip Historian, a fashion and drag show, pop-up shops and an ask-me station. Admission is $10 for adults, $5 for kids.

phxart.org

Cocina Latina

12:30 p.m. at Royal Palms Resort, 5200 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. Royal Palms invites guests to T. Cook's Chef's Table for a lesson in cooking – Latin cooking, that is. This afternoon's dish is ceviche, a fish or shellfish dish that's marinated in citrus and various seasonings. Guests will learn the history behind the food and learn how Royal Palms makes it their own. Registration is $55 per person.

hyattexperiences.com

SATURDAY 6/8

Heardlings Day

10 a.m. at Heard Museum, 2301 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. Join Archie the Jackrabbit and his pals for a day of fun in celebration of Heardlings, Heard Museum's new kids program. Guests will learn about the new family activity room, read to bunnies with Tranquility Trails, see a live animal presentation with Liberty Wildlife and participate in art projects. Admission is $23 for adults, $9 for kids.

heard.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*



***Cocina Latina** at Royal Palms Resort.*



***Sonoran Sippin'** at Desert Botanical Garden.*

CREATE @ AZ Science

9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Arizona Science Center, 600 E. Washington St., Phoenix. At Teen Tech IRL, students in grades 9-12 will engage with local experts to explore the current issues affecting housing in Arizona's growing cities. Participants will be challenged to take action and come up with solutions that they will pitch to a panel for a chance to win prizes. Lunch is included and the session is $15 per person.

azscience.org

Brunch and Learn

12 p.m. at Mountain Shadows Resort, 5445 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley. This Saturday, head to the private dining room of Hearth '61 as Chef Charles Wiley shows guests how to prepare a dish – this month is spring veggies – while sipping a featured beverage. After the demo, guests can stick around for a three-course brunch, including the two featured demo courses, dessert, and a glass of wine or cocktail. Registration is $89 per person.

mountainshadows.com

Women's Car Care Class

9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Girl Gang Garage, 2304 E. Polk St., Phoenix. Prepare for any situation with the Girl Gang Garage. Bogi, the host of Motortrend's All Girl's Garage and an automotive expert, will share some techniques for basic auto care, such as changing a tire, checking fluids, jumpstarting a battery and what to know about brake systems. Make sure to wear closed toed shoes. This class is $20 per person.

girlganggarage.com

SUNDAY 6/9

Summer Concert Series

7-8:30 p.m. at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, 7301 E. Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale. The Summer Concert Series has officially started. The railroad park will feature various local acts playing classic rock, country, rhythm and blues and 80s and 90s music – this evening's musicians are Candle in the Wind: The Elton John Experience. Harkins food truck will provide the snacks and drinks. This event is free.

therailroadpark.com

THURSDAY 6/13

Tequila Dinner

6 p.m. at Cien Agaves, 7228 E. 1st Ave., Scottsdale. Mitch Wolf from Tequila Fortaleza is heading to Scottsdale to share the company's journey and future plans with attendees. The event will also include a four-course dinner paired with four different Fortaleza tequilas. This is a 21+ event, and registration is $150 per person.

cienagaves.com

SUNDAY 6/16

Juneteenth

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Arizona Heritage Center, 1300 N. College Ave., Tempe. At this event, the community is welcome to connect with various organizations representing historical societies, action groups and state resources. There will also be live performances, activities, panel talks and food/drinks available. Admission is free.

arizonahistoricalsociety.org

MONDAY 6/17

Mixed Media Collage Class

6 p.m. at LDV Winery, 7134 E. Stetson Dr., Scottsdale. Create your own collage of thoughtful words, images, colors and textures with award-winning designer Julie Wolf. No experience is needed and all supplies are provided – and while you're working, you'll also receive a glass of LDV wine to help get those creative juices flowing. Registration is $45 per person.

ldvwinery.com

FRIDAY 6/21

Sonoran Sippin'

6-9 p.m. at Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N. Galvin Pkwy. Kick start the weekend with a drink and an evening in nature. This Friday's event features music and entertainment from various musical performers. Adult beverages are available for purchase, and guests will get an after-hours look at Desert Botanical Garden's latest exhibit. Tickets are $17 for non-members, and reservations are required.

dbg.org

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WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

FRIDAY 6/21 – SATURDAY 6/22

Sip + Shop Summer Market Series

6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, at Hotel Valley Ho, 6850 E. Main St., Scottsdale. The Summer Market Series is back with a celebrity chef dinner on June 21, featuring a three-course meal prepared by Chefs Russell LaCasce, Danny Grant and Beau MacMillan. Saturday's market will feature samples, live music, vendors, tastings and a voucher for ZuZu. The market is free to attend; dinner is $199 per person.

hotelvalleyho.com

SUNDAY 6/23

Willy Wonka

2 p.m. at the Herberger Theater, 222 E. Monroe St., Phoenix. Step into a world of pure imagination with Charlie Bucket, a boy who finds a Golden Ticket and gets to meet the illustrious Willy Wonka. Featuring songs from the original 1971 film starring Gene Wilder, this play may just make theater-goers feel all the nostalgia. Tickets start at $18.

herbergertheater.org

WEDNESDAY 6/26

Dinner and a Movie

5:30 p.m. at Marcellino Ristorante, 7114 E. Stetson Dr., Scottsdale. Guests are invited to Marcellino for date night, girl's night out or if you just feel like Italian for dinner! Attendees can enjoy a three-course summer special meal and watch a classic film – on the screen tonight is *The Big Night*, starring Tony Sholub and Stanley Tucci as owners of an Italian restaurant. Dinner starts at $50 per person.

marcellinoristorante.com



Sip + Shop Summer Market Series.



Downtown Phoenix Food Tour.

SATURDAY 6/29

Downtown Phoenix Food Tour

11 a.m. starting at 14 E. Pierce St., Phoenix. The Phoenix Food Tour is a 2.5 hour guided outing that brings guests on a culinary adventure through downtown Phoenix to try three different eateries while stopping at historic landmarks. Guests can try an English dish, Thai cuisine, an authentic Mexican street taco and a milkshake to cap the day off on a sweet note. Registration is $85.

tasteittours.com

SUNDAY 6/30

Red, White and Choo Choo

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, 7301 E. Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale. The Trai Park will host its third annual Red, Whit and Choo Choo event early this year! Th celebration features live music from Roc Lobster, bounce houses, foam cannons water slides, face painting, train rides, foo trucks and fireworks. Tickets are $15 fo everyone 3 and up.

therailroadpark.com

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Myth Busters: *'Summers are Slow'*

This article is about to blow up the biggest real estate myth in Arizona!

The biggest misconception in Phoenix is that the real estate market slows down when the temperatures turn up. If you are like most residents, you probably thought the same. The fact of the matter is that while this may be true in some markets around the Valley, the Arcadia neighborhood is dominated by local buyers and sellers who like to plan around the school year. It also goes without saying that life events don't revolve around temperatures. Corporate relocations, divorce, death, and other major moves will still go on regardless of heat.

Last year, in **all three of our Arcadia markets**, the summer months produced **more closings than the winter/spring months**.

ARCADIA PROPER (44TH ST - 68TH ST, CAMELBACK - CANAL)

January 1 - April 30 2023 = **28**

June 1 - September 30 2023 = **29**

ARCADIA LITE (32ND ST - 44TH ST, CAMELBACK - INDIAN SCHOOL)

January 1 - April 30 2023 = **27**

June 1 - September 30 2023 = **29**

ARCADIA OSBORN (44TH ST - 56TH ST, INDIAN SCHOOL - THOMAS)

January 1 - April 30 2023 = **16**

June 1 - September 30 2023 = **17**

At The Brokery, this is why we stay "Relentlessly Local." Our hyperfocus on the neighborhood sub-markets gives our clients an edge to make the best informed decisions. Give me a shout anytime to ask about our trends and analytics platform to help you outperform when it's time to buy or sell.

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THE BROKERY

LOCAL REAL ESTATE BROKERS

OUT OF THE AREA, *BUT WORTH THE DRIVE*

SATURDAY 6/1

Cruz'n the Rim Car Show

9 a.m. at Frontier Park, 600 N. 9th Pl., Show Low. The Cruz'n the Rim Car Show will feature a kickoff with the National Anthem. Then, attendees can stroll through the show until 3 p.m. There will also be a poker walk, awards show, games and activities and an auction. This event is free for all ages.

cruzntherim.com

MONDAY 6/3 – FRIDAY 6/7

Kids Day Camp

8:45 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, 7575 E. Princess Dr. Kids ages 6-12 can check out this brand-new day camp, where activities like lagoon fishing, scavenger hunts, gold panning, sand castle building, swimming, and rubber duck races abound. Lunch is included each day, and these camps are available until August 2. Cost is $600 per week with discounts for added weeks.

scottsdaleprincess.com

TUESDAY 6/4

Shovel Crew Classic

8 a.m. at the Westin Kierland Golf Club, 15636 N. Clubgate Dr., Scottsdale. A shotgun start kicks off the inaugural Shovel Crew Classic Golf Tournament to raise funds for Parkinson's research and advocacy programs. Along with the tournament there will be raffle prizes, on-course contests, surprise guests and lunch after the game. Registration is $150 for individuals, $500 for foursomes.

shovelcrew.org



***Kids Day Camp** at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess.*

FRIDAY 6/7 – SUNDAY 6/9

REACH Weekend Camp

6 p.m., at Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center, 7415 E. Elbow Bend Road, Carefree. This overnight camp is designed for teenagers 13-18 who have experienced the loss of a loved one. REACH is a traditional, fun, high-energy camp focused on activities to support self-discovery, enhance communication skills, build trust and promote sharing in a safe environment. Registration is $75 per person.

steppingstonesofhope.org

SATURDAY 6/8

Parker Tube Float

8 a.m., starting at La Paz County Park, 7350 Riverside Dr., Parker. If the water is calling, then you must go! The 46th annual Parker Tube Float takes tubers three miles down the Colorado River in a no-wake zone. Make sure to pack snacks and drinks – and plenty of sunscreen. Fees are $10 for parking, $40 to register.

parkeraz.org

SUNDAY 6/9

Charcuterie 101

11 a.m. at Maggiano's Little Italy, 16405 N. Scottsdale Road. Indulge in a tasty spread while learning the art of creating the perfect charcuterie board. Maggiano's chef will guide guests through the process of assembling the board while learning about flavor pairings and presentation techniques. Attendees will also be treated to brunch (complete with mimosas) after class. Registration is $70 per person.

maggianos.com

FRIDAY 6/14

Flag Day Luncheon

11 a.m. at Chicken N Pickle, 9330 W. Hanna Lane, Glendale. Soldier's Best Friend is an organization that provides military veterans living with combat-related PTSD or traumatic brain injury with service dogs from local shelters. They are holding an inaugural luncheon this afternoon, where folks can munch while hearing testimonies from vets and learning about SBF's latest expansion. Tickets are $100.

soldiersbestfriend.org

FRIDAY 6/21

Artisan Alley

6-10 p.m. at Westgate, 6770 N. Sunrise Blvd., Glendale. Westgate's outdoor market features homegrown makers, creators, artists and more. Attendees can mingle with locals and learn about independent small businesses. This season's vendors include a mix of products, textiles, fashion, jewelry, unique gifts, self-care and sustainable items – and you can bring your pups! Admission is free.

westgateaz.com

SUNDAY 6/23

Jazz for the Soul: Francine Reed

6 p.m. at The Ravenscroft, 8445 E. Hartford Dr., Scottsdale. Tonight is the Jazz for the Soul season finale at The Ravenscroft, so they're going out in style with local legend Francine Reed. Known as the "Queen of the Blues," Reed will sing an eclectic selection of jazz, gospel and rhythm and blues with the help of pianist Nicole Pesce, bassist Mel Brown and drummer Dowell Davis. This event is free.

theravenscroft.com

THURSDAY 6/27

The Little Mermaid

5:30 p.m. at Arizona Broadway Theatre, 7701 W. Paradise Lane, Peoria. Journey into a kingdom under the sea and meet Ariel, a young mermaid who longs to leave her ocean home to experience life in the human world. You know the story; you've sung the songs – now experience it in real life and enjoy dinner while you're at it. Tickets are $100 with no dinner, $130 dinner included.

azbroadway.org

FRIDAY 6/28

Shine On Floyd

6 p.m. at Orpheum Theater, 15 W. Aspen Ave., Flagstaff. Shine On Floyd is a tribute band from Phoenix, formed by a group of musicians and singers with a love of everything Pink Floyd. This experience includes a light and laser show, backup singers, video wall, special effects, audience interaction, costume changes and all the greatest hits. Tickets are $34 per person.

orpheumflagstaff.com

SATURDAY 6/29

Grape Train Escape

5:30-9:30 p.m. at the Verde Canyon Railroad, 300 N. Broadway, Clarkdale. Time to "escape" to the Verde Valley. Attendees with be able to sample sips from Verde Valley wineries while enjoying the beautiful scenery of the Saturday Night Starlight trips. First class will enjoy four wine tastings with paired appetizers. This event is 21 and up. Tickets are $150.

verdecanyonrr.com

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Osborn and the 51 freeway



Usery Mountains


20th St. and Indian School Road


Gavilan Peak Pkwy.

Why is (or was) that thing there?

As the years speed on by, the things that were once so familiar to us take on different forms or, even worse, disappear altogether. But others, fortunately, remain the same as time elapses. And that leads us to today's topic of, "Who put that thing there?"

Q. Why is that big concrete pot standing there on Osborn Road just east of State Route 51?

A. It is the remnant of a controversial art project from 1992. Back then, the City of Phoenix laid out $474,000 for an art project designed to enhance what was then known as the Squaw Peak Parkway, since changed to Piestewa Parkway. It was the city's first attempt at highway beautification but it almost backfired because it consisted of 35 pots. Big pots, little pots. Pots that nobody liked.

The general public ridiculed the project, ignoring the given name of "Wall Cycle to Ocotillo" and instead calling it "those freeway pots." The selection of out-of-state artists to create the work also came under such opposition that the city had to change its policy on public art, adding emphasis to in-state artists and more public input on art selection.

The vessels were made of polychrome concrete and painted steel and ranged in size from two feet to 15 feet. Many of the originals were either removed due to wear and tear by the elements, but the big one still stands as a reminder of money not so well spent.

Q. What ever happened to Marilyn?

A. For several years, an image of Marilyn Monroe gazed seductively at motorists and pedestrians alike as they passed the corner of 20th Street and Indian School Road. She was perched on a black background on the west side of a commercial building on the northeast corner of the intersection. She took up residency there in the early 2000s when the owner of what was then a motorcycle shop wanted to paint a sign on the side of his building to advertise his business, but city officials said it was too big and wouldn't give him a permit.

He asked if he could commission a painting with no lettering on it, was granted approval and hired local artist Timothy Medina to produce the giant Marilyn. The image weathered city officials, time, skeptics and critics until about five years ago when new owners of the building painted the wall completely black, obliterating Marilyn. Then, a short time later, the entire building was demolished, leaving no trace of what had once been sort of an icon.

Q. Who put that big Phoenix sign on the side of the mountain?

A. Back when Phoenix was an emerging city with only a minor airport, pilots of small planes coming from the east were often confused about where to find the landing strip. The Valley was not as developed as it is today, so there was nothing but open desert and unfriendly mountains surrounding its eastern border. But then, according to some historians, the Boy Scouts came to the rescue.



The Lowe Road

BY SAM LOWE

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

In the 1950s, a group of Scouts cleared away brush and rocks on the southern slope of the Usery Mountains, then whitewashed a huge "Phoenix" sign fronted by a large arrow onto the mountainside. The arrow pointed west, toward the airport almost 30 miles away and the sign served its initial purpose of aiming pilots in the right direction for several years. But now, the Valley has grown so much that houses are closing in on the sign, and US Highway 60 below aims directly at Sky Harbor Airport, so its usefulness has ended.

Despite that, the huge sign remains in pretty good shape, considering that it has been there for about 70 years. Another group of Scouts repainted it in 1990, but that may be the last upgrade. Homeowners and conservationists are protesting that the big word is too much verbiage for the natural scenery.

Q. Why do those marble pillars in an Anthem sculpture have holes in them?

A. It's because the Anthem Veterans Memorial is a masterfully-designed tribute to those who have served in the military. The memorial is composed of five large marble pillars of varying heights, standing in perpendicular perfection about two feet apart. Each has an angled circle cut through the stone, and the pillars are so well-aligned that the circles form a downward channel.

The pillars represent the five branches of the United States military. Every November 11, at exactly 11:11 a.m., a beam of sunlight shoots through the channel and casts a circular light on a mosaic representation of the Great Seal of the United States. It's a spectacular combination of architecture and astronomy.

The original proposal came from Ron Tucker, a retired rear admiral, and was designed by Renee Palmer-Jones, both Anthem residents. And every other aspect of the memorial, from engineering to fundraising to construction, was done by local volunteers.

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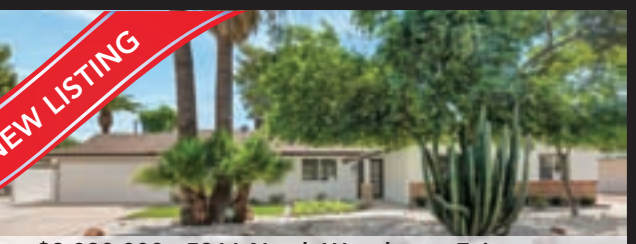
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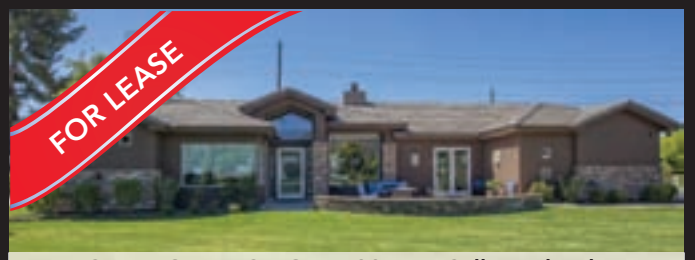
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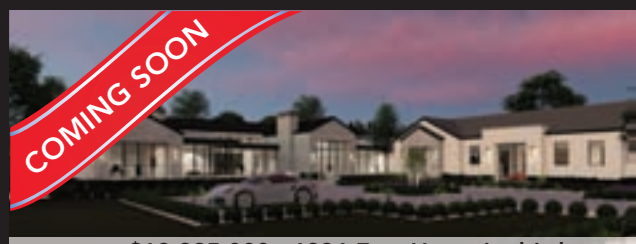
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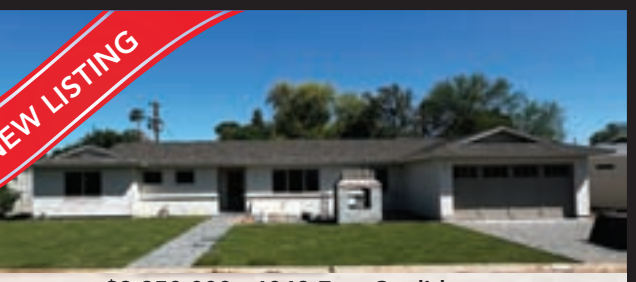
$2,090,000 5311 North Woodmere Fairway
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,989 square feet
5311woodmere.com



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4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,531 square feet



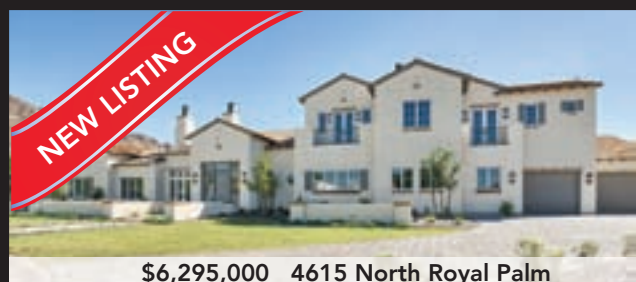
$18,995,000 6836 East Hummingbird
6 bedrooms, 9 baths, 10,095 square feet
6836hummingbird.com



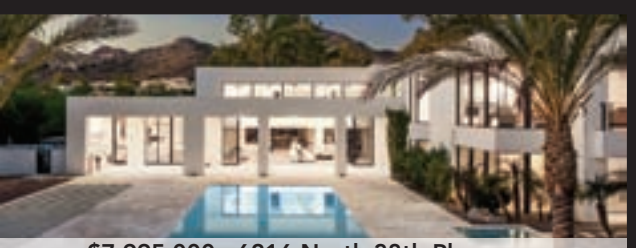
$2,250,000 4048 East Coolidge
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,676 square feet



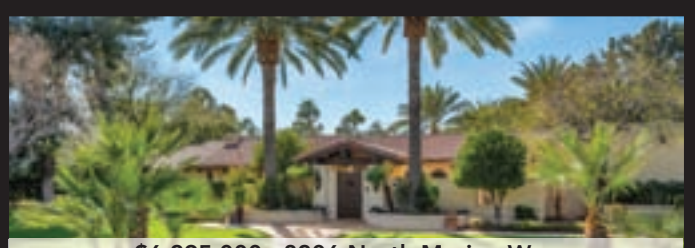
$3,350,000 10779 East Whitethorn Drive
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,802 feet



$6,295,000 4615 North Royal Palm
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 6,982 square feet
4615royalpalm.com



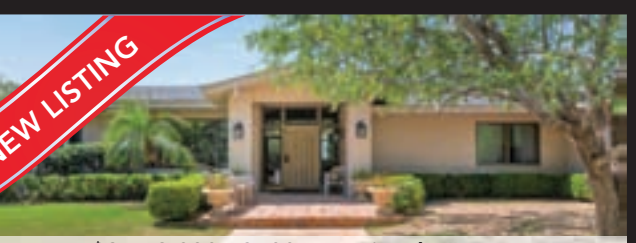
$7,995,000 6216 North 38th Place
5 bedrooms, 7 baths, 11,097 square feet
6216north38thplace.com



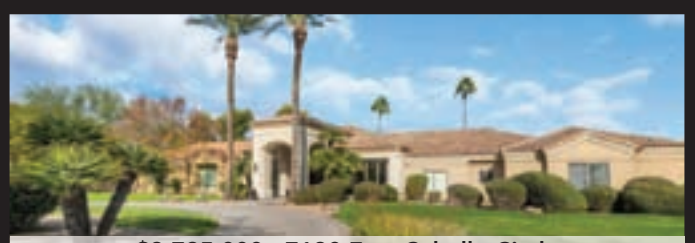
$6,295,000 8306 North Merion Way
6 bedrooms, 9 baths, 8,250 square feet
8306merionway.com



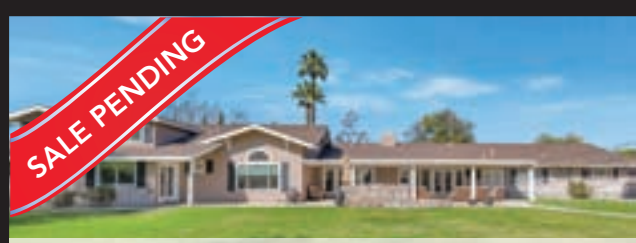
$6,950,000 6850 North Joshua Tree
3 bedrooms, 5 baths, 5,988 square feet



$2,549,000 3500 East Lincoln #15
3 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,501 square feet
3500lincoln.com



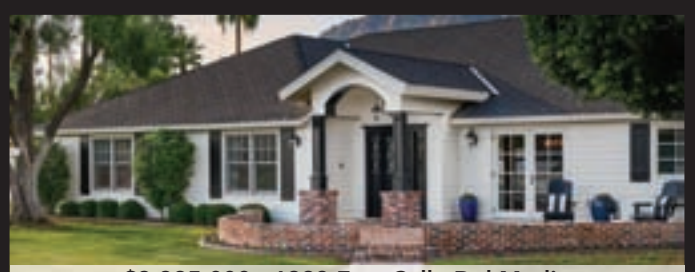
$3,795,000 7130 East Caballo Circle
7 bedrooms, 10 baths, 7,382 square feet
7130caballo.com



$2,405,000 3713 East Camelback
5 bedrooms, 5 baths, 5,381 square feet
3713camelback.com



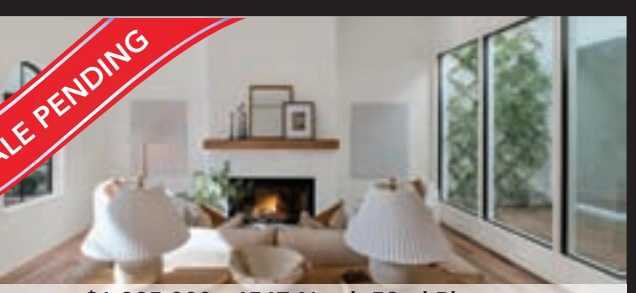
$2,617,000 4510 North 36th Way
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 3,963 square feet
4510north36thway.com



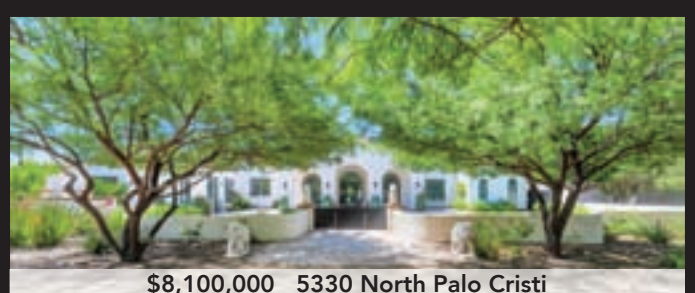
$3,395,000 6228 East Calle Del Medio
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3,472 square feet
6228calledelmedia.com



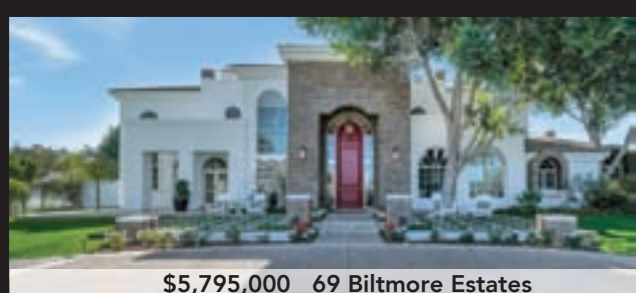
$2,350,000 6143 East Alta Hacienda
2 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,263 square feet



$1,395,000 4547 North 52nd Place
3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3,002 square feet



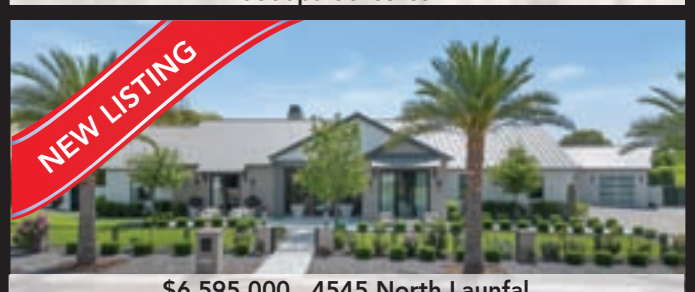
$8,100,000 5330 North Palo Cristi
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 8,331 square feet
5330palocristi.com



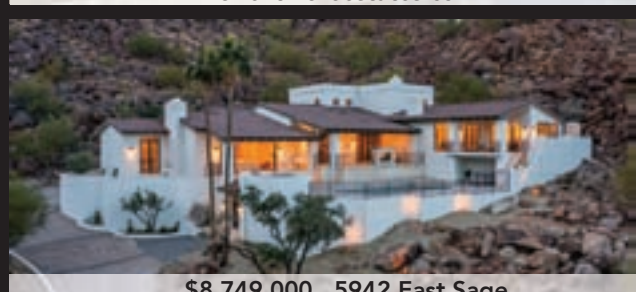
$5,795,000 69 Biltmore Estates
5 bedrooms, 8 baths, 8,421 square feet
69biltmoreestates.com



$3,850,000 4615 North 61st Place
3 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,980 square feet

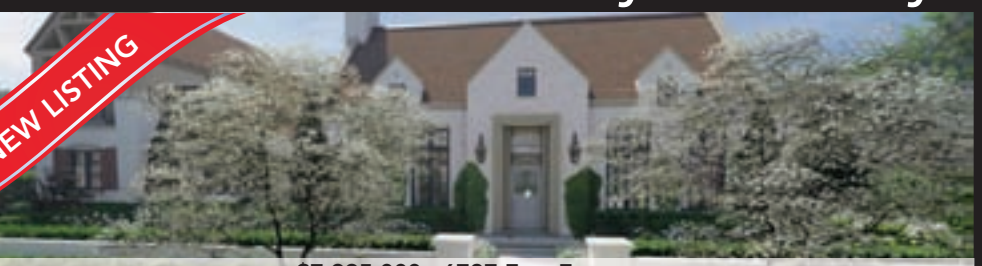


$6,595,000 4545 North Launfal
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 5,630 square feet
4545launfal.com

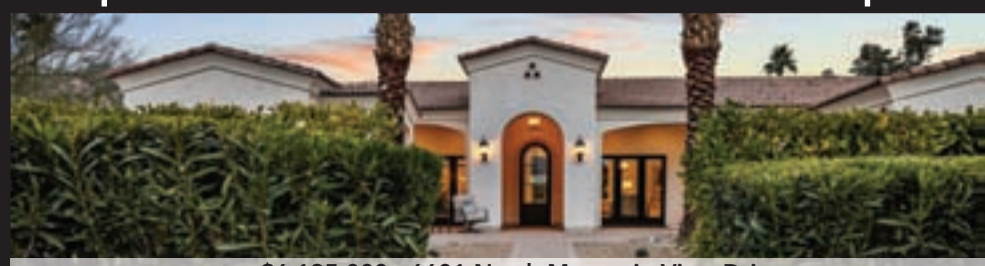


$8,749,000 5942 East Sage
5 bedrooms, 5 baths, 5,440 square feet
5942sage.com

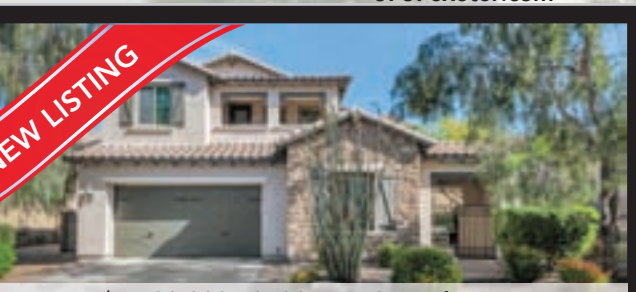
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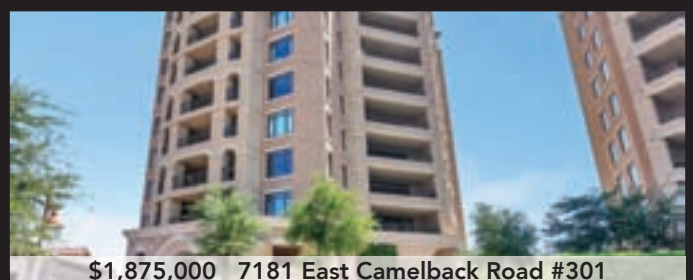
$7,995,000 6737 East Exeter
5 bedrooms, 7 baths, 6,876 square feet
6737exeter.com



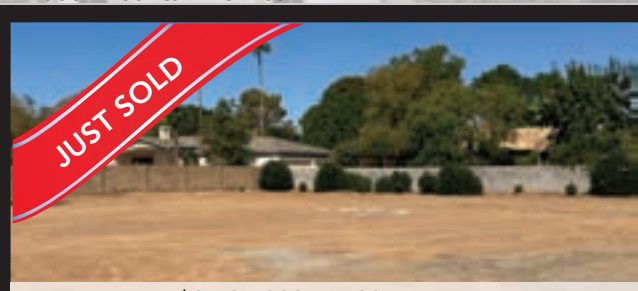
$6,195,000 6601 North Mountain View Drive
6 bedrooms, 7 baths, 6,809 square feet
6601mountainview.com



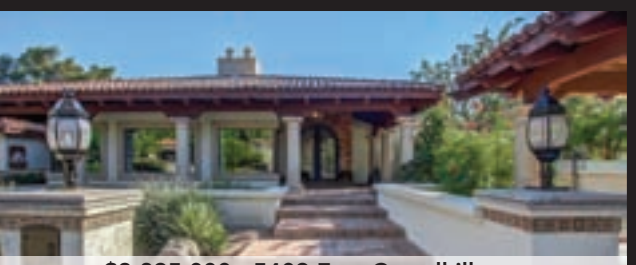
$1,199,000 3730 East Cat Balue
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,522 square feet



$1,875,000 7181 East Camelback Road #301
3 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2,296 square feet
7181camelback.com



$3,495,000 6733 East Exeter
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$3,895,000 5409 East Camelhill
5 bedrooms, 5 baths, 5,161 square feet
5409camelhill.com



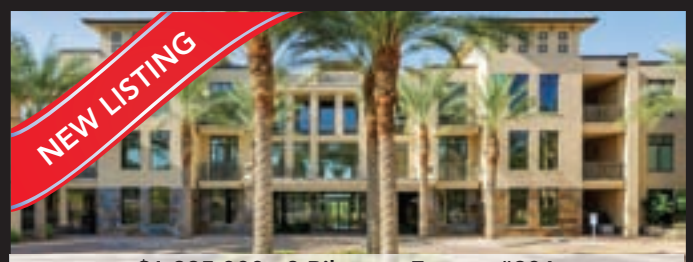
$18,000 per month 8350 East Via del Sol
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,783 square feet



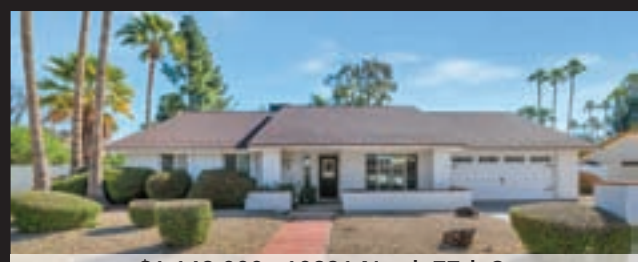
5115 East Exeter
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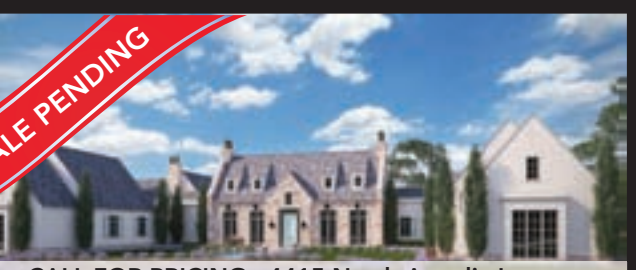
$4,095,000 5409 East McDonald Drive
6 bedrooms, 5 baths, 5,233 square feet
5409mcdonald.com



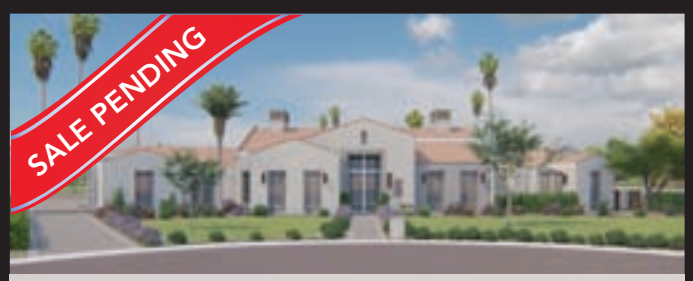
$1,295,000 8 Biltmore Estates #206
3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,084 square feet
biltmore206.com



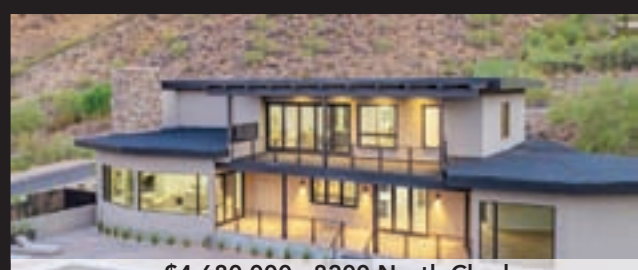
$1,149,000 10231 North 77th Street
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2,254 square feet
10231north77thstreet.com



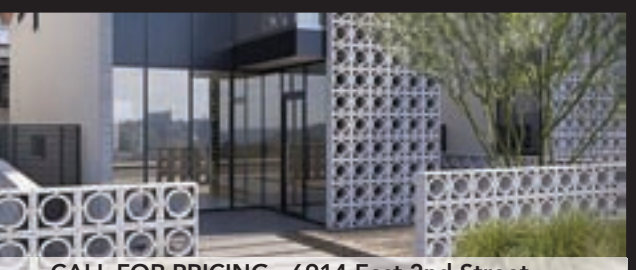
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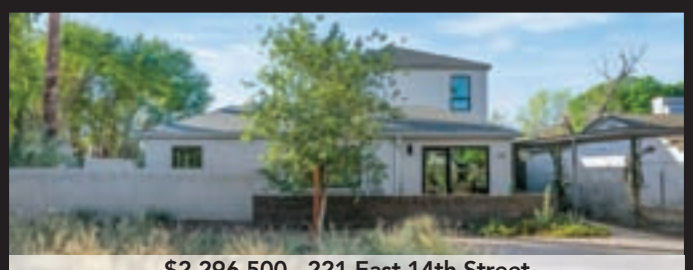
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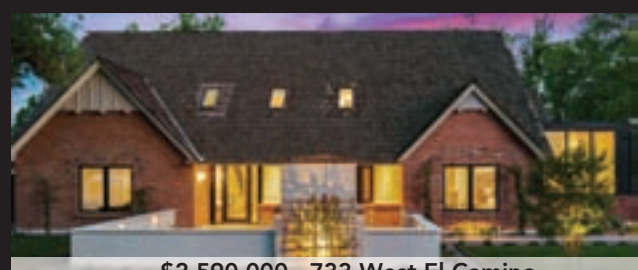
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Jonah Joffe



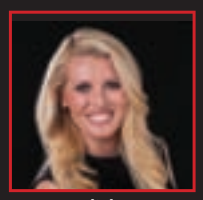
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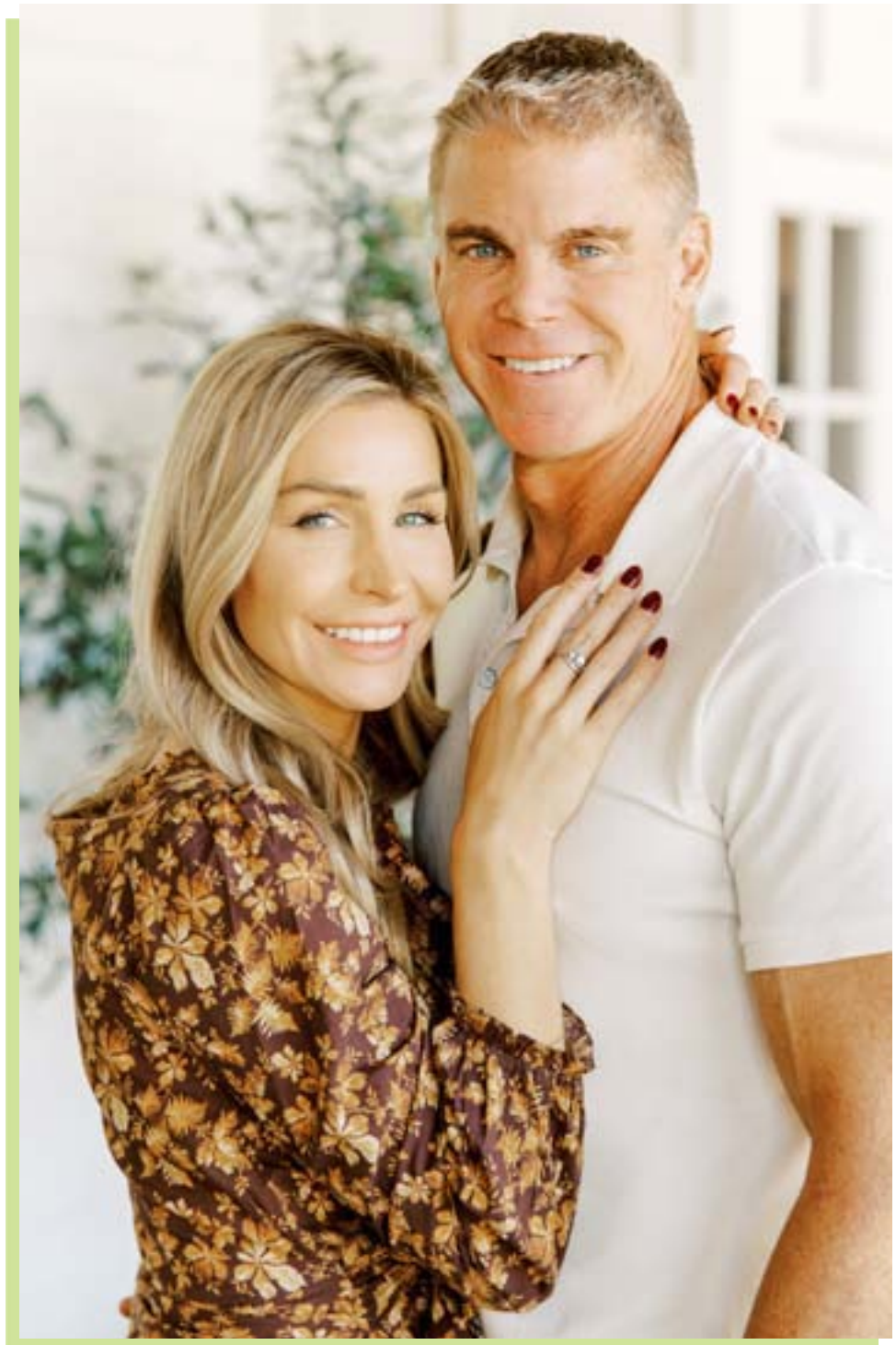
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In the Kitchen

with Caitlin and Ryan Jocque, owners of Eat Up Drive-In



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Caitlin and Ryan Jocque started their careers in the restaurant industry working their way through school, as many do. After graduation, they combined their knowledge and started a group called Jocque Concepts, which houses eateries in Phoenix and Scottsdale. One of the most recent is Eat Up Drive-In, a fast-casual dining experience in Arcadia that started with family in mind.

Give us a brief history of Jocque Concepts.

R: Like many of us, I worked in the service industry to support myself through school. The intent was to graduate and find a 'real job,' only to find myself in Las Vegas for many years still working in the service industry. After returning home to Arizona with a bit of money and some considerable market experience, I had a crazy idea to keep it going. In 2001, I started a company called Lucid Entertainment and opened my first place in Scottsdale in 2003 and second in Venice Beach in 2004. Jocque Concepts was formed years later when my wife (fiancé at the time) and I collaborated on creating and opening ChopShop in 2012.

C: Since then, we've grown and evolved with the help of an amazing team. There are seven restaurants under the umbrella of Jocque Concepts: Diego Pops, The Hot Chick, The Montauk, American Junkie, Pretty Please Lounge, The Lighthouse Café and Eat Up.

What are your titles and responsibilities?

C: We – along with a few partners – are the owners. We collaborate to create each concept, which is our favorite part. Ryan leads the overall business operation, and my efforts are to maintain the brand, which includes menus, uniforms, music, marketing, and more.

Did you always know you'd be in this industry?

C: It was considered a temporary job for both of us for many years. We started restaurant jobs in high school and college, and then it turned into something more. Ryan started as a dishwasher, and I was a host; we pretty much worked all the different jobs in a restaurant.

I studied design at ASU and always had a passion for design, but I didn't know how to turn that passion into a career. I met Ryan while working at a restaurant and started helping him with design for an existing project he was working on. That's when we decided to work together.

R: Before forming JC, I owned and operated Nikki's in Venice Beach, Blonde in Kansas City, American Junkie in Hermosa Beach – Gaslamp San Diego, Pussycat Lounge, Dirty Pretty and American Junkie in Scottsdale.

Where are you from?

C: I was born and raised in Phoenix, and Ryan moved here from Detroit as a kid. He has lived in Arcadia since he was eight years old. We both attended Arizona State.

What was the inspiration for starting Eat Up?

C: We're both parents with insanely packed schedules – as are many people – and we recognized a need for elevated fast food offering better ingredients, quality and taste. That was really it!

We came across the location and then came up with the idea. We knew that this kind of concept would complement the area. We've lived in Arcadia for a long time and were excited to serve the community with something we thought they needed.

Who came up with the menu items?

C: The menu creation is typically a collaboration between us and our two chefs, Hector Cruz and Nate Woods. Ryan and I have different food tastes, so we combined our favorites, wants, and needs to create a well-rounded menu.

We considered all options – a bit of what we like, what we think the neighborhood would like, and obviously what kids would like. A big part of it for me was wanting people to go there and get something they like and what their kids would like and actually eat.

Which item is the most popular?

C: I would say the hot chick sandwich. It's so good – crispy and spicy with a proprietary spice rub, coleslaw and pickles. Our baked potatoes and gluten-free chocolate chip cookies are also fan favorites, but it's so hard to pick. It's all good.

What – in your opinion – makes Eat Up so popular?

R: It may have to do with the fact that Caitlin and I conceptualized it

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around our family's wants and needs. We live and work in the area, our kids go to school across the street, and we frequent nearby retail and restaurants on a daily basis. From there, the concept was really built on one simple question: What offerings would our family enjoy having in the neighborhood? We are pleased that other families seem to be enjoying the same.

C: Because of its ease, location, and variety of delicious, quality items. Our amazing, friendly staff, too!

Jocque Concepts is family-run. Is it easier or harder to work with family?

R: It's both. We never set out to work together. It was intended to be temporary, much like our jobs when we started in this industry. Our workflow today is fairly seamless; we agree on concepts, look and feel, menu offerings, etc. Once a location is open for business, we have our own lanes to stick to.

This complementary workflow has made it easy, and it is likely why we have worked together for so long. The challenging part is not bringing work home. We are intentional when the time comes to turn the conversation from work to family. When we sit with our kids around the dinner table to talk about our day, the work hats come off and stay off.

Will your daughters be part of the industry?

C: They're six and eight right now, but they love playing restaurant at home and are always asking when they can start working at Eat Up, so… we'll see!

"The concept was really built on one simple question: What offerings would our family enjoy having in the neighborhood?"

Do you have any funny stories from your time in the industry thus far?

C: I worked in bars for a while, so I have plenty of stories, but I don't know if they're appropriate [*laughs*]. While working with Eat Up, though, having my daughters involved.

This was the first restaurant they were old enough to watch us create, and they would come taste-test the recipes. They're very proud. My oldest tells everyone she created the menu and designs [*laughs*]. Having them be part of this has been really special.

R: At the time, it wasn't funny, but in the late 90s, I worked at a Vegas nightclub where an exotic animal trainer was hired to bring a full-sized adult tiger to display. The handler charged patrons $10 to take a Polaroid photo while they stood alongside the uncaged tiger inside the operating club. A handful of us remained to close up when a coworker kicked the back door open to take out the trash, making a loud noise and flooding the dark venue with sunlight as the handler and the tiger approached.

The tiger got so spooked that it jumped straight up in the air, made a loud screech, and ripped itself loose from its handler. I jumped behind the nearest bar to take cover, only to find the tiger's handler behind the bar with me. I thought, 'This is it. I am going to be eaten by a tiger...which is a pretty cool way to go out, I suppose.' None of us knew where the tiger had gone and not one of us made a sound or moved a muscle for what seemed like an hour. We eventually found him, and I'm happy to report no one was hurt!

When you're not working, what are you doing?

C: Traveling, trying new restaurants, exercising and spending time with friends and family. I love to bake, but with a new baby at home, there's a lot going on.

What's next for Jocque Concepts?

C: We have two projects in the works in Old Town. They're very different from Eat Up [*laughs*]. One is a sports bar, and the other is a two-story rooftop bar. One is very me, and one is very Ryan. We're hoping to open them in the fourth quarter of this year.

Local students win Coca-Cola Scholarships

By Rachael Bouley



Sonya Colattur



Gariella Nakai



Monica Nitu

Sonya Colattur and Monica Nitu of Xavier, and Gabriella Nakai of Arcadia High are among 150 high school seniors chosen for the 2024 Coca-Cola Scholarship – a pool that saw over 103,800 applicants nationwide.

These students made it through a competitive selection process to receive a one-time $20,000 college scholarship.

Now in its 36th year, the Coca-Cola Scholars Program is the largest achievement-based, corporate-sponsored opportunity in the U.S. The company offers scholarships to students who demonstrate superior leadership, service and academics while inspiring positive change in their communities. Over $84 million has been awarded since the program began.

Sonya, Monica, and Gabriella were invited to attend the Coca-Cola Scholars Weekend in Atlanta from April 25 to 28, which included a banquet and a leadership development session with program alumni.

To be considered, students must be actively involved in their school and the broader community.

Sonya ticks those boxes, participating in Mock Trial for all four years at Xavier. She secured proclamations from Governors Doug Ducey and Katie Hobbs to recognize June 7-14 as Multiracial Heritage Week.

Sonya also raised awareness of companion pets for seniors through her nonprofit, GrandPaws Pantry, which she founded eight years ago to support the enduring connection between humans and animals.

She said she was ecstatic to receive the scholarship ahead of her move to the University of Pennsylvania to attend the Huntsman Program in International Studies and Business. She hopes to pursue a pre-law track or work in government and policy, with an interest in constitutional or immigration law.

"The Coca-Cola Scholarship brings together some of the brightest, kindest and most passionate youth in my generation and it's an honor to be in this community," Sonya said.

Monica displayed community involvement through her work with *Pierian Spring*, Xavier's art and writing magazine. As editor-in-chief, she celebrated and encouraged creative expression and helped grow the magazine through collaborative meetings and poetry workshops.

Her hard academic and extracurricular work paid off with the scholarship news, which will make a big difference as she plans to major in history at Columbia University while also fulfilling pre-med requirements.

"Being recognized as a 2024 Coca-Cola Scholar came as a complete surprise, but one filled with gratitude," Monica said. "Considering the caliber of past scholars and their achievements, I feel incredibly humbled to be counted among them."

Monica said she is grateful for the financial assistance and future guidance as she strives to attend medical school and continue supporting nonprofit initiatives.

"It connects me with a network of scholars with strong ambitions and diverse perspectives," Monica added. "This is invaluable for personal growth, professional opportunities and developing connections with like-minded peers that can last a lifetime."

At Arcadia High, Gabriella participated in Student Government all four years and served as an Arcadia Ambassador. She founded N.A.S.A. (Native American Students of Arcadia) to help grow the community and foster friendship.

"When I applied for the scholarship, it felt like a shot in the dark because it's so selective, but the worst that could happen would be for them to say no. The best thing is that I got it," Gabriella said. "It's incredible to see the passions other scholars have and how inspiring they are, but it's also amazing to know that the things I'm passionate about others are taking a real interest in and, in turn, are investing in me!"

Gabriella will take her scholarship to Stanford University and hopes it will connect her with other changemakers as she pursues public service advocacy.

"The scholarship means that someone else believes that the change I want to make in the world is feasible," Gabriella said. "This organization and selection committee have seen my impact and work in the community and want to invest support and money to ensure that I can pursue it in college and in the future."

High school seniors may apply for the scholarship starting August 1, 2024.

coca-colascholarsfoundation.org

National Merit Finalists include several area students

By Mallory Gleich

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation recognizes students with the highest performance on the PSAT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test). To become a finalist, students must have an academic record and other test scores consistent with their PSAT performance.

About 50,000 students nationwide are recognized. Of those, 34,000 receive commendations, and 16,000 are semifinalists. From there, 15,000 semifinalists become finalists, and around half of the finalists are scholarship winners.

About 1.5 million students take the PSAT every year. Students are notified early in their senior years if they received a commendation or semifinalist recognition. Semifinalists must complete a secondary application, including a transcript, letter of recommendation and an essay.

Students may receive scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, partnering businesses, organizations, or colleges. Here are the Arcadia area finalists.

LAUREN MATZ
Arcadia High


Lauren Matz

Lauren received a corporate scholarship from Northrop Grumman, amounting to $2,000 annually. She will be attending Boston University in the fall and majoring in film and television.

"I love writing scripts and hope to hone this skill at BU so I can one day write a full-length feature film or write for SNL – two of my biggest dreams. I will miss the strong support of the staff at AHS," Lauren said. "The encouragement I received from the Arcadia faculty was unmatched. Mrs. Dukelow, Mr. King, Ms. Zubia, and Mr. Fairchild were always available and ready to meet my needs, lend a hand and provide unwavering support."

Lauren also shouted out the College and Career Center, Dr. Steen and Mrs. Treon:

"They were beyond helpful. Whether it was reading my college essays and providing advice, helping me draft emails, or recommending scholarships to apply to, they were there to make my post-graduation dreams possible," Lauren said. "I am so grateful to have had such a wonderful faculty to rely on, and I will miss all of them."

MARY HERBERT
Veritas


Mary Herbert

Mary was offered the National Merit Finalist Scholarship Package at the University of Alabama, which covers tuition, room and board, and stipends for books, research, and other expenses.

After graduation, Mary will spend 18 months on a mission with her church in Saratoga Springs, Utah. Afterward, she plans to attend either the University of Alabama or GCU to study finance.

"I was able to put my scholarship at UA on hold, so I will be able to use it when I get back from my mission," Mary said. "I will miss the Veritas community the most. I formed a tight group of friends there, and I will miss seeing them every day."

ABIGAIL PEARSON, CARA SHILLINGER, SONYA COLATTUR, HARPER HIPPS, AVA SILVERNAIL
Xavier Prep


PHOTO: LISA ZUBA

Ava Silvernail, semifinalist Mackenzie Lopez, Abigail Pearson, Cara Schillinger, Sonya Colattur, Harper Hipps.

Abigail and Cara were awarded $2,500 scholarships. Abigail will attend Northwestern University this fall to study physics, while Cara will head to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study mechanical engineering.

"I will miss the people most after graduation," Cara said. "I am so grateful for the friendships and the wonderful teachers I've had over my four years who undoubtedly made a huge impact on my journey and who I am today."

Sonya also won $2,500 to further her college education. She will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the Huntsman International Studies and Business program.

"Through this program, I'll receive dual degrees and plan to study statistics or behavioral economics through the Wharton School of Business and International Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences," Sonya said.

Harper won the National Merit ViaSat Scholarship. She will receive $1,000 per year toward her college education at the University of California San Diego.

"I am majoring in biology, specializing in bioinformatics," Harper said. "I will miss the supportive environment that an all-girls school provides. Xavier creates a motivating and inspiring culture that has allowed me to grow beyond my expectations."

Ava is attending Boston University and plans to double major in TV/film management and data science. She was awarded the $25,000 per year Presidential Scholarship.

NATHAN CAI, CHARLES JUDD
Brophy Prep


Nathan Cai


Charles Judd

Nathan will attend Yale this fall and plans to study ethics, politics and economics. His $2,500 scholarship will help pay for tuition.

"I'll miss the brotherhood I've cherished for the past four years at Brophy and the amazing faculty and teachers who do so much to support us," Nathan said.

Charles was awarded an Honorary National Merit Scholarship, which he received in lieu of a scholarship. He is headed to Trinity College in Dublin to study joint honors computer science and linguistics.

"I'm delighted to receive the award and excited to make the most of my time in Dublin, taking courses in the Irish language and participating in student societies," Charles said. "I will miss participating in Speech & Debate alongside Nathan. It meant so much to me as a space for discourse, self-expression and community, and my time competing at tournaments with incredible people is something I'll carry with me throughout my life."

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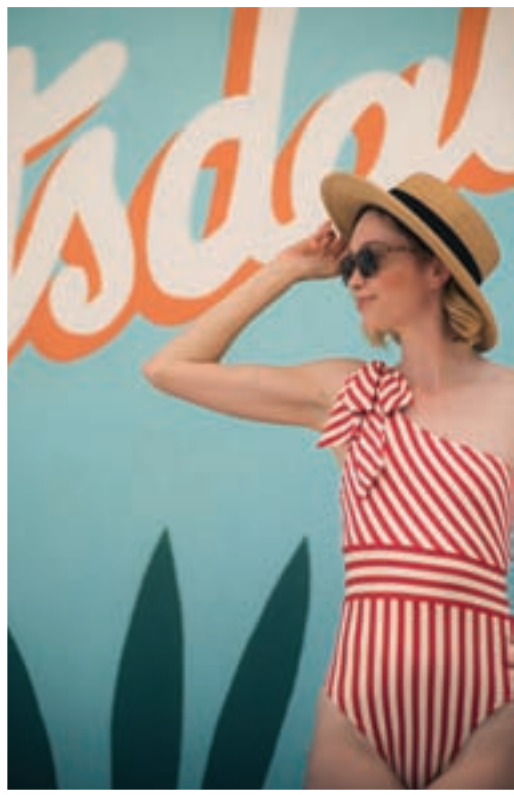
JUNE DAYS

Old Town SCOTTSDALE

On the list of most popular months to visit Old Town Scottsdale, June makes a compelling argument to be number one. What began as a fun concept to kick off summer before the heat set in, June Days has become a celebration of all things that make this area so unique. With daily activities and events – stadium tours, scavenger hunts, fitness pop-ups, tequila pairings, breakfast at the farmer's market, stories & sweets, live music – June Days leaves visitors with suntans and sunshiny demeanors, and a yearning to return again for more signature Old Town fun.











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"Meet Mr." | Ray Artigue

Dick Van Arsdale

Dick Van Arsdale began dribbling a basketball when he was five years old. His grandfather put up a hoop on a dirt pad in his backyard; the rest, as they say, is history. That makeshift playground would be the start of a long and illustrious career in the NBA.

Van Arsdale has an identical twin brother, Tom, and he, too, went on to play professional basketball. Together, they comprise an impressive chapter in the rich folklore of Indiana sports.

"Growing up, we battled all the time on the court. Tom would win one day, and me the next," the 81-year-old Arcadia resident remembers, adding, "We smacked one another pretty good."

> ***"My mother was a tough woman, and though she tried to be patient with the recruiters and scouts, my brother and I always knew we wanted to play for the Indiana Hoosiers."***

The twins played at Emmerich Manual High School, known for its basketball prowess. In 1961, they were both named "Indiana Mr. Basketball," an annual award given to the top high school player in the state. Though they were recruited by numerous schools throughout the Midwest, it was never really a question of where they would end up.

"My mother was a tough woman, and though she tried to be patient with the recruiters and scouts, my brother and I always knew we wanted to play for the Indiana Hoosiers," Van Arsdale said.

And play they did, ultimately named to multiple All-American teams and then being drafted into the NBA. Van Arsdale was selected by the New York Knicks and was named to the NBA All-Rookie team in 1966 before being drafted by the Phoenix Suns in the 1968 expansion.

Van Arsdale had nearly as many nicknames as he did free throws – he was one of the league's most accomplished – and they ranged from "Van" to "The Flying Dutchman" to "The Original Sun." He would spend 40 years with the franchise as an eventual Ring-of-Honor inductee, head of player personnel, general manager, interim head coach, and, for many memorable years, the color commentator alongside the legendary broadcaster Al McCoy.

"When I got the call from Jerry Colangelo being told I was going to Phoenix, I was shocked. My wife was crying because we didn't want to leave New York. But we loaded up the car and headed west," Van Arsdale recalled. "I was fortunate. I had a great run, and to top it all off, Tom and I finished up together, playing for the Suns in 1977."

Van Arsdale's days are slower-paced now but still full. He and his brother own a retail store in Old Town Scottsdale called Van Arsdale ART, full of their original paintings and other creations. Van Arsdale can be found most days sitting out front, sketching and painting while enjoying a cigar. People walk by, unaware they are passing a local legend. Van Arsdale and his wife have two children and have lived in Arcadia for 15 years.



"We just love it. There are lots of really nice people," he said, recalling a special phone call that preceded their move to the Valley.

"I remember Bill Shover calling me after I was traded to the Suns. He used to be with an Indiana newspaper but was then living in Phoenix. He reassured me that everything was going to be all right." That advice turned out to be the understatement of a lifetime.

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Started in Arcadia, V's Barbershop celebrates 25 years

By Mallory Gleich

Jim Valenzuela distinctly remembers the first time he entered a barbershop. Joined by his father, he recalls the booster chair needed; the smell of the tonics; the sometimes-inappropriate discussions between barbers and the patrons. Most of all, Jim remembers the unmistakable feeling of walking out of the shop with a new haircut. It was these father-son excursions that inspired him to open V's Barbershop in Arcadia 25 years ago.

Jim moved from Tucson to Phoenix in 1985 after graduating from the University of Arizona. Prior to V's, he was the founding Executive Director of the Maricopa Faculty Association, later known as MedPro and District Medical Group. When he left MedPro, V's was the first business owned and operated solely by the native Arizonan – although he is not a barber by trade.

"I wanted a barbershop to replicate some of the memories I had with my dad. In 1999, there was truly little cool about barbershops," Jim said. "Not being a barber allowed me to see the opportunity differently than those who toiled behind the chair. It was also naïve and I had much to learn about the industry. Thankfully, I am a quick study."

As the founder and CEO, Jim's job is "to conduct the band," and oversee all aspects of running the business. Upper management has been with V's for 20-plus years and Jim says at this point, they can finish each other's sentences. At the beginning, though, it took a while for him to get his bearings.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM VALENZUELA

Jim Valenzuela and his father on opening day in 1999.

Once he decided to open up shop, he needed to learn everything he could about barbering, gather memorabilia, restore authentic barber chairs, find the real estate, design the shop, name the business, find barbers who could shave, prepare the initial marketing plans, buy product and then place state-of-the-art technology in the shops.

"Since I wasn't a barber, everything was a challenge," Jim said. "I did not have a staff and it was only me that did all the work up to opening day in 1999."

When looking for locations for that first V's, Jim knew he wanted it to be somewhere in Arcadia, as it was a cohesive neighborhood – and he knew quite a few who called the area home.

"I had a hunch that if we could become Arcadia's barbershop, we would have a chance to get known throughout the city since many captains of industry lived there and they would inform others that a new, cool, and well-done barbershop had opened," Jim said. "That hunch proved to be correct."

Now, there are 60 V's Barbershops across 19 states. Jim and his team are excited about the anniversary, which they will celebrate with a company-wide celebration in Phoenix that they call "The Summit."

"It feels unreal. I didn't know if V's would last a year let alone 25 years. For me to have witnessed so many kids grow up coming here is the most rewarding part to me," Jim said. "It validates my original thinking of starting a barbershop that my son and I could enjoy. That so many others enjoy it with their sons is incredibly heartwarming."

Although his son now lives in Chicago, Jim's daughter, Bella, recently started working for the V's family as a merchandising specialist in the e-commerce division, so it really is – and will continue to be – a family affair.

vbarbershop.com



Civilian Review Board is a go!



KEVIN ROBINSON
Councilman
District 6
602-262-7491
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As someone who spent his career – 36 and a half years to be exact – in law enforcement, I know how important accountability and transparency are to building strong relationships and trust between our police department and the community it protects.

One thing I was always proud of with the Phoenix Police Department is that I was able to say that I helped someone every single day. The overwhelming majority of police officers feel the same way and think transparency with their community is paramount.

With this in mind, a top priority of mine coming into office was to help get the Civilian Review Board up and running. After some considerable time researching the most effective review boards across the country and working with city staff and my colleagues, I feel proud of what the city was able to put together. We were able to move the Civilian Review Board forward with a vote at a council meeting in May.

This board, which will consist of Mayor-appointed residents of Phoenix from different backgrounds, will be a recommending body helping the police department and our Office of Accountability and Transparency (OAT).

As complaints are investigated from within the department, OAT will monitor and review completed investigations and provide a report to the civilian review board. Once the review board has received the report, they have an opportunity to make recommendations to the police department such as helpful trainings and ways to improve future investigations.

The Council has had an opportunity to bring stakeholders into conversations like this, and work together to make the changes we want to see in our city. I'm proud to present something that I believe will considerably help both the Phoenix Police Department and the residents of Phoenix.

Thank you,

Kevin

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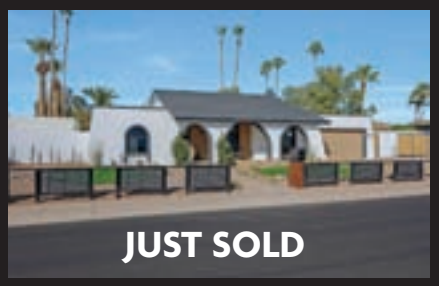
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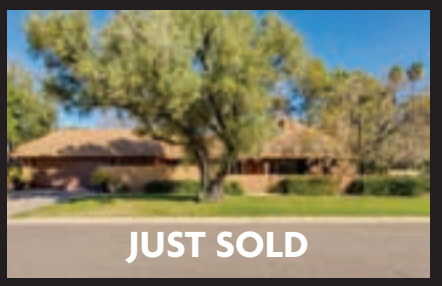
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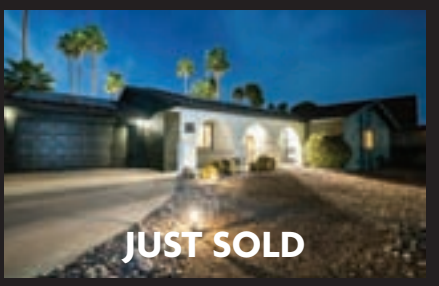
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RETSY | Forbes GLOBAL PROPERTIES

Veritas Prep junior named Youth Ambassador

By Rachael Bouley

An international adventure awaits Katya Zach, who will head to Grenoble, France, at the foot of the French Alps, to stay with a host family for three weeks as a Phoenix Sister Cities Youth Ambassador.

Katya is one of two U.S. youth ambassadors making the trip in June. The mission? Experience life in another country and gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of other cultures as they meet with their counterparts.

After returning to the States, Katya will host her French counterpart for three weeks. The latter will live with the family and experience the sights and sounds of the American Southwest. Katya said that this eye-opening experience is a huge honor.

"I'm incredibly excited about the trip and want to make it as meaningful as possible for my counterpart in France and me," she said. "I'm also happy to be visiting the beautiful city of Grenoble to form connections, experience the culture and explore the area."

Katya got involved in the program thanks to her school counselor, who recommended she apply. The process required a personal statement and several essays.

"I'm excited to meet my host sister in person. I take French in school, so this will be a perfect opportunity to fully immerse myself in the language," she said. "I'm also excited for the food and the beautiful landscape of the Alps."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATYA ZACH

Katya Zach will represent Phoenix Sister Cities on a trip to France this summer.

There's lots more to look forward to, from hikes with her host family to sightseeing and exploring local villages. Katya said she's intrigued by the differences between the U.S. and France and aims to develop a stronger appreciation for both cultures.

"I want to get a broader view of the world and enter into the culture as a tourist, but also as an active part of my host family and their customs," Katya said.

Phoenix joined Sister Cities in 1972 and has been linked with Grenoble since 1990. The nonprofit fosters relationships between the people of Phoenix and Sister Cities worldwide to promote friendship, peace and prosperity.

The Ambassador Exchange Program is designed to create meaningful connections with other countries through their youth, and while representing Phoenix Sister Cities is a big responsibility, Katya said she is ready for it.

"We expect to meet with the mayor of Grenoble, government officials, and school administrators," Katya said. "We will learn about the culture as much as we can and participate in their day-to-day lives to better understand France and its people."

She hopes this is just the start of a long-lasting connection and dreams of returning to the country for work or study.

"My goal is to study astronomy/astrophysics in university and one day participate in a mission to outer space. I am also interested in medicine and forensics," Katya said. "Whichever path I take, I know that the exchange program will give me insight into future opportunities that I could never get anywhere else."

Katya hopes to inspire other students to apply for the program, too.

"When I applied, I never thought I would actually get the opportunity to do something like this," she said. "It paid off and taught me to have confidence in myself and what I can achieve."

phoenixsistercities.org



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RETSY | Forbes


Mastro's


SugarJam The Southern Kitchen


Kasai Japanese Steakhouse

The Dining Scoop

This month, we're showing dads some love by sharing a few businesses in Arcadia (and beyond) that are hosting specials for the father figures in our lives. Happy Father's Day to you all!

FOOD

Cold Beer and Cheeseburgers (3950 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix) offers a "dads eat free" special on June 16. Dads will receive a complimentary meal with the purchase of another.

coldbeers.com

Frasher's Bar-B-Que Arcadia (3222 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix) will have $1 beers for dad on Father's Day, plus a whole hog buffet and six-meat sampler available to share with the family. There will be a splash pad on the patio for the kiddos – unless dad needs to cool off, too!

frasherssmokehouse.com

J&G Steakhouse (6000 E. Camelback Road, Scottsdale) will serve a Father's Day dinner featuring an amuse-bouche of black truffle cheese fritters. For the second course, guests can choose from the J&G chopped salad or charred corn ravioli. Entrée selections are roasted blackened free-range chicken or a marinated prime flat iron steak accompanied by broccoli condiment, golden garlic and chili. Price: $65 per person.

jgsteakhousescottsdale.com

The Phoenician Tavern (6000 E. Camelback Road, Scottsdale) will offer a Triple Dog Dare special for lunch or dinner. The meal includes two courses and a drink. Main entrees are Kobe beef sliders or a triple bacon cheeseburger. Both dishes are served with tots or a pub salad. A craft beer trio, house margarita, or a soft drink is included. Price: $25 per person.

thephoenician.com

Mastro's (6991 E. Camelback Road, Scottsdale) will serve up its finest dishes to celebrate all the wonderful dads out there, including the tomahawk chop, the smoking seafood tower, white cheddar lobster mac and cheese, herb roasted branzino and more. This June, Mastro's will also have a limited time menu that includes wagyu steak sashimi, strawberry butter cake and a wine feature from Round Pond Winery.

mastrosrestaurants.com

On June 16, **Twin Peaks** (2135 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix) offers dads a $14 cheeseburger and 22 oz. draft of choice, or a $12 cheeseburger with a soda or tea.

twinpeaksrestaurant.com

2322 Private Dining (2322 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix) is offering a special for Father's Day: you and nine guests are invited to dinner – with a five-course menu of your choice – on June 14 or 15 at 6 p.m. Menu is customizable (dishes like Peruvian white fish ceviche, porcini dusted prime filet or panna cotta) and starts at $100 per person. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages are available for purchase.

2322phx.com

WORTH THE DRIVE

Ling's Wok Shop (20511 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale) is ready to help make Father's Day memorable with its "Dads Ea Free" special. Papas, dads, and daddy-o will receive a complimentary entree with th purchase of another.

lingswokshop.com

SugarJam The Southern Kitchen (1511 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale) offers a variet of Southern-inspired comfort dishes all da on June 16. These include a 12 oz. ribeye wit garlic herbed mashed potatoes and sautée broccoli, bone-in short ribs with garli mashed potatoes and roasted Brussels, an the Beermosa with orange blossom beer an orange juice. Prices vary.

sjsouthernkitchen.com

Roaring Fork (4800 N. Scottsdale Road Scottsdale) is offering menu items at discour prices for dads on June 16. Starting at 4 p.m diners can choose items like an iceber BLT, queso con Puerco, green chili por stew, rotisserie chicken flatbread and more Prices vary.

roaringfork.com

Ling & Louie's Asian Bar and Grill (939 E. Shea Blvd., Scottsdale) celebrates with a "Si + Sizzle" special. This includes a two-cours meal and features Louie's Old Fashioned c Emperor's Manhattan. The first 30 guests t order one of the featured cocktails will receiv a souvenir flask. Ling & Louie's will also giv each dad a $10 off certificate for their next visi

lingandlouies.com

Picazzo's (4669 E. Cactus Road, Phoenix will give dads who dine in a $20 gift car to use on a return visit. The menu include small plates, pizzas, pastas, salads, and strictl vegan dishes.

picazzos.com

Kasai Japanese Steakhouse (14344 N Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale) will serve thre specials fit for a dad! The slow-roasted wagy beef brisket includes a Portobello mushroon sauce, roasted red pepper garlic mashed an grilled asparagus. The 14 oz. wagyu ribey is served with mushroom sauce, au grati potatoes, and grilled asparagus, and ther will also be a ribeye served teppanyaki style Prices vary.

kasaiteppan.com



Golden Keys Community
6233 E CATALINA DRIVE

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



El Coronado Estates
3116 N 47TH STREET

Tucked away on one of the largest lots, 10,800 sq ft in El Coronado Estates, lies this charming quintessential 3000+sq ft Arcadia Ranch home built by modern builders and remodeled by well-known local contractor Don Matteson. The Gourmet Kitchen has a commercial grade gas stove top, luxurious custom cabinets and oversized island which opens to a cozy family room & dining room resembling her previous Calle Del Norte house. Featuring 4 spacious BR, 3.5 BA, laundry room & storage, and many patios surrounded by enchantingly lush landscaped grounds with arbors & English gardens. Top rated Arcadia Schools, amazing neighborhood with cul de sac lots, and a community pool!



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Thirsty Lion



Musical Instrument Museum

Thirsty Lion (2000 E. Rio Salado Pkwy., Tempe) will celebrate Father's Day from June 14-16. A specialty brunch – featuring cocktails like the Wasabi Bloody Mary – will include items like adobo pork benedict, breakfast burger, corned beef hash, and spicy fried chicken and waffles. A free draft beer or non-alcoholic beverage and a "Father's Day Card" discount on his next visit will be available on June 16 only.

thirstyliongastropub.com

32 Shea (10626 N. 32nd St., Phoenix) features Father's Day biscuits and gravy for $8. Also, for the entire day, dads can order a drip coffee for free at the coffee bar.

32shea.com

Café Allegro at the **Musical Instrument Museum** (4725 E. Mayo Blvd., Phoenix) offers a lunch from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Father's Day. In between exploring, dads can enjoy a three-course meal with options like arancini, grilled steak salad, or croquet monsieur, plus dessert and a choice of alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverage. Price: $48 per person.

mim.org

Lakeside Bar & Grill (9980 W. Happy Valley Pkwy., Peoria) will be honoring dads by featuring specials on June 16: $3 for a half dozen wings, $6 Lakeside burgers, $2 domestic pints, $3 premium pints and $5 you-call-it bourbon or whiskey on the rocks.

lakesidebarandgrillaz.com

If you happen to find yourself on the east side, **Red, White & Brew** (6740 E. McDowell Road, Mesa) is offering special Father's Day entrees like bulgogi boneless short rib with wasabi mashed potatoes and flame grilled mahi-mahi with saffron lobster sauce.

rwbaz.com

FUN

If you feel like celebrating more than once, check out the Wine Dinner Series at **The Market by Jennifer's** (3603 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix). Every Thursday in June from 7-9 p.m., guests can experience Italian flavors and pairings curated by expert sommeliers and Chef-Owner Jennifer Russo. The series features a four-course tasting menu with items like prosecco and salted cod risotto, bucatini pasta with basil pesto and strawberry tiramisu. Price: $60 per person.

themarketbyjennifer.com

Camelback Village Racquet & Health Club (4444 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix) is offering a Father's Day package that includes a 60-minute signature massage and a Gentlemen's Special Facial Treatment with microdermabrasion and a brow clean-up. The price is $240 plus $10 in bonus cards for every $100 in gift card purchases from June 1-16.

villageclubs.com

Tracy Dempsey Originals (1325 W. University Dr., Tempe) will host a wine tasting on Father's Day weekend (June 14) from 3-5 p.m. Dennis Willis of Hereafter Wines will share some of his favorite wines from Hereafter's offerings. There will also be charcuterie boxes available for purchase – in case you and your guests decide to make it a happy hour! Reserve a charcuterie box no later than June 10. This event is free.

tracydempseyoriginals.com

RESTAURANT NEWS

Frasher's Smokehouse (3222 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix) is changing its name! **Frasher's Bar-B-Que Arcadia** will be celebrating the entire month of June and highlighting a new bar, chef, menu and patio setup.

frasherssmokehouse.com

A new micro-distillery has opened in Old Town Scottsdale. **One Handsome Bastard** is a full-service restaurant and bar that offers house-made vodka and gin, plus cocktails, specialty drinks, and a food menu with burgers, sandwiches, flatbreads, and more. Ten percent of vodka sales go toward Valley nonprofits to help in the fight against cancer.

onehandsomebastard.com



Phoenix chef/restauranteur Doug Robson opened **Tesota** (300 W. Camelback Road, Phoenix) in May. Set up inside the indoor-outdoor space that previously housed Southern Rail, Tesota's lunch and dinner dishes range from steaks and seafoods, to Mediterranean, Asian and South American fare. The eatery also offers craft cocktails, beers and wines.

tesotaphx.com

A new cocktail experience called **The Goose** opened in the Mercado del Lago Plaza (8300 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale). The drink menu includes classic cocktails and modern variations, like The Down Comforter: smoked wagon bourbon, Amaro Lucano Anniversario, pistachio orgeat and Australian coffee bitters. From Crust Simply Italian kitchen, the food menu features sharable plates, select pizzas and desserts.

thegooseaz.com

Oliver's Modern American (3207 N. Hayden Road, Scottsdale) opened in May in a rebuilt mid-century modern building that was once the home of the country's only Polynesian Dairy Queen. Chef Kent Macaulay will serve "modern takes" on classic dishes like Moroccan chicken skewers, coffee-crusted New York Strip, scallops, and asparagus-whipped feta. An extensive wine list and craft cocktails like the Ancho Margarita are available.

oliversaz.com

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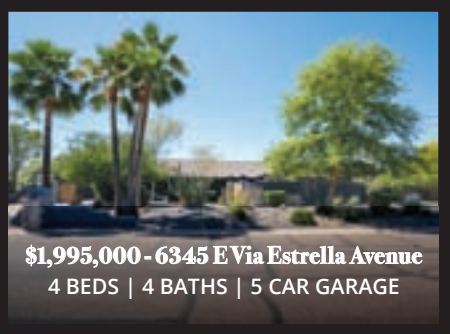
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NEW PRICE

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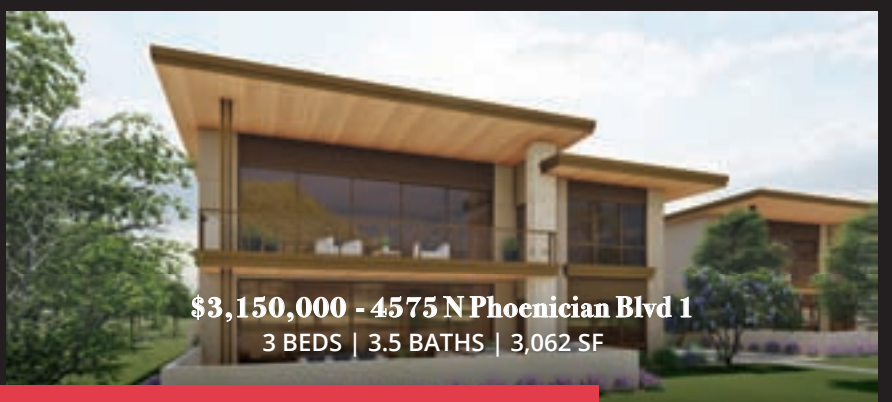






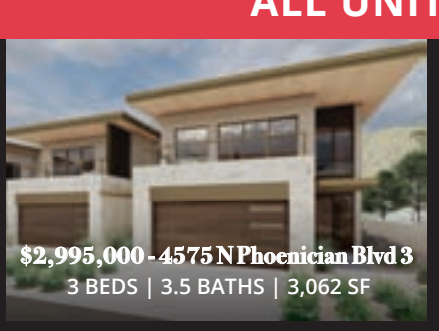


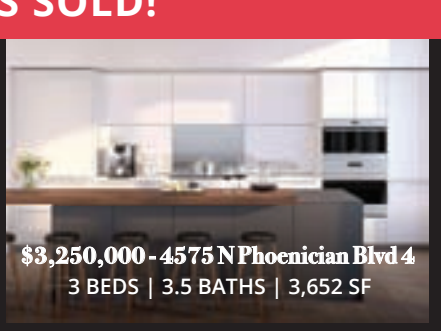
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Arcadia Little League reflects on record season

By Jennifer Marshall

Arcadia Little League (ALL) received a record number of registrations this year, with over 1,000 kids playing on 87 teams across baseball and softball divisions.

ALL was established in 1957 and has since become the largest collection of leagues in the state. It operates as a nonprofit under the umbrella of Little League International.

Games are played at several venues around Arcadia. All lower-age division softball and baseball games are played at Camelback Christian Church and Echo Canyon School. Ingleside Middle School hosts the major and minor baseball games.

> ***We are fortunate to have extremely smart and capable board members who volunteer their time, brains and talents to ensure each kid has a great experience.***

"We had a great opening night celebration," President Mike Ord said. "Diamondback outfielder Alek Thomas threw the first pitch and signed autographs. We also presented our annual community service award to Chuck and Diane Kelhoffer, who started the first softball league of ALL in 1998. We're still going strong more than 20 years later."

On opening night, teams played three games. Fly Bye Pizza, Scooptacular, and Kona Ice served cool treats.

"During the first pitch, we asked all players to join us on the field to participate in the ceremony. It is such a wonderful night seeing alumni come back and support the younger generations," ALL's Cheri Pierce said.

"My favorite memory from Opening Night was meeting Alek Thomas. It is so amazing that we both play baseball, but it's his job," participant Charlie P. said.

AAA baseball and softball – both minor and major divisions – kicked off championship games in early May, with the Home Run Derby taking place on May 5. This year's winner was Clemmer Wells.

"This year's event was called 'Dingers De Mayo' and over 300 people attended," Ord said. "Along with opening night festivities and the coaches' softball game, the derby is one of our main community events held each season."

The league is in its 67th year.

"Record-high numbers have been gratifying, but it's been challenging in many respects. We are fortunate to have extremely smart and capable board members who volunteer their time, brains and talents to ensure each kid has a great experience," Ord said. "They focus on ensuring all of the 'back of house' functions operate seamlessly so that the magic can happen on the field."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARCADIA LITTLE LEAGUE

Clemmer Wells won this year's Home Run Derby.

After the championships, ALL announced their all-star teams and coaches as they started the league's postseason play. With multiple district championships and top-five state finishes over the last five years, these baseball and softball all-stars hoped to make strong showings again this year at the district and state tourneys.

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SUMMER VACATION PHOTOS THAT MADE OUR COVER:

2023: Garrett, Katie, Riley, Parker and Frances Otondo at Glacier National Park.

2022: Henry McCarty (with Zane Gulick behind) at the Arizona Country Club.

2021: Avianna and Antonella Klein at Mount Rushmore.

2020: Cole Krawczyk and Loki take in the views at Yellowstone National Park.

Send your photos to editor@arcadianews.com
Be sure to let us know the names of the family or people in the photo, where you went and what you did!

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

Student volunteer group helps Packathon reach 136K meals

By Jennifer Marshall

Veritas Prep's Great Hearts, Great Hands Group had a busy year, but one project left a lasting impression on them and their community. Sixty students volunteered at the Arcadia Cares: Food for Kidz Packathon, helping pack meals for families in need.

"The group is comprised of dedicated students who are making an impact in the community," Jason Moore, Great Hearts Marketing Specialist, said. "Last year, these students volunteered over 1,400 hours, demonstrating their commitment to fostering a culture of compassion and community engagement."

The club is dedicated to "bringing the Veritas ideals of truth, goodness, and beauty to the Phoenix community through volunteering." Members participate in projects on and off campus throughout the year.

The eighth annual Packathon was successful as Arcadians headed to Prince of Peace Church to help pack meals for disadvantaged families. This year, two types of meals were packed: one with oatmeal and the other with rice, beans, veggies and vitamins. Thanks to more than 550 total volunteers, 136,000 meals were put together.

"I've done a lot of service projects, but I really like this one. I felt like I was directly affecting someone's life that needs it, while also having a good time with my friends, which is what all the best service projects are," member Avangeline Bailey said.

After the event, the food was distributed throughout the Valley to food banks and other charities, where it reaches families facing food insecurity.

"The Veritas community is amazing. The impressive amount of time and energy that goes into projects like this underscores the dedication to making a positive impact," Media Coordinator Ginny Cardenas said. "It's a testament to the collective efforts of the students. Whether organizing events, participating in celebrations, or contributing to art and culture, they demonstrate the power of unity in service."

"This isn't a charity as that term is usually defined and used," Event Chair Stephen Crofton said. "Packathon is merely the name given to a charitable event organized and conducted by volunteers. It was a wonderful feeling to exceed our goal this year. The event continues to be very successful because of financial support and hundreds of volunteers."

The next Packathon will happen February 28 and March 1, 2025.

popphoenix.org

SEEDHOUSE



4501 N 32nd St.

Rising senior participates in Student Leaders Program

By Sherry Sklar

Nicholas Larrain, a junior at Brophy Prep, is poised to embark on a transformative experience, as he was selected for a summer internship with Bank of America's Student Leadership program.

This coveted opportunity will not only see him travel to Washington, D.C. but also pave the way for his future as a community leader while participating in a program designed to cultivate the next generation.

"When I was accepted, I felt as if I were Charlie in the chocolate factory and I had found the golden ticket," he said.

The path to becoming a Bank of America Student Leader was not without challenges. Nicholas navigated a rigorous application process, which required him to articulate his experiences and aspirations through essay-based reflections.

There are six essays in the application; four of them have a 1,000-character limit and two have a 2,000-character limit.

Nicholas spent 20 hours on the essays over the span of four weeks.

Community service has been a consistent part of Nicholas's life, a journey that began in sixth grade at Christ Lutheran School. Since then, he has volunteered at several nonprofits, amassing over 400 service hours.

This past winter, he was already preparing for a summer internship, diligently researching an opportunity that would allow him to contribute at the highest level. The Bank of America Student Leader Program stood out for its leadership, commitment and social awareness. It aligns perfectly with Nicholas's aspirations to contribute to his community and study business in college.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY MABRY

Nicholas Larrain will head to Washington, D.C., this summer.

"I've always felt the need to give back and don't see it as a chore. I characterize myself as a servant-leader and focus on putting others first," he said. "My community work led me to apply for the Bank of America Student Leaders. I am interested in how my leadership skills will develop through this experience."

Bank of America handpicks approximately 300 students across 100 communities each year for the program. This year, 7,000 students applied. The program is highly competitive, with an overall acceptance rate between five and eight percent. Participants are assigned paid internships at local nonprofits while developing community, social and business leadership skills. Nicholas is one of five chosen from Arizona.

The internship wraps with a week-long summit in Washington, D.C., scheduled for July 22–27. Nicholas looks forward to meeting his cohort of student leaders in person and exploring the intersection of civics, politics and business.

His 8-week paid internship will happen at the Boys & Girls Club of the Valley, an organization that provides after-school and summer programs for more than 16,000 young people.

Nicholas sees this opportunity as a natural progression of his current work as a "Kids Go" program volunteer at Saving Amy, where he mentors children transitioning out of homelessness.

Nicholas's schedule is hectic, and this future leader expertly balances his volunteer schedule with rigorous academics – but he said it took a lot of practice and a bit of help from dad.

"I rely heavily on my planner to keep me on task and moving forward, but my father has most influenced me. He has excellent time management skills, which he developed in the Marines and passed onto me," Nicholas said. "He gives 110 percent to everything he does, which I try to emulate with my service, classwork, or anything else I participate in. I'd say he inspires me to be better and achieve."

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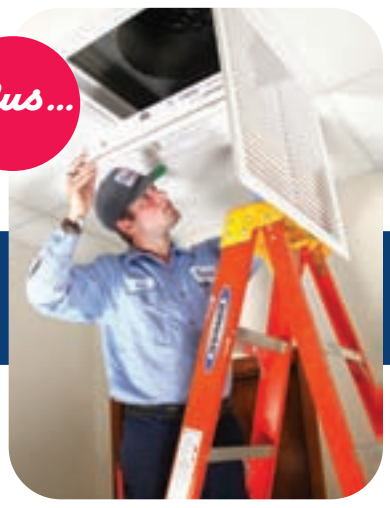


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One week of love and appreciation for our area educators

By Tiffany Gonzalez

Early May marked Teacher Appreciation Week, and Arcadia area schools showed their support with special activities to honor educators and their dedicated efforts in and out of the classroom. Take a look at what schools got up to for this year's appreciation week.

ARCADIA HIGH

Arcadia's parent teacher organization partnered with alumni and Leo's Ice Cream Truck to host the Teacher Olympics. Educators, admin, support staff and bus drivers indulged in five days of fun. Principal Danskey lit the Olympic torch in the front office to kick off the week.

The festivities began with Bronze Medal Day, which featured energy bars and power beverages. Silver Medal Day featured a mobile coffee cart and Parisian-inspired pastries. All-Around Day included a popcorn bar and other treats. The week finished off strong with Gold Medal Day and treats from Leo's Ice Cream Truck.

"Our PTO did a phenomenal job recognizing and honoring our teachers and staff who work so tirelessly throughout the school year to support our students," Assistant Principal Dr. Sara Johnson said. "I think our teachers felt like gold medalists all week, from the wonderful coffee and breakfast to the snacks and notes to the teachers."

BILTMORE PREP

Biltmore Prep's PTO was inspired to have some fun this week and show their appreciation with a board game theme. Sayings like "We would be in TROUBLE without you," and "We love you to pieces" took over, with students joining the fun by bringing their teachers their favorite drinks and showering them with compliments, thank you notes and flowers. There was plenty of candy, coffee and sweets to go around. At the end of the week, teachers played Spin the Wheel to win gift cards.

CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL

This year, CLS took the sweet route with the theme "How Sweet It Is to Be Taught by You." On Monday, teachers enjoyed sandwiches, wraps and salad. Tuesday was all about sweet treats, Wednesday was breakfast from Daily Dose, Thursday was a fiesta lunch and on Friday, teachers were treated to a happy hour with appetizers and AJ's tea. Students or parents stopped by to write a note of appreciation to staff members.

"On Friday, the students dressed like their favorite teacher, which is always a hit because normally they have to wear a uniform," CLS staff member Kim Walton said. "We are spoiled. Families decorated doors, brought treats and coffee, sent notes, etc. It's a lovely week for the entire staff, including the office and maintenance."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ECS, CLS AND HOPI ELEMENTARY



Echo Canyon's "Shining Star" educators.



Hopi Elementary's door decor.

ECHO CANYON

The PTO at Echo Canyon made sure teachers knew they are "Shining Stars" with this year's themed activities. On Monday, staff were treated to donuts and bagels from The Local Donut and Einstein Bros. On Tuesday, students dropped off hand-drawn notes with "moony thanks to you" as the theme. Wednesday saw "sun-sational subs" for lunch; Thursday boasted "solar system sweet treats," and to cap off the week: a "When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie" pizza party!

"The entire staff of Echo Canyon is so grateful of the efforts of our PTO, families and students to make us feel appreciated during Teacher Appreciation Week," Principal Kat Hughes said. "We love the fact that they choose to recognize our entire staff because we all contribute to the success of the students."

HOPI

Educators at Hopi went around the world during appreciation week, thanks to this year's theme: "We think the world of our Hopi staff." On the itinerary were themed lunches from different countries. Monday was Door Day and a staff lunch provided by Mr. Moto pizza. Tuesday was gift day, with lunch from Tacos by Juan.

On Wednesday, teachers received flowers and lunch from Jersey Mike's. Thursday was handmade card day and lunch with Kim's Chinese. On Friday, teachers and staff were treated to snacks and lunch from their favorite places. Throughout the week, there was also a daily raffle with prizes and gift cards up for grabs.

INGLESIDE

Ingleside's student council, the PTO, and National Junior Honor Society took a page out of Taylor's Swift's book with the theme "In my Teacher Appreciation Era."

There were decorations, snacks (like donuts, cookies, soft pretzels and popcorn) and school-wide teacher appreciation notes. NJHS followed up with poems and artistic displays and the PTO provided lunch. Teachers also received gift cards and goodies to cap off the week – and there were daily raffle prize winners.



Christ Lutheran School's Candyland-themed treat day.

"We are so lucky to be part of a community that gives throughout the year," Principal Junior Michael said. "Our families show appreciation consistently, but a week like this makes us feel truly special. We are grateful."

TAVAN

Staff Appreciation Coordinators Becky Johnson and Shelby Kaveniga began the week warming the hearts of educators with "We get *emoji-onal* when we think of how amazing you are!"

"We have amazing teachers, and it's important for parents to let them know how wonderful they are," PTO Vice President Wendy Fischer said. "They work hard every day, and for us to plan just one week of the year dedicated to showing them appreciation is the least we can do."

"Teacher Appreciation Week is like five days of Christmas at Tavan," second grade teacher Mr. Haas said. "The PTO works tirelessly with parents and students to spoil the staff and make us feel like movie stars."

Educators were surprised with notes, silly sunglasses, flowers, gifts, luncheons and treats. The PTO hosted a happy hour after school on Friday, and honored two educators who are retiring this year: Shelly Rose, a fifth grade teacher who taught for 21 years, and Marilyn Williams, a gifted specialist who taught for 40 years – 17 of those at Tavan.

VERITAS PREP

The Veritas PSO took full advantage of the spring weather with a farmer's market theme. On Monday, staff found a grab-and-go snack bar. Tuesday featured a build your own breakfast bar complete with waffles and accoutrements.

Wednesday was all about meats and cheeses with the charcuterie board meeting. Thursday featured various teas and finger foods, and the final theme, featuring a DIY trail mix bar, was "Happy trails, it's almost summer!"

"Our school's favorite part of this week is having a chance to say a collective thank you to our hard-working teachers," PSO President Shauna Marvin said. "They do so much for our children, and we love seeing their excitement during Teacher Appreciation Week."

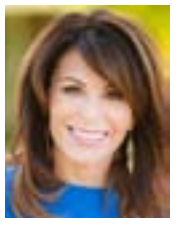
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This Arizona town is for the vino lovers



Robin's Adventures

BY ROBIN SEWELL

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

Formerly a local masonic temple built in 1958, this beautiful building on top of a hill in Cottonwood, Arizona has become a gourmet paradise. The owners wanted to create a food and wine destination that is truly unique – starting at its base all the way up to its plateau.

At the bottom is an Italian gelateria with flavors plucked straight from the garden. The core flavors include chocolate chip, pomegranate, and lemon sorbet, but there are seasonal flavors that come from the orchards – what you see depends on what's in season.

Next is the hill itself, partly covered with grape vines. The reason the owners chose to grow a vineyard here is because they discovered grapes grow well in Verde Valley – as long as they're on a hill. Grapes like the Tempanello – a very expressive and special grape – do extremely well at high elevation sites. Along with those, the vineyard has Graciano and Garnacha grape varieties.



Merkin Vineyards in Cottonwood, Arizona.

At the top, guests will find a wine tasting room and a restaurant with a spectacular 270-degree view that is a feast for the eyes and the taste buds. Here, they serve fresh pasta, and there's even a greenhouse adjacent to the kitchen allowing for the freshest of ingredients possible. Are you wondering where we are yet?

This literal mountain of epicurean treasures is called Merkin Vineyards Hilltop Winery and Trattoria. It is the brainchild of Maynard James Keenan, vocalist for the rock band Tool.

Keenan made his way to the Verde Valley after spending his childhood in the orchards and fields of west Michigan. He grew up with a love of farm-fresh food and his passion expanded to wine while he was touring the world as a musician. Keenan loved the idea of wines that pair with local fare and produce bringing together the farm and the winemaker.

Keenan could have grown grapes in many places, but he chose Arizona for the opportunity to be a maverick in an emerging wine region. At the Merkin Vineyards Winery and Tasting Room, employees take great pleasure in educating visitors on the mechanics of wine, why it makes sense to grow grapes here, and what makes the vino so special.

Here, winemakers are looking to create a distinct taste, both with the types of grapes grown and the way they ferment them. The wine produced at Merkin Vineyards is not as heavy an oak in comparison to a California wine. Most of what Merkin uses is a neutral French Oak.

In addition to making a quality bottle of vino, they are also about creating a legacy for the area.

"Nothing really expresses a place more than its wine. You're capturing the soil, you're capturing the environment, you're capturing the air, and this place is imparted on that wine. It becomes a fingerprint," tasting room director Calvin Arnold said.

Chef Chris Smith helms the 6,600-square-foot restaurant. The menu includes salads, handmade pasta, wood-oven pizzas, and a large central bar and outdoor patio. The neighboring winery, which can be viewed as guests enter the restaurant, houses an 8,000-case production facility and display barrel room, with six custom concrete fermentation and aging cubes.

If you're in the mood for a glass of vino and some beautiful scenery, you can find it in Cottonwood – just off an Arizona highway.

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Innovation Grant "STEMs" new learning opportunities

By Kylie de Best

Earlier this spring, Echo Canyon third-grade teacher Kelley Tully received an email that would significantly change the course of her curriculum. The email stated that she received a $10,000 Innovation Grant from Scottsdale Unified School District.

Tully said she loves to expose her class to STEM-based activities throughout the school year, but has limited resources to work with. After receiving a district-wide email detailing the Innovation Grant, she "thought it would be a great opportunity to try and get funding to expand these unique learning initiatives here at Echo Canyon."

The Innovation Grant is aimed at helping teachers implement initiatives that align with the district's goals of engaging all students in world-class and future learning. Those awarded received an email from Dr. David Priniski, the State and Federal Director at SUSD. For Tully, this has opened a new door of possibilities in bringing the world of STEM to her classroom.

"It will allow more students to engage in hands-on learning, including coding, robotics, and engineering," she said. "Students will learn to work collaboratively to examine real-world problems and then apply knowledge of cross-curricular concepts to design solutions."

Tully plans to use the money to bring her vision of the Tech Tinkerers Junior Engineers Workshop to reality. This STEM-based initiative focuses on projects relating to energy conservation and sustainability within the gardens at Echo Canyon. The funds will provide more robotics equipment and engineering tools to create diverse and elaborate projects.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF KELLEY TULLY

The third grade STEM Club offers innovative projects for passionate students to apply their skills in STEM. (right) During the Notable Figures unit, students researched famous inventors and brought them to life as robotic characters through their knowledge of coding.

"My goal is to offer equitable access to these resources, allowing more students the chance to learn coding, robotics, problem-solving, and teamwork," Tully said. "I really want to spark the imagination of our students and foster their sense of curiosity and creativity. The skills gained through this type of learning will be transferable to future careers."

The third-grade teacher has exciting plans for next year, including creating energy-saving prototypes, coding in the gardens to promote sustainability, and designing robotic joints. She said she enjoys making the curriculum hands-on and engaging for the students, and she loves robotics and coding because they can enhance learning across so many different subjects.

Tully has taught for 12 years, but this was her first at Echo Canyon. She loves interacting with children and making a positive impact on their lives.

"I strive to make learning engaging and meaningful, fostering a sense of curiosity and excitement about the ever-changing world we live in," she said.

With a community equally as ecstatic as Tully was to hear news of the Innovation Grant, her win was celebrated at the district board meeting in April.

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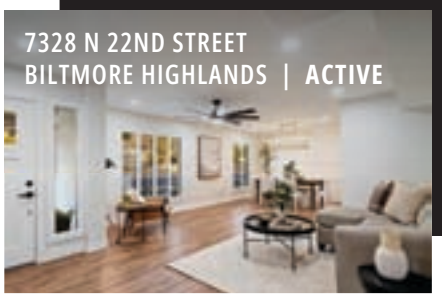
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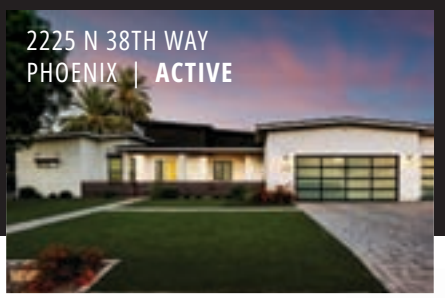
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Think crisp salads with colorful greens, juicy tomatoes and sweet bell peppers. Or chilled soups like gazpacho, which combine ripe tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers into a deliciously cool treat. Let's not forget about the fruit: watermelon, peaches and berries make great snacks or desserts and are also fantastic salad toppers and smoothie enhancers.

Vacation season poses its own challenges to maintaining a healthy diet. The key is preparation. When planning a getaway, look for accommodations with a kitchenette, or at the very least, a fridge. This way, you can store essentials like fruits, veggies, hummus and plant-based yogurts. Doing a quick search for local plant-based restaurants or health food stores can keep you on track and introduce you to local flavors. In honor of Father's Day, I've included my husband's favorite veggie burger, gazpacho soup and a fresh berry salad.

Join my membership for recipes, health videos and live Zoom cooking classes for only $10 a month.

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

Berry salad with balsamic dressing SERVES 4



Ingredients

- 8 cups chopped butter lettuce
- 1 cup sliced strawberries
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- ½ cup chopped Italian parsley
- ½ cup chopped pecans or walnuts
- 1 chopped avocado

Dressing

- 3 tbsp. olive oil
- 3 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
- Juice of one lemon
- ½ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. pepper

Directions

1. ***Add all salad ingredients to a bowl.***
2. ***In another small bowl mix up the dressing ingredients.***
3. ***Toss and serve.***

Mexican gazpacho soup SERVES 6



Ingredients

- 6 Roma tomatoes, seeded and diced
- ¼ cup red onion, diced
- 1 English cucumber, diced
- 1 orange pepper, diced
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- ½ cup cilantro, chopped + more for topping
- 1 lime, zest and juice
- 1 tbsp. vegan worcestershire sauce
- 4 cups tomato juice
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pepper
- 1 tsp. Tabasco sauce

Directions

1. ***In a large bowl, combine tomatoes, onion, cucumber, pepper garlic and cilantro.***
2. ***Add the lime zest and juice, worcestershire, tomato juice, salt, pepper and Tabasco.***
3. ***Cover and chill for 30 minutes then serve. Top with more cilantro if desired.***

Veggie burgers SERVES 6



Ingredients

- 1 can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 ½ cups rolled oats
- 1 cup cooked brown or wild rice
- ¼ onion, diced
- 1 can diced green chilies, drained
- ½ cup corn
- ¼ cup black olives
- 2 tbsp. green salsa
- 2 tsp. cumin
- 1 tsp. each: chili powder, garlic powder, salt
- ⅛ tsp. red pepper flakes

Directions

1. ***Add black beans and oats to a food processor and pulse until chunky.***
2. ***Add the rest of the ingredients and pulse a few more times to blend, but don't over process.***
3. ***Form into six patties and bake at 350F for about 20-30 minutes.***
4. ***If you want to make these ahead for meal prep, freeze the uncooked patties, separating with parchment paper and when ready to eat, heat a little oil in a frying pan and cook on medium heat for 10 minutes on each side.***

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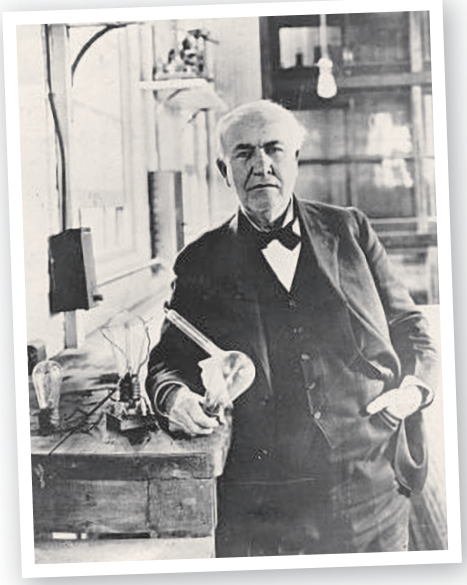
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DID YOU KNOW? THOMAS EDISON

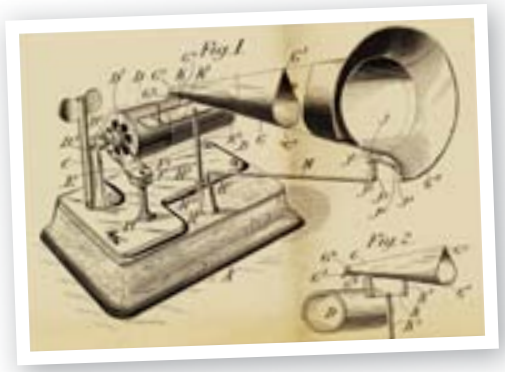
WHO?



Thomas Alva Edison was born on February 11, 1847, in Milan, Ohio. He was the seventh and last child in his family, and would be one of four to survive to adulthood. At age 12, he developed hearing loss, which was thought to be attributed to scarlet fever, mastoiditis or a blow to the head.

HOW MANY?

1,093 PATENTS



Edison acquired a record number of 1,093 patents in his lifetime (singly or jointly), including the phonograph (right), the incandescent light bulb, the alkaline battery and one of the earliest motion picture cameras. He died on October 18, 1931, at 84 years old.

WHERE?

Menlo Park



Edison was known as the "Wizard of Menlo Park," for the New Jersey town where he did some of his best-known work. Menlo Park was one of six neighborhoods that formed Raritan Township. It was a rural area and the site of a failed residential development in the early 1870s. Edison purchased two parcels of land measuring approximately 34 acres in late 1875. His father built the main laboratory building, while Edison built additional buildings on-site, including a glass house, a carpenters' shop, a carbon shed and a blacksmith shop. The laboratory would become the world's first research and development facility.

The phonograph, one of his first major inventions, earned Edison the title of "The Wizard of Menlo Park." Visitors from around the world flocked to the area to see demonstrations of the record player.



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DID YOU KNOW? THOMAS EDISON

THOMAS EDISON FACTS

His family called him Al – an abbreviation of his middle name, Alva.

His first two children were nicknamed Dot and Dash, inspired by the telegraph.

His first invention was an electric vote recorder.

He was homeschooled as a child.

One of Edison's developments was a talking doll that folks said was "unsettling."

When he was 13, Edison started a job selling candy, newspapers and vegetables on a train.

The first record of his voice on the phonograph is Edison's recitation of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

His father took part in a protest of the British Crown's rule of its North American territory. After the protest, he fled to America, and Edison was born shortly after.

On December 31, 1879, the Menlo Park laboratory was electrically lit for the first time.

The Henry Ford Museum claims to hold Thomas Edison's last breath in a test tube.

Yankee Stadium was built with concrete from Edison's cement company.

A telegrapher taught Edison telegraphy as a reward for saving his son from being hit by a freight car.

Edison proposed to his second wife in Morse code.

SAY WHAT?

WATCH OUT FOR FLYING BADGERS

Thomas Edison's reinvention of the light bulb revolutionized the world – but that might never have happened if a shocking near-death experience had wiped him out. On the podcast 'No Such Thing as a Fish,' it was revealed that Edison was almost killed by a flying badger.



After befriending engineers on a locomotive, Edison was allowed to ride at the very front of the train outside of the carriages. They let him sit on the 'cowcatcher,' which is the outcropping of metal in the front of the train that knocks things out of the way. According to the account, Edison was given a "small cushion" while sitting on the cowcatcher and would ride "every day in this manner, so he could see the scenery better." Edison apparently said he was in danger only once, when the locomotive struck a small animal – possibly a badger – that flew right past his head.

WORD SEARCH

L	T	H	D	N	Z	S	N	Z	V	D	L	M	Y	R	H	K	X	C	M	H	S	E	C	V
O	F	N	Z	T	V	M	T	T	N	M	H	N	H	C	L	M	O	N	Z	M	K	S	E	D
K	S	S	F	A	B	P	H	X	D	R	O	F	H	P	A	R	G	O	N	O	H	P	L	Y
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF XAVIER PREP

Xavier Prep hosted its second annual puppy party for the senior class.

Four-legged visitors make their way to Xavier

By Shi Bradley

As the seniors of Xavier Prep prepared to graduate – writing their final essays, studying hard for finals and getting in those college applications – members of the National Honor Society, teachers and faculty decided to award the students with a little bit of fun… fun that included a whole lot of fur!

The NHS program enlisted the help of Happy Puppy Parties to bring 15 dachshund puppies to class for the students to interact and play with throughout the day.

"Our National Honor Society officers came up with the idea last year, as a de-stressor for seniors before exams," Marketing Director Lisa Zuba said. "The students were excited to have a fun activity to look forward to."

Though normally puppies and other animals aren't allowed on campus, an exception was made for the party, as students and faculty agreed puppies would provide students a bit of relief while they got ready to excel during finals week.

NHS President Emily Alaimo said the puppy party was a way to acknowledge the accomplishments of the school's graduating class and give them a moment to relax after experiencing what is – for many students – the busiest and most stressful part of the school year.

"The students loved the puppies. It was a big hit," Zuba said. "It normalizes talking about mental health and wellness – and provides them a relaxing activity."

The puppy party is just one of many events that National Honor Society has participated in. Over 400 members conduct various service projects throughout the year, including a food drive to benefit St. Vincent de Paul. This year, students contributed more than 500,000 cans to the nonprofit.

Outside of NHS, Xavier and its other organizations put on a variety of events to provide ways to relieve stress during hectic moments of the year.

These include the Senior Breakfast and Lunch, where the sophomore and freshman classes present meals for the seniors; "Mothers' Guild has Senior Treats" where seniors are treated to meals from various food trucks; "Tour d' Xavier," which is an early morning bike ride down Central Avenue; and the Awards Assembly where seniors are recognized for their achievements throughout the year.

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Thyme in My Kitchen

BY SHERRY KLUSMAN

If you garden, shade cloth or frost cloth has been purchased or pulled out of a plethora of containers from the garage and is ready to secure over pre-existing frameworks. Yes, the sun is vital to a plant's existence, but it can also burn tender stems and leaves. I garden with frost cloth year round. Using this fabric establishes a 'greenhouse' environment which has had proven success over the years. Optimal growing attainment of roses, veggies and herbs alike have come from keeping them covered all summer. Don't be surprised if you come across a bird or two seeking shade!

Goodbyes have been waved to the asparagus and citrus season. The fragrant sweet peas are nothing more than seed pods drying on the vine, as are the cilantro, parsley and arugula plants which have flowered and are keeping the honey bees happy. Don't despair, because we now have an abundance of zucchini and summer squashes, tomatoes, cucumbers, basil, bell peppers, apricots, figs and more. Marigolds, portulaca, zinnias, and sunflowers are brightening up even the dullest corner of our yards.

Saving energy is foremost in our minds, so hopefully BBQs are up and ready to go. Our grills are begging to be used more often…effortless meals by way of 'en papillote' cooking – such an elegant word that simply means 'the process of placing food in a package (parchment paper or aluminum foil) and baking or grilling it.' Not only are the opportunities to use meat, chicken, sausage, and fish varieties endless – cleanup is virtually non-existent. I'll never forget my first experience with this form of cooking. As a Brownie, one of our troop adventures led us to Encanto Park where we 'oohed and aahed' cooking over an open fire. What I recall was the aroma that escaped when the foil was unfolded.

Using reliable aluminum foil captures the heat, allowing the flavors to meld and juices to be retained. Keep in mind that there are a few precautionary steps to take when using aluminum foil at high temperatures. It's not the mindless action of placing ingredients in the middle of the foil and drawing up the ends 'hobo pack' style. It's knowing to stay away from acidic products (such as tomatoes and citrus) and foods with a high concentration of salt. Other than this, your imagination can wander.

A basic timeframe for cooking is around 20-25 minutes, but a watchful eye is always prudent. Use olive oil, salt and pepper (and some favorite seasonings), and layer everything similar to how you fill a crockpot: veggies on the bottom, meat on top. Now is the time to enjoy being a scavenger by using disks of zucchini and carrots, fingerling potatoes, snap peas, mushrooms, onions, even corn *off* the cob. What's nice about this method of cooking is that there is no need to flip the packet. A summertime meal can't get much easier than this. Add a side salad and beverage of your choice and happiness reveals itself.

June's book recommendation:
"Adventures in Grilling"
by Willie Cooper

June's novel recommendation:
"Fellowship Point" by Alice Dark

June's recipe: 'En papillote' grilling


PopStroke


Puttshack


Putting World

Mini golf, major fun!

By Mallory Gleich

An interesting fact: 18 million people in the U.S. played mini golf an average of four times in 2022. Now that businesses are popping up nationwide – with courses that offer phone apps, drink services, and tracking technology – that number is expected to rise in 2024. Here are four Valley spots for those looking to up their mini-golf game:

CASTLES N' COASTERS

9445 N. Metro Parkway East, Phoenix
Price: $15 per person

These courses offer a dose of nostalgia – especially for those who have lived in the Phoenix area for a while and went to Castles N' Coasters for their school field trips. The amusement park offers four different mini-golf courses, each with 18 holes. Each course is unique and designed with colorful obstacles and challenging slopes.

After mini-golf, patrons can check out the arcade and themed rides (roller coasters and bumper boats!) and head to one of five restaurants for a burger, pizza, hot dog, or ice cream cone.

castlesncoasters.com

POPSTROKE

9245 E. Hummingbird Lane, Scottsdale
Price: $35 for a day pass

PopStroke's first location opened in Port St. Lucie, Florida, in 2019. Golf champion Tiger Woods became a partner shortly after, and TaylorMade Golf Company signed on as a national sponsor.

The Scottsdale location opened in October 2023 and boasts two 18-hole putting courses, jumbotrons, TVs, and a full-service restaurant and bar. There's an ice cream parlor with craft milkshakes, an outdoor playground, and games like corn hole and foosball.

PopStroke has 12 open venues across Florida, Texas, and Arizona, with seven more scheduled to open this year. The venues also feature an app so golfers can order drinks right where they're playing.

The two putting courses are built with synthetic turf and incorporate fairways, bunkers, and rough (areas on a golf course outside the fairway with higher, thicker grass or naturally growing vegetation), just like a traditional course. The Black Course is considered "easier" than the Red Course, and both are around 650 feet long.

PopStroke's bar and restaurant offers custom cocktails, craft beers, and a menu featuring made-from-scratch items like smash burgers, chicken tenders, seared ahi tuna salad and Korean steak tacos. Menu items range from $12 to $24.

popstroke.com

PUTTSHACK

15059 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale
Price: $9-$14 per one game

Puttshack opened in June 2023. There are 14 locations countrywide and only one (so far!) in Arizona. Guests can find competitive, interactive putting holes like life-sized beer pong, trivial puttsuit, foosball, and Connect 4. Puttshack also offers Trackaball Technology. At the start of every game, guests receive a golf ball synced to their unique player profile.

The ball tracks every stroke, hole completed, hazard, overall leaderboard, and bonus point earned for completing specific challenges. Trackaball Technology provides personalized feedback displayed on overhead screens at every hole – which means you can razz your golf partner with every putt!

The courses incorporate interactive elements and obstacles that respond to players' actions. For example, the True or False Hole asks players to correctly answer a pop culture question. Players receive or lose bonus points for answering correctly or incorrectly. The Prize Wheel hole gives players bonus points if they putt a hole-in-one after spinning the prize wheel.

Each location has locally-inspired offerings and classic dishes on the menu. One dollar from every order of Arizona Tailpipes (spring rolls filled with chile lime chicken, cheese, sautéed veggies and refried beans, poblano cheese and enchilada dipping sauces) is donated to Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center.

They also have a signature cocktail menu that includes drinks with smoke-filled treasure chests and jalapeno-infused popsicle garnishes. Puttshack also offers vegan/vegetarian/gluten-friendly dishes and mocktails.

puttshack.com

PUTTING WORLD

16259 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale
Price: $35-$40 for adults,
$15-$20 for kids 6-12

With a short drive up to north Scottsdale, golfers will find Putting World – and, as the name indicates – this place is all about putting.

Putting World opened in February 2023, and Scottsdale is the first and only location. Instead of a mini-golf experience, golfers will find an 18-hole indoor course where it is always 72 degrees.

Golfers can check in with PGA/LPGA Performance Coaches, who will fit them with the proper putter and educate guests on the latest technology. The business also offers lessons, leagues, events and classes, memberships, and space for private parties.

Bar19 is the on-site cocktail bar and restaurant led by Chef Michael Patton. Options include flatbreads, tacos, wings, sandwiches and desserts, cocktails, beer and wine. Happy Hour takes place every day from 3-6 p.m.

puttingworld.com



Arcadia Lacrosse wins conference title in banner year

By Mallory Gleich

Arcadia has been part of the Arizona Lacrosse League (ALL) since 2013, the same year the program began. The ALL was created by the Loftin family, who had two sons who went to Arcadia and helped start the program. In 2016, the team was crowned Arizona Lacrosse League State Champions and they have been striving for that goal ever since.

While they didn't make it to State, Arcadia Lacrosse bounced back from a 4-10 season last year that included just two wins in the division. This year, they set the bar for everyone by going undefeated in the division, 8-0.

"We are proud of our boys for delivering the conference championship this year and for our 13-3 record," Chad Fuller, President of the Arcadia Lacrosse Club, said.

The season lasted from mid-February until late April, with 16 games played in total.

"We went 8-0 in our conference and were named champions," Head Coach Dustin Kowell said. "No impact on a playoff run, but a great accomplishment, and it felt awesome being recognized in the league."

The team made it to the quarterfinals of the playoffs, going up against Brophy II and winning 10-4 in game one. The next match against Perry High saw the Titans defeated by one point, with a final score of 7-6, but the coaches were happy overall.

"Our ultimate goal was to improve our culture, get everyone brought into the season, and truly change the brand of Arcadia Lacrosse," Kowell said. "We did that, amongst other goals, such as winning our conference and first-round playoff game."

Kowell said that the team had many strengths – pushing transition and fast breaks more often, quicker ball movement on the offense, and bringing that "bruiser, physical defensive" mindset to the table. Conversely, the team needed to work on ground ball techniques: "These can win you games but also lose you games. We could always improve here," Kowell said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUSTIN KOWELL

Arcadia's varsity lacrosse team finished the season with an overall record of 13-3 and were crowned Desert Conference Champions.

Long stick midfielder Andrew Nickle has been playing lacrosse for six years and said he stayed motivated throughout the season thanks to his teammates.

"I know that Arcadia has the potential to win it all, and I want to bring it out of my teammates and do something great with the program," he said. "My goal was to make a statement and show the rest of the league that Arcadia is fundamental and has good sportsmanship and that we can compete at a high level."

"Together with our coaches, amazing parents and the Arcadia community, we built a culture of respect, hard work and fun. This team and program are bonded together like family and it's a privilege to be a part of it," Fuller said. "Arcadia High lacrosse is one of the best sports experiences in the Valley, and we hope more people will consider joining our club and being a part of what we are building."

arcadialax.com

Beach volleyball makes impressive State run

By Rachael Bouley

The Titans had a lot to celebrate after the success of the girls' beach volleyball program this spring. The team won 11 straight games to start the season, only dropping one to Northwest Christian the week before playoffs.

The Lady Titans went on to win their first two games in the Division II AIA Arizona State Championship Tournament, with a 5-0 win over Seton Catholic in the opening round and a 4-1 quarterfinal victory over Valley Christian. Although they were defeated by Salpointe Catholic (who went on to win it all) in the semifinals, the ladies said they are proud of their efforts.

"It is always tough to run into an experienced team like Salpointe Catholic, especially when they are on their way to their fourth consecutive state title, but getting to face a strong opponent helped our athletes grow and I believe that experience will pay huge dividends in the seasons to come," Head Coach Adrian Chang said.

Chang cited the community's support – especially at the first two playoff games – in helping the team succeed.

"It was unbelievable. It was great for the team to experience that feeling of a community rallying behind them," he said.

Finishing the season with a 13-2 record overall, the team came in ready to play. The roster featured nine sophomores, one junior and two seniors.

Chang said it was sometimes challenging not to get too hung up on winning, but the team leaders worked hard to channel their competitive nature into calm confidence.



PHOTO: AUDREA WALSHIRE

(front) Isabella Scaramella, Priya Jain, Tessa Dwyer-Kim (middle) Brenna Satran, Avery Nadolski, Elle Marshall-Inman, Alexa Helms (back) Coach Adrian Chang, Kinsey Hunkins, Lane Sheedy, Josie Fox, Coach Kelly Itano.

"They were constantly pushing one another, and us as coaches, to keep growing and improving," he said. "Seniors Avery Nadolski and Elle Marshall-Inman did a great job keeping us all grounded, and focused on the fact that beach volleyball is a beautiful game that is supposed to be fun."

In addition to the strong team performance, the Titans finished the season with junior Lane Sheedy and sophomore Alexa Helms winning the Girls Beach Volleyball Pairs State Championship. The #3 seed duo upset #2 seed Salpointe High and #1 seed Saguaro to clinch the victory, putting the finishing touches on a 17-2 season.

"We are extremely proud of Lane and Alexa for winning the Pairs State Championship, the first volleyball state title for Arcadia," Chang said. "Josie Fox and Isabella Scaramella also made it into the pairs event, marking the first time Arcadia ever had two pairs accepted. As sophomores, they made it to the quarterfinals against the top teams from other schools comprised of all juniors and seniors."

Josie and Isabella finished 14-3 as a pair, while fellow sophomores Tessa Dwyer-Kim and Kinsey Hunkins went 12-2 on the season, followed by Brenna Satran and Priya Jain at 11-2. Seniors Avery and Elle finished 11-4.

"I think the growth on and off the court for our young athletes was an even bigger highlight for me," Chang said. "With so much young talent returning next year and most of the year after that, we have our eyes set on finishing what we have started. We would love to bring home the big one to Arcadia High soon!"

Lane and Alexa share the sentiment and look forward to returning next year.

"I loved this season, and the most memorable part for sure was getting to play my favorite sport while being surrounded by friends," Lane said. "I've been playing for two years and hope to be able to go pro one day."

Third-year player Alexa has similar aspirations as she aims to play Division I beach volleyball after high school.

"My favorite part about being on the team is the girls. We are friends on and off the court, making the practices more fun and disciplined," Alexa said. "Even though we didn't win state as a team, we still had a great season and fought until the end."

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PHOTO COURTESY OF BROPHY PREP

Jack Gallagher, Co-Chairs Sarah Gallagher and Brigette Sebald, and Jack Sebald.

Brophy Prep seniors strut their stuff on the runway

The 40th annual Brophy Fashion Show runway was full of excitement this year as 236 seniors showed off their personalities – many also choreographed individual dance moves, carried state championship trophies, and represented their school clubs during their time on the catwalk.

"Being the youngest of six, who all attended Brophy or Xavier, this year's show was an opportunity to join my family and the community in a tradition of giving. It was always something I was on the sidelines for," senior Race Bates said. "I never thought I would be in it in the blink of an eye. The fashion show is an opportunity for me to be surrounded by my brothers – the senior class. The event acts as a reminder that my time at Brophy has come to an end; it's one of many final 'hurrahs' for an experience that has shaped who I am with those to which I am closest."

This year's event was held at the Scottsdale Camelback Inn and started with a social hour on the Sonoran Terrace. Attendees had the opportunity to purchase tickets for eight raffle prizes, including items donated by Schmitt Jewelers, Neiman Marcus, Steak 44 and The Global Ambassador.

Senior models donned chef's coats and helped sell raffle tickets while socializing with parents and guests. The Varsity Shop also sold Brophy branded fashions and accessories, including Lululemon active wear. The "Jewels & Gems with Jewel Ya" pop-up featured earrings donated by alumna parent and founder Julia Winter, with a grand prize drawing for a necklace and bracelet. Centerpieces featuring a ceramic version of the Chapel were provided by As You Wish Pottery.

Full tuition for the 2024-2025 school year was offered as the special raffle item for the first time – it was limited to 300 tickets to increase the odds of winning.

While incoming students are accepted on individual merit, financial aid is awarded to students who demonstrate need. The student population is diverse, with approximately 100 elementary and middle schools represented and graduates attending some of the country's most selective colleges and universities. Over one-third of all students receive some amount of financial aid.

This year's theme was "Brothers in Faith," and Sarah Gallagher and Brigette Sebald co-chaired. Nearly 1,200 guests attended. The event raises funds for the Financial Aid Fund and celebrates the Class of 2024.

Fr. Bill Muller gave the opening prayer, and remarks were given by President Bob Ryan, Principal Jim Bopp, and Chairs Sarah Gallagher and Brigette Sebald. Tim Braun, vice president and general manager of Neiman Marcus Scottsdale, announced the opening of the runway show, featuring models from The Agency produced by Margaret Merritt Productions.

Over its 40-year history, the Fashion Show has raised millions to support need-verified financial aid. Brophy is Arizona's only Jesuit high school and receives no Diocesan funding. The institution develops intellectually competent leaders open to growth, religious, loving, and committed to doing justice. Like Jesuit schools worldwide, Brophy follows the motto "Men for Others."

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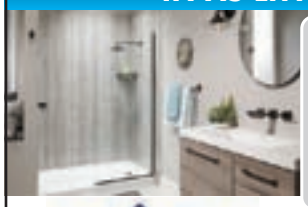
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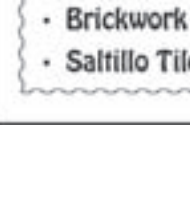
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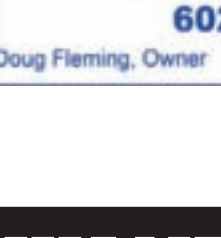
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What are Arcadia students up to this summer?

By Ahva Ghazanfari

As the academic year came to a close, many students and their families were organizing vacations to escape the Arizona heat. At Arcadia specifically, the spectrum of travel plans ranges from tropical getaways to journeys right here in our state.

Students described their plans as exploring exotic places such as Costa Rica, the British Virgin Islands and Croatia – and those are just a few spots. One popular destination is Italy, with many students hoping to visit iconic historical landmarks and cities. Some Arcadians will travel to England; Mallory Yates, a rising senior, intends to visit some of her family in the countryside.

Leaving the country presents opportunities to embark on exciting adventures and spend time at scenic locations, but some of the most favored places are right here in Arizona. The Grand Canyon is a widely popular attraction, of course, and some mentioned their excitement to see it in person despite having lived in this state for years. Sedona and its red rocks are also highly-visited among locals, and students shared plans for weekend getaways to the city to avoid the harsh weather here in Arcadia.

Another notable summer travel location is California – its popularity seems to increase as the years go on. Many students are looking forward to celebrating Fourth of July on Mission Beach, biking down the boardwalk on Balboa Island, and surfing the waves in San Diego. Other popular destinations include different cities in Mexico, especially Rocky Point and Cabo San Lucas.



Summer cinema

One great way to combat that inevitable summer boredom is to spend time at the movie theaters. This summer, there are a lot of new installations from famous franchises people know and love. For the whole family, two notable children's movies are coming out in June and July.

Inside Out 2 is a continuation of the first; this time with more complex emotions such as anxiety, envy, and embarrassment. The film is slated to be in theaters on June 14. In July, the *Despicable Me* series will continue with its fourth movie, being released on the third of the month. For action fans, *Mad Max: Furiosa* was released at the end of May. Starring Anya Taylor-Joy and Chris Hemsworth, this new addition is a prequel to the rest of the *Mad Max* series.

For fans of indie movies, independent film production company A24 also has new releases coming this summer. *I Saw the TV Glow* is a horror/drama where main character Owen investigates his classmate's strange disappearance. This film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival. *Janet Planet*, which premiered at the Telluride Film Festival, is releasing June 21; this will be the directorial debut of Annie Baker that explores the relationship between mothers and daughters.

– Amelia Guzman

Beach reads

One of the best parts of summer is finding a comfy spot and plopping down with a cool drink and a good book. Reading is supposed to be fun, and during the school year it is possible to lose sight of that in a flurry of educational texts. Summer vacation is the perfect time to catch up on your reading goals with books that don't make you hate the very thought of turning a page. Here are some of my top summer reads:

Beach Read *by Emily Henry*

This is a fun romantic comedy about two former best friends reconnecting on one last summer vacation. It's an excellent choice for summer, because you won't find yourself thinking at all while reading it.

Circe *by Madeline Miller*

Miller's second book is a retelling of the witch Circe from Greek mythology. Incredibly witty and expertly written, Miller explores the themes of femininity and love.

Demon Copperhead *by Barbara Kingsolver*

One of the most immediate attention catching books I've ever read. This book hits hard from the start and never lets up, leaving you with introspection that you don't mind. It's thought provoking and wildly invigorating.

The Immortalists *by Chloe Benjamin*

Incredibly well written and brilliant all around. The story follows five Jewish siblings who visit a psychic and live out their fortunes. This is one for those who love ending a novel feeling like a new person – and maybe shed a few tears while reading it.

– Maya Campbell



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