

# ARCADIA NEWS



VOL. 32 NO. 11

ARCADIA • BILTMORE • CAMELBACK CORRIDOR

FEBRUARY 2025



## FAMILY TRADITIONS

Wally and Matt Collins have spent their lives serving families in Arcadia through art and food.

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## WISHES FOR TEACHERS

Three Arcadia educators won \$2,500 in classroom wishes from Fiesta Bowl Charities.

**PAGE 22**

## LET'S DANCE!

Ballerinas young and old are invited to show off their moves at Dance Theater West.

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# FEBRUARY

Did you know? Empire State Building (Page 40)

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### 36 A journey through justice

The Maricopa County Justice Museum offers visitors a glimpse into Arizona's legal past, present and future with interactive exhibits, galleries and more.



Founder Wally Collins with his son, Matt, who now owns and operates Wally's American Pub 'n Grille.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT COLLINS



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

I'd like to start off my February note with a shout-out and a huge thank you to the good folks of the Arcadia Living Facebook page. For the past few months, I've asked the members of this group to help me in finding friends and families that were featured on Arcadia News covers from 30 years ago.

Every time, someone has come through and it has been such a joy sharing what our cover models have been up to for the past three decades – not to mention how heartwarming it is to hear, "This was such a fun blast from the past. Thank you for sharing!"

Our February edition is all about festivities, with plenty of eateries celebrating the game (including a few popular spots for chicken wings,"

places to learn about Arizona history, and a celebration of some of the area's favorite neighbors.

Keep an eye out for the upcoming *Home & Design* and *Camp Guide* editions coming your way soon – and thank you, as always, for reading Arcadia News.



*mally*  
– Mallory Gleich

## UPCOMING THEMES:

## MARCH

*Arcadia Home & Design*

## APRIL

*Camp Guide*

## MAY

*Mother's Day*

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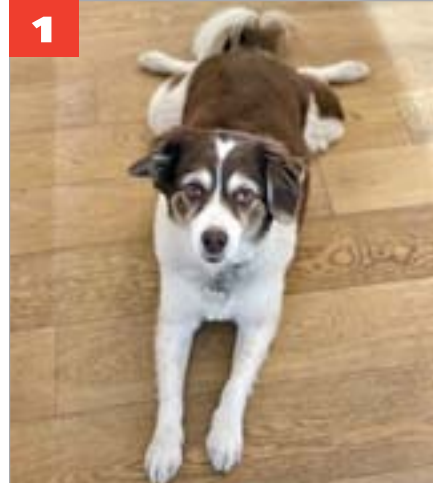
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*"Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending."*

– Carl Bard

## ARCADIA'S PETS

1



3



2



4



**1. Jedda**, age eight, is an AussiePoo – though we can scarcely see a trace of poodle in her. Jedda is a popular name for Aboriginal girls, believed to have originated from the Noongar word "Djida," which means little goose. We always thought it meant "mischievous," which fits our dog to a "T," as the saying goes.

–Philip N.

**3.** We're excited to introduce **Lucy**, our five-month-old puppy adopted from the Arizona Humane Society. Lucy loves hiking at Papago Park, playing fetch, and making new friends with neighborhood kids and dogs. Her favorite moments include relaxing on the porch and spending quality time with family. She's been a true blessing.

–Brian E.

**2.** Three-legged **Jimmy** (2) and blind **Stevie** (6) know no limitations. They play and plunder, pester their older "sisters," and nudge me to pet them as they purr and purr. I had thought these wounded pets needed me to love them, but I'm the one who needs them.

–Deanne P.

**4.** I'm **Allegra** and I was rescued in Arizona 15 years ago. I subsequently lived in Connecticut, New York City, and Washington, D.C., in addition to my travels to 21 states. I returned to the Valley of the Sun nearly three years ago and now enjoy checking out the Arcadia News.

–Jamie F.

Would you like to share your pet? Send a photo and a description (50 words max) of your pet to [editor@arcadianews.com](mailto: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 Meet & Greet

Stop by Black Cat Coffee House to grab a free cup of coffee and meet the team behind your good news newspaper. We'd love to meet our readers!

**Friday, January 31**  
**8 a.m. - 10 a.m.**

Black Cat Coffee, 4730 E. Indian School Road #120



Follow us on instagram [@arcadianews](https://www.instagram.com/arcadianews) for details on the next meetup on **February 28**.

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# Making dance accessible to ballerinas of all ages

By Mallory Gleich

Dance Theater West (DTW) has been a hub for creativity, expression, and community for over three decades. Founded by passionate educators and dancers, the company has made a lasting impact on the local arts scene.

One of its most heartwarming and unique offerings isn't the professional performances or advanced training – it's the ballet classes designed for "Ballerinas Past their Prima."

The story of these classes dates back to 1993. In an effort to support friends and family after the passing of a loved one, DTW's Susan Silverman – who was running the studio with her colleague Frances Smith Cohen at the time – offered a simple gesture: a free ballet class. This quickly blossomed into a weekly tradition that has taken place for over 30 years.

The class is designed to be accessible and enjoyable, and open to everyone, regardless of their experience or background in dance.

"Some participants had taken a ballet class or two as children or teens, while others were musical theater enthusiasts looking for a different way to move," Susan said. "For many, it was simply an opportunity to have fun and enjoy the benefits of dance, no matter their age."

Today's participants range from 40 to 80+ years old. There are occasional visits from graduate ballet students who come to enjoy the class when they can. The group



DTW class participants Laura, Nancy, Lauren, Patti, MJ, Calli, Susan, Sam, Tobey, Susan, Priya and Mickey.

usually has up to 18 people attending, but it's not about numbers – it's about the joy and connection found through movement.

The class takes place Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Its structure remains the same as that first session: easy, follow-along warm-ups set to a mix of fun, familiar music: everything from classical pieces to Broadway hits, jazzy tunes, and holiday music when the season calls for it.

"What an amazing class Suze Silverman has created. I'm of an advanced age, and this weekly hour of ballet with kindred spirits

and continual smiles as I look in the wall of mirrors and see myself decades ago brings me much joy," participant Judy Lebeau said. "It's like going to recess at school!"

The goal of Ballerinas Past Their Prima is to make dance accessible to all, no matter their age or physical condition. It's not about mastering complicated steps but about enjoying movement, staying active, and engaging with a community of like-minded individuals.

"So many of us dreamed of being ballerinas when we were young. Susie

and this magical class make those dreams finally come true," participant Sam – who founded the Detour Company Theatre – said. "Ballerinas of every shape, size and age can share the love of movement and not care about the story the mirror tells of age. We dance because our hearts are ageless. We are ballerinas because Susie is brilliant."

For those looking to join, the class is open to adults every Tuesday at DTW, 3925 E. Indian School Road in Phoenix.

[dancetheaterwest.com](http://dancetheaterwest.com)

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING, ARCADIA?

## BRIEFS

Mark your calendars for **Arcadia News' Monthly Meet Up**, where you can get a first look of the February edition with the people behind your neighborhood newspaper – and grab a cup of coffee on us. We'll be at **Black Cat Coffeehouse** (4730 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix) on Friday, January 31 from 8-10 a.m. Hope to see you there!

For more:  
email editor@arcadianews.com

The **Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association** will hold its annual Neighborhood Meeting on Saturday, February 22, at 8:30 a.m. in the choir room at Prince of Peace (3641 N. 56th St., Phoenix). Connect with neighbors and get the latest updates on key issues impacting Arcadia and the surrounding areas. Coffee and pastries will be served.  
acmna.org



Arcadian Sarah Pyper is hosting free **Family Yoga and Soundbath in the Park** events. All ages are welcome to move, breathe and rest together. Each class will learn breathing techniques, talk about feelings and finish up with an affirmation circle and a craft. Upcoming dates are

February 22, March 15 and April 19 at 10 a.m. in Kachina Park (4304 E. Campbell Ave., Phoenix). Bring your own mat, towel or blanket. Donations benefit Lost Our Home Pet Rescue.

The ninth annual **Arcadia Cares: Food for Kidz Packathon** is back and scheduled for February 28 from 4-6:45 p.m. and March 1 from 8:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (3641 N. 56th St., Phoenix). The community is welcome to volunteer in shifts to help pack meals for underprivileged families. Sign-up is live.  
popphoenix.org

The **2025 New Horizons High School Student Art Exhibition**, held annually at the Shemer Art Center (5005 E. Camelback Road) since 1987, is on display until February 13 and features approximately 89 works of art created by students from over 45 high schools across the Valley. Stop by, check out the pieces and show some love to our local artists.  
shemerartcenter.org

Miriam Hahn of **YouCare-SelfCare** will host a series in February centered on health and wellness. Interested parties can attend classes focused on cancer-fighting and anti-aging superfoods and “the whole life detox.” Each in-person class is two hours and will include recipes and cooking demos. The series will also be offered on March 4, 12 and 20 at 1 p.m. Registration is \$125 per person.  
youcare-selfcare.com

**Junior Achievement of Arizona** is accepting nominations for its 18 Under 18 Award until February 14 at midnight. JA is looking for those who are active in the community, innovative, and demonstrate

leadership and entrepreneurial spirit. Nominees must be under 18 by July 1, 2024, and attend school in Arizona. Winners will be announced in April.  
18under18.org

**A Taste of Melanin** was launched in 2024 by Michael Jackson, president of The Zay Project and founder of Mya Kai Creative Agency. The event series takes place throughout February and immerses attendees in the world of black culture through experiences, interactive exhibits, live performances and educational workshops. Events include a silent disco, movie night, karaoke, lectures, workshops and more. The full schedule is available online.  
atasteofmelanin.org

Throughout February, Peter Piper Pizza is donating \$1 of every heart-shaped pizza sold to the **Phoenix Children's Hope Fund** for the hospital's areas of need: pioneering research, state-of-the-art technology, recruitment of leading physicians and the implementation of programs designed to create a more comfortable hospital environment.  
phoenixchildrensfoundation.org

## EVENTS

### SATURDAY 2/1

#### Parada del Sol and Trail's End Festival

9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Parade starts at Drinkwater Blvd. through downtown Scottsdale. Celebrate Arizona's “Most Western Town” with the 71st annual Parada and Trail's End Festival. Over 30,000 spectators will watch a parade of 150 entries, including bands, floats, horses and more, and then head to the festival for live entertainment, music, activities, food trucks, games, and dancing. Attendance is free.  
scottsdaleparade.com

#### Touch a Truck

1-6 p.m. at North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Ave. Get ready to get up close and personal with over 50 vehicles at the annual Touch a Truck event. There will be fire trucks, police vehicles, helicopters, race cars and military autos for attendees to explore, plus food vendors and interactive games. Proceeds go to Camp Patrick for kids with Spina Bifida. Tickets are \$5 per person.  
camppatrick.com

#### Les Miserables

7 p.m. at Veritas Prep, 3102 N. 56th St., Phoenix. The fine arts students of Veritas Prep present “Les Miserables,” a musical adaptation of Victor Hugo's novel

chronicling the struggles of ex-convict Jean Valjean as he seeks redemption while being pursued by Inspector Javert. Set against the backdrop of post-revolutionary France, the story explores themes of love, sacrifice and justice. Tickets are \$20.  
veritasprep.greatheartamerica.org

### SUNDAY 2/2

#### Arizona Indian Festival

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

### WEDNESDAY 2/5

#### African Children's Choir

6:30 p.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3641 N. 56th St., Phoenix. The African Children's Choir, comprised of children ages 8-11, is celebrating its 40th anniversary with a heartwarming performance of popular children's tunes, traditional spiritual songs and vibrant African cultural pieces. This concert is free, but donations are welcome.  
africanchildrenschoir.com

### THURSDAY 2/6

#### Savor the Symphony

11 a.m. at Symphony Hall, 75 N. 2nd St., Phoenix. This luncheon offers guests a behind-the-scenes look at Phoenix Symphony's rehearsal for Simply the Best: The Music of Tina Turner, followed by a curated luncheon. Guests will also meet guest artist Tamika Lawrence, Phoenix Pops conductor Stuart Chafetz and the musicians of Phoenix Symphony. Tickets are \$500 per person.  
phoenixsymphony.org

### SATURDAY 2/8

#### Melrose Vintage Market

9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Roosevelt Community Church, 924 N. 1st St., Phoenix. This monthly pop-up market is family-friendly with over 45 vendors selling their wares. Attendees will find vintage furniture, decor, clothing, knick-knacks, handmade jewelry, and arts and crafts. There will be activities for kids and food trucks available. This event is free.  
melrosevintagemarket.com

#### Family Valentine's Festival

10 a.m. at Arizona Boardwalk, 9500 E. Via de Ventura, Scottsdale. The fifth annual Family Fun Valentine's Festival kicks off with DJ FLO playing music on center stage while kids participate in



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Photo caption: “Black cat coffee, black cat tea, hot or cold for me, me, me” by Jules Gissler

# WHAT'S HAPPENING, ARCADIA?



**Parada del Sol and Trail's End Festival** in Scottsdale.

themed crafts, coloring contests, bounce houses, slides, face painting and more. This event is free, but if you register and bring your ticket to the festival, you'll be entered into a giveaway for various prize packs.

[azboardwalk.com](http://azboardwalk.com)

## FRIDAY 2/14

### Paint Night

7 p.m. at Alter Ego, 108 E. University Dr., Tempe. Looking for a unique way to celebrate Valentine's Day? Alter Ego is hosting a "Paint Your Partner" experience where guests are guided step-by-step to create a one-of-a-kind portrait of each other – no art skills required, just make sure you bring a sense of humor and room for snacks and drinks. Tickets are \$39 per person.

[alteregotempe.com](http://alteregotempe.com)

### Le Cabaret de Marionettes

8 p.m. at the Great Arizona Puppet Theater, 302 W. Latham St., Phoenix. Celebrate the art of puppetry with performances by some of the most talented artists in the field, including Madame C, Troubador Cafe, and Rasputin's Marionettes. Guests will experience puppetry, sideshows, live music, and "other local curiosities." This show is 18+ and tickets are \$30 for general admission.

[azpuppets.org](http://azpuppets.org)

## SATURDAY 2/15

### Drive the Dream Gala

5:30-11 p.m. at The Phoenician, 6000 E. Camelback Road. Childhelp, a nonprofit dedicated to at-risk children's needs, is hosting its 21st annual Drive the Dream fundraising gala. This year's theme is "Hope," and guests will be treated to cocktails, dancing, dinner and entertainment from emcee Leticia Frye, Nate Nathan and the MacDaddy-O's and headliner John Rich, former member of

Lonestar and co-founder of Big & Rich. Ticket prices vary.

[childhelp.org](http://childhelp.org)

### Shop with Heart Market

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

[localtradeaz.com](http://localtradeaz.com)

### Love Blooms Merchantile Market

10 a.m. at Scottsdale Civic Center, 3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd. More shopping? Yes, please! The Love Blooms Market boasts 50+ vendors, hands-on make and take experiences, beer and cocktail tents, live music, food booths, and activities for the kids. This event is free.

[merchantilemarket.com](http://merchantilemarket.com)

## SUNDAY 2/16

### Frida

1 p.m. at Symphony Hall, 75 N. 2nd St., Phoenix. Ballet Arizona presents the U.S. premiere of Frida – a retelling of Frida Kahlo's life story. The world of this celebrated Mexican painter comes to life through Annabelle Lopez Ochoa's choreography. Audiences will see Kahlo's motifs, paintings, and dreams reimaged through dance and woven within her story. Tickets start at \$35.

[balletaz.org](http://balletaz.org)

### Winemaker Talks

10:30 a.m. at LDV Winery, 7134 E. Stetson Dr., Scottsdale. This event is an opportunity to expand your knowledge of vino. Winemaker Curt Dunham will be on-site discussing "Library Wines" and how the older vintages in LDV's collection are



**Love Blooms Merchantile Market** in Scottsdale.

aging. There will be sips and snacks included in the \$20 registration.

[ldvwinery.com](http://ldvwinery.com)

## TUESDAY 2/18

### Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable

6 p.m. at the Scottsdale Public Library, 3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd. This month's Scottsdale Civil War Roundtable will host

historian and author Dr. Alex Rossino, who will lecture on the loss of Special Orders 190 and 191, the identity of the Confederate messenger that lost the orders and the location where they were found. Doors open at 5 p.m. for meeting the speaker, book sale, and viewing Civil War videos. This event is free.

[scottsdalecwrt.org](http://scottsdalecwrt.org)

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING, ARCADIA?

## SATURDAY 2/22

### Furry Friends Fine Arts Festival

9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Shemer Art Center, 5005 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. An art festival for the entire family, pets included. Shemer will showcase all things animal with paintings, drawings, photography, ceramics, metal, furniture and clothing. There will also be vendors, paw readings, pet adoptions, contests, live entertainment and activities for the kids. Admission is \$5 per person or \$15 for the family.

[shemerartcenter.org](http://shemerartcenter.org)

### Team Hope Glow Walk

4 p.m. at Margaret T. Hance Park, 67 W. Culver St., Phoenix. The Arizona Chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America will host the Team Hope Glow Walk to raise awareness and support for HDSA's mission. Team Hope is HDSA's largest national fundraising event, which takes place in over 100 cities and has raised more than \$28 million since its inception in 2007. Registration is \$30 for adults, \$20 for kids.

[arizona.hdsa.org](http://arizona.hdsa.org)

### Vegan Street Fair

11 a.m. at PHX Beer Co., 3002 E. Washington St., Phoenix. This second annual street fair will offer attendees of



*Furry Friends Fine Arts Festival at Shemer Art Center.*

all ages a chance to meet and learn about various vegan and vegan-friendly vendors from all over the world and enjoy food and drink tastings, shopping, music, dancing and plenty of photo ops. General admission is free, fast passes (skip the lines) start at \$55.

[veganstreetfair.com](http://veganstreetfair.com)

### Aerial Yoga Fizz and Flow

12 p.m. at Mountain Shadows, 5445 E. Lincoln Dr., Paradise Valley. Held in the movement studio and led by Charley Hernandez, this aerial yoga class is all about gentle movement and deep stretching. A guided meditation and glass of bubbly will

end the session and set you up for relaxing Saturday. Registration is \$29 per person.

[mountainshadows.com](http://mountainshadows.com)

## SATURDAY 2/22 – SUNDAY 2/23

### Devour Culinary Classic

11:30 a.m. at Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N. Galvin Pkwy., Phoenix. Awarded the Best Southwestern Culinary Festival, the Devour Culinary Classic is the premier event during Devour Week. Attendees can meet chefs and restaurateurs while watching cooking demos. There will also be tastings and sips from the region's best chefs, restaurants, artisans, brewers and vintners. The tasting package is \$150 and the early entry package is \$225.

[devourphoenix.com](http://devourphoenix.com)

## THURSDAY 2/27

### Blues in the Night

7:30 p.m. at the Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Pkwy. This musical revue weaves the stories of four people as they navigate love, heartbreak, and rebirth. Set in a 1930s Chicago hotel, this show features songs by blues and jazz icons like Bessie Smith, Johnny Mercer, Harold Arlen, Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn, Ida Cox, and Benny Goodman, to name a few. Tickets start at \$25.

[atc.org](http://atc.org)



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# What do the Los Angeles Fires Mean for Our Real Estate Market?

At The Brokery, we have already fielded multiple calls from Los Angeles residents impacted by the recent fires. The calls are emotional and raw. Husbands and wives trying to figure out how to put their families in the best situation possible to carry on after their homes, schools, stores, and churches were just wiped off the map.

From what I have gathered so far through my conversations with those impacted by the fires is that the majority of them already have friends and family here in the Valley or a past experience that they find comforting. Additionally, these new residents are looking to rent from the outset to get settled, identify schools, negotiate their insurance payouts, and make sure that they enjoy the Arizona lifestyle before jumping into a purchase. It is more of a fact-finding mission than it is a goal to buy a home at the moment.

While this new crowd is affluent and capable of purchasing luxury homes in our market, we do not believe there will be an immediate impact on sales, at least not enough to move the whole market. Sure, there will be some outliers who come into town and purchase big homes, but that won't be the average Los Angeles transplant. What we do know is that luxury rentals will be in extremely high demand and our schools will need to be staffed appropriately to handle the additional student load.

We hope that this helps bring you some color to the recent events. This situation remains fluid and we will do our best to keep you up to date on any market movements stemming from this disaster. We feel for our friends and co-workers affected by the fires, and hope that they can find some comfort here in our communities.

If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

*Tucker Blalock*



## THE BROKERY

**Tucker Blalock** Managing Broker, Co-Founder  
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# OUT OF THE AREA, BUT WORTH THE DRIVE

## SATURDAY 2/1 – SUNDAY 2/2

### Fine Art and Wine Festival

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Kierland Commons, 15205 N. Kierland Blvd., Scottsdale. Main Street will have the vino flowing at this year's festival. Guests will find more than 100 world-class artists showcasing their wares in an outdoor gallery while 15 of the region's best wineries pour more than 150 different wines to try. There will also be shopping and live entertainment. This event is free, tasting tickets start at \$15.

[willcoxwinecountry.org](http://willcoxwinecountry.org)

## SUNDAY 2/2

### Chandler International Film Festival

Times vary, at LOOK Dine-in Cinema, 1 W. Chandler Blvd. The ninth annual Chandler Film Festival will feature 150 films from more than 35 countries. Guests can also enjoy an opening ceremony, industry workshops, a digital film market and expo, the City of Chandler's Multicultural Festival, an award ceremony, panel discussions, after-parties and celebrity appearances. Full festival passes start at \$240.

[chandlerfilmfestival.com](http://chandlerfilmfestival.com)

## FRIDAY 2/7

### The Little Mermaid

7:30 p.m. at Fountain Hills Theater, 11445 N. Saguaro Blvd. With a blend of familiar characters, dazzling costumes and sing-a-long-able musical numbers, guests are invited to head under the sea as Ariel the mermaid makes a pact with Ursula to become human – but she must win the heart of Prince Eric within three days, or she will belong to Ursula forever. You know the story – now see it live. Tickets are \$40 for adults, \$18 for kids.

[fhtaz.org](http://fhtaz.org)

## SATURDAY 2/8 – SUNDAY 2/9

### Festival of Nations

5-10 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. Sunday at Mark Coronado Park, 15960 N. Bullard Ave., Surprise. This multi-cultural festival



Concours in the Hills in Fountain Hills.

hosts international craft vendors, food trucks, performances, entertainment, activities, dancing, music, shopping and more – with one common goal: to support Arizona's diverse communities. Tickets to this all-ages event are \$10 for one day, \$15 for two days.

[azfestivalofnations.org](http://azfestivalofnations.org)

## SUNDAY 2/9

### Birds and Barrels Wine Run

9 a.m. at Birds and Barrels Vineyard, 5000 E. Arzberger Road, Willcox. If you don't like walking or running, maybe the promise of a little vino will interest you in this 5K. Guests will cruise around the vineyard, taking in the views of the mountains and orchards, and afterwards, enjoy a drink or two. Registration includes a wine glass, t-shirt, medal (that doubles as a coaster) and more. Price is \$40 per person.

[birdsandbarrels.com](http://birdsandbarrels.com)

### Arizona Renaissance Festival

10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Festival Village, 12601 E. Hwy. 60, Gold Canyon. The Arizona Renaissance Festival promises medieval fun all in one. Highlights include a 14-stage theater, a 30-acre circus, arts and crafts fair, a jousting tournament and a feast with all the fixings. There will be costumed

characters, roasted turkey legs, games of chance and skill and more. Tickets are \$36 for adults, \$24 for kids.

[arizona.renfestinfo.com](http://arizona.renfestinfo.com)

## THURSDAY 2/13 – SUNDAY 2/23

### Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show

8 a.m. at WestWorld, 16601 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale. Featuring more than 2,100 horses competing for over \$1 million, attendees will witness a variety of showings at the 70th annual Arabian Horse Show. There will also be an immersive experience, a fine art exhibit, and craft and shopping vendors. The Arabian Horse Association of Arizona will celebrate National Arabian Horse Day on February 19 with events and activities. Admission is \$15; tickets good for all 11 days are \$75.

[scottsdaleshow.com](http://scottsdaleshow.com)

## FRIDAY 2/14

### Chocolate Lovers' Special

1-5 p.m. at the Verde Canyon Railroad, 300 N. Broadway, Clarkdale. Looking for a new way to celebrate your love this Valentine's Day? Treat them to a train ride – one where delectable treats and delicious cocktails abound. Pastries, fruit, chocolate-covered pretzels and marshmallows will be available while guests enjoy the spectacular Verde Canyon just outside the windows. Registration is \$175 per person.

[verdecanyonrr.com](http://verdecanyonrr.com)

## SATURDAY 2/15

### Concours in the Hills

10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fountain Park, 12925 N. Saguaro Blvd., Fountain Hills. The greatest "car" show on grass happens at the 11th annual Concours in the Hills. Guests will find various vehicles on display, including classics, foreign and domestic high-performance cars, muscle and sports cars, off-road and military vehicles, plus a vendor village and food and beverage options. Attendance is free, and donations are welcome. Proceeds support Phoenix Children's Hope Fund.

[phoenixchildrensfoundation.org](http://phoenixchildrensfoundation.org)

### AZ Strong Beer Festival

1 p.m. at Salt River Fields, 7555 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale. The 24th annual Arizona Strong Beer Festival will have over 500 beers on tap from over 100 different breweries. Various food vendors, live music and entertainment, beer education panels and "strong man" games will also happen. General admission is \$55 and includes 24 tasting tickets and a commemorative cup. VIP package are \$70 and include early admission. [chooseazbrews.com](http://chooseazbrews.com)

### Jazz Icons: A Soundtrack for All Generations

6 p.m. at the Ravenscroft, 8445 E. Hartford Dr., Scottsdale. Jazz Pianist Michael Kocour and his quartet bring the genre to life with the music of iconic composers Quincy Jones, Benny Golson, Wes Montgomery, McCoy Tyner, Kenny Garrett, and Herbie Hancock. Featured artists include Michael Kocour, Jeff Libman, Corcoran Holt and Robby Carrillo. Proceeds benefit the House of Refuge Sunnyslope. Tickets are \$40.

[theravenscroft.com](http://theravenscroft.com)

## SATURDAY 2/15 – SUNDAY 2/16

### Chocolate Affaire

10 a.m. at the Glendale Civic Center, 5750 W. Glenn Dr. Calling all chocolate lovers: your new favorite event is here! Attendees of all ages can visit with various chocolatiers showcasing chocolate strawberries to fried Snickers and everything in between. There will also be food trucks, live entertainment and family-friendly interactive experiences. Attendance is free.

[thechocolateaffaire.com](http://thechocolateaffaire.com)

## THURSDAY 2/20

### Arizona Fine Art Expo

10 a.m.-6 p.m. at 26540 N. Scottsdale Road. The 21st annual Arizona Fine Art Expo invites guests to meet artists in their creative space and immerse themselves in the process. Throughout the event, 120 on-site artists will showcase multiple mediums, such as bronze, stone carving, metal and wood sculptures, southwest art, western art and mid-century modern pieces. This expo is ongoing until March 26. Admission starts at \$10; 12 and under in free.

[arizonafineartexpo.com](http://arizonafineartexpo.com)

## SATURDAY 2/22

### Stand-Up Science Presents: Volcano

3 p.m. at Mic Drop Mania, 51 E. Boston St., Chandler. Ben Miller is an NYC based scientist turned comedian who has performed at New York City clubs like the Broadway Comedy Club and The Stand. At his first-ever Arizona show, Miller will combine science and laughs while he explores topics like volcanology, entomology, Hawaiian history, cats, cookies, and more. Tickets are \$20 per person.

[micdropmania.com](http://micdropmania.com)





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# Arcadia Little League's inaugural fall season was a home run

By Cliff Summerhill

After the success of the 67th season, Arcadia Little League's Vice President Chris Ramondetta had a thought.

What if there was a fall season? Would there be any interested families? How would the games go? Ramondetta presented the idea to league President Mike Ord, and as it turns out, there were almost 100 interested kids... and ALL's inaugural fall ball was a grand slam.

The league had eight teams that played 15 regular games and four intense playoff matchups.

"The fall season has set the groundwork for future iterations, with plans to expand into both competitive and novice divisions next year," Ramondetta said. "This will accommodate players seeking a more intense experience and those looking for fun, seasonal play."

It also became a journey of growth for the kids, with Phillies Coach Ryan Reynolds emphasizing that the best part was watching the team improve their baseball skills and truly come together as a unit.

Reynolds shared a heartwarming moment when player Harrison Fuller hit a grand slam during the first playoff game – the kids in the dugout started chanting, "Bases loaded, Harrison's G.O.A.T.'ed," and the coach said they could feel the pride emanating off the field.

The camaraderie built among the



The 2024 Fall League Champs: Burke, Finn, Henry, Henri, Burke, Davis, Ben, Porter, Smith, Noah, Harrison, Everett and Adam with Coaches Ryan, Andy and Thomas.

players, coaches and families made the experience even more memorable, as did an exhilarating conclusion, with the Phillies securing victory, 13-6, over the A's in the championship.

"We played our best defensive game," Reynolds said. "Winning a baseball

championship at any level is no small thing, so I was thrilled for them."

He acknowledged the support of his staff, including Coaches Andy Fillon and Thomas Olmsted, who helped keep the team focused throughout the high-pressure playoff games.

"Coaching playoffs was more nerve-

wracking than when I was playing as a kid," Reynolds said. "The players were awesome, the parents were helpful, and at the end of the day, it was all worth it. Very rewarding."

The championship win carried special meaning as Reynolds' son, Smith, got to share the victory with his team and his dad.

"It was such a fun game to watch. Both teams played great, but watching the boys celebrate their win was incredible. I don't know if I've ever seen a happier group of eight-year-olds," Smith's mom, Kellie, said. "I hope they will always remember this season."

Nine-year-old Ben Omer said the best part of playing in the league is being with his friends, but winning the championship was a major highlight – even though he was a little nervous.

"Last season, we lost in the semifinals, so I was nervous about playing in the championship game," Ben said. "When we got the last out, we all started screaming and running around. It was really cool!"

With the fall season behind them, players and families are already looking forward to spring, with practices starting mid-February. According to Coach Reynolds, most of the championship team is expected – and excited – to return. This year's opening night celebration happens on March 21 at 5:30 p.m.

[arcadialittleleague.com](http://arcadialittleleague.com)



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Arcadia Little League is hosting an ongoing fundraiser to renovate the playing fields at Camelback Christian Church, Ingleside and Echo Canyon School.

Learn more at  
[shop.teamupeqvent.com/org/all](http://shop.teamupeqvent.com/org/all)



Elizabeth Swagert, Alexandra Orth and Alexandra Blanchard made their own terrariums.

## Support local and plant good vibes with Jade & Clover

By Kylie de Best

These days, it's not uncommon to shop online for whatever your heart desires – groceries, décor, diapers, pet food, etc. You name it, it's available online and with immediate satisfaction.

Arcadia plant shop Jade & Clover aims to change that process – especially when it comes to plants, décor and more – and remind visitors that “brick-and-mortars aren't dead.”

The shop was created by siblings Frank and Giselle Ruggeberg, a duo that was looking to create a business that brought the community together in a safe, welcoming environment. “What better way to do that than with a make-and-take plant bar that also served as a space for small businesses to showcase their wares,” they thought.

In that spirit, Jade & Clover opened its first storefront in Dallas nine years ago, then expanded to Nashville and, three years ago, to Arcadia.

“Giselle and I make a great team. She is more of the creative person, whereas I am more of a numbers person,” Frank said.

Located next to Postino Winecafé on 40th and Campbell, the shop's main draw is the plant bar, where guests can curate their very own garden in three simple steps. Start by picking from a variety of containers (pots, glassware, mugs, bowls – there's a plethora). Then, choose which succulents, cacti, or houseplants will go into said container. Finally, staff will assist in putting everything together, including sand, soil, gravel, and decorations to really make the garden shine.

“This is the perfect place to get together with friends,” customer Elizabeth Swagert said. “I love how everything is laid out and so colorful.”

Terrarium-makers can choose from red kale, lavender, mini tomato, curly parsley, cilantro, oregano, peppermint, chili pepper, and rosemary, along with succulents. The plants are sourced from California and



Arizona, with the owners' goal being to support local as much as they can.

Within the space are businesses such as Indigo Blue Pet, which specializes in dog and cat supplies, and Humble Jewels, which sells hand-made jewelry. Other areas of the store include a grab and go gift section with children's books and toys, clothing, house decor, coffee mugs, journals, stickers, seeds, succulents, cacti and plant-care items.

Honing in on creating that community experience, Jade & Clover also hosts monthly events like Plants and Pilates, bouquet classes, sound baths, and more. Upcoming on February 2 is a Sip and Script event and on February 13 is a Galentine's herb garden class from 6-8 p.m.

Also new at the Arcadia location is El Café de Lily, a coffee cart that operates in front of the shop Tuesday-Friday at 7 a.m. and Saturday at 8 a.m.

Looking toward springtime, Jade & Clover is excited to promote its new traveling terrarium bar, which brings the iconic plant bar experience directly to guests.

[jadeandclover.com](http://jadeandclover.com)

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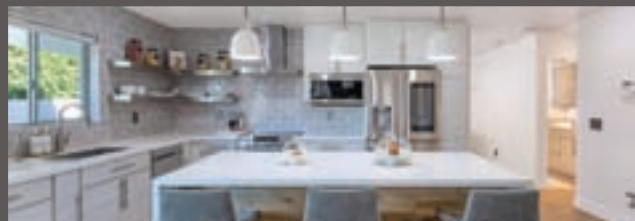
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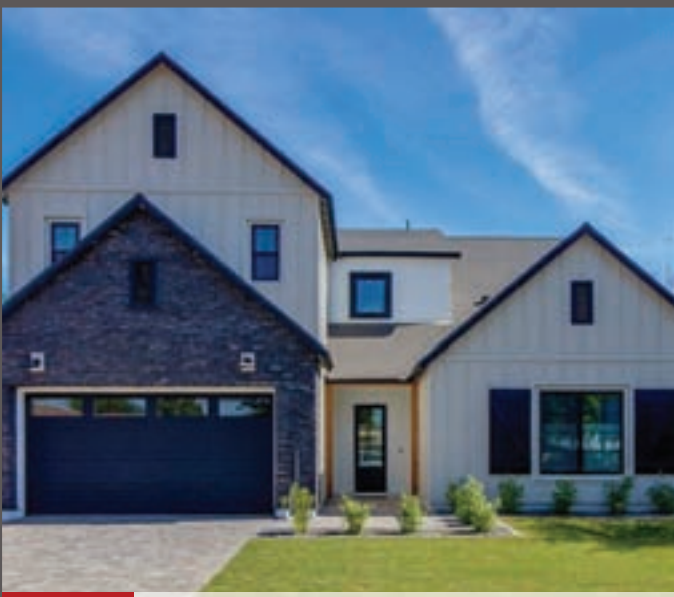
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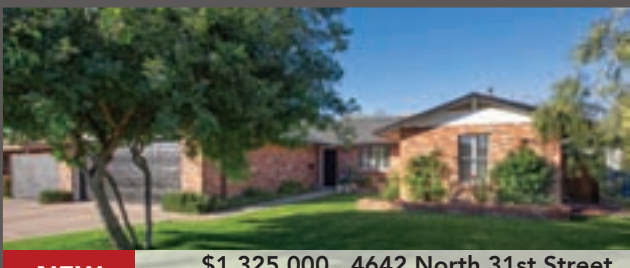
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# In the Kitchen

with **Andrew Newberg,**  
**Executive Chef at the Arizona Biltmore**

2400 E. Missouri Ave., Phoenix • [arizonabiltmore.com](http://arizonabiltmore.com)

**V**alley born, Midwest raised Chef Andrew Newberg learned early on that he wanted to be in the restaurant industry. From neighborhood grills to restaurants near sandy beaches to rambunctious kitchens in the city of second chances, Newberg traveled the world before finding a new home as Arizona Biltmore's executive chef.

## Where are you from originally?

I was born in Chandler and then my family and I moved to Iowa, which is where most of them are from. I was there for my childhood and high school years, and then I went to the Culinary Institute of America in New York. I moved around a lot for different jobs and positions, which has been cool. I've gotten to see different foods and sceneries. Iowa is nice but I wanted to branch out.

## Where did you work before culinary school?

I started working in a restaurant at 14 as a dishwasher and a busboy at a neighborhood bar and grill, and then moved up to counter service and bakery. I think that's what influenced me most in wanting to go to culinary school. That world – these cool guys in the white coats, they get to play with the food and make these cool things – I wanted to be part of that.

## Were you focused on bakery and pastry before fine dining?

For a little bit. Baking is very scientific, everything is planned and estimated out, you're following a recipe. In culinary, it's a little more of a casual vibe. You're testing things out and tasting and adding different ingredients and experimenting with flavor profiles. Working in actual restaurants caught my attention more.

## As a kid, did you imagine becoming a chef?

I wanted to be an architect when I was in high school. I took AP architecture classes while I was working in restaurants, just to have something to do outside of work. I was still on the fence about either going into the culinary industry or architecture industry and I remember the professor or speaker or whatever he was, was *so* boring. And I thought to myself, 'if this is what architects are like' – and I'm positive not

all of them are like this – but this guy was like the teacher from *Ferris Bueller* [laughs] – 'I don't want to do it.' Don't come for me, architects!

## What is your first memory of food and cooking?

Mom and dad in the kitchen and me getting in the way to try and figure out what they were doing, probably burning myself a couple of times and saying 'I can help grab that pan' which turned out to be a bad idea [laughs].

## What other restaurants have you worked at?

I came here from Las Vegas – I was the assistant executive chef for Aria and Vdara. I was there for seven years. I worked for Hyatt Hotels and opened Hyatt Regency Seattle and Denver. I helped open the Grand Hyatt Baha Mar and Grand Hyatt at the San Francisco Airport.

I worked at Charlie Trotter's and did stages at Alinea in Chicago and a few other high end places. Right out of culinary school I helped open up a restaurant in St. John Virgin Islands. I was there for around six months and learned a lot, like the difference between going to visit those places and actually living and working there – it's not as glamorous.

## What is a recipe you thought up that didn't quite go as planned?

Oh, there are so many [laughs]. Everywhere I've ever been I've come up with ideas and been like 'this is going to be awesome.' I remember working in St. John at a fine dining steakhouse and I thought it would be a great idea to do a deconstructed Chicago-style pizza.

Looking back, I don't know how this was going to work out. I had all the components – each piece together makes a pizza, and outside of that, it's just sauce and cheese. I remember there was a *tuile* of cornmeal crust, confit tomatoes... it was more of a salad than anything.

## What are your responsibilities as executive chef?

I oversee the entire hotel. There's a chef for Renata's Hearth, a chef for McArthur's, there are banquets, events – I oversee all of them. It's more administrative work but we all collaborate



as far as what direction we want the hotel to go in: coming up with new menu items, developing the chefs, pushing the culinary environment forward.

We've done a lot to elevate the banquet program because we do a huge amount of events. With my experience at other resorts I'm able to show everyone 'okay, here's how we can showcase food in these areas.' There are nine chefs total and it's a constant collaboration.

## Describe the cuisine at Renata's and McArthur's.

McArthur's is what we like to call approachable American cuisine, burgers and country club-esque things, but at night its elevated with scallops, steak frites, a roasted chicken dish. Hearty comfort foods without the heaviness. Renata's is Latin-American focused and we honed it to be more south of Mexico into northern South America.

There's a story of what Renata's means and it centers on traveling around the world, gathering food and sharing it with family and friends. That's why a lot of the dishes are sharable. We focus on an

essence of smoke. There's a gentleman that works here that comes in at 3 a.m. to start smoking our wagyu brisket. There's a lamb barbacoa, wood-fired branzino; it's a lot of smells and sensational experiences.

## Do you have a process in coming up with new menu items?

Nothing tried and true as everything is always changing. I could keep coming up with menu items but after a while you get drained, or you start to repeat yourself, so I rely on the people I work with. I like to pick their brains and then if something needs changing – let's do this instead of this, you know?

Menus change at least twice a year. At McArthur's we're focused on having more local ingredients. We have pomegranate and kumquat trees on the property and we can't pick all the fruit, but we utilize a few for kumquat jam, stuff like that. At Renata's, they change the menus up with the seasons so not only are the dishes staying relevant but it gives the chefs something to play with and guests something new to enjoy.

**What are the most popular items?**

At Renata's, the brisket is the most popular but what's crazy is the next eight most popular dishes are all seafood – the octopus, the branzino, the Chilean sea bass, and so on. McArthur's breakfast and lunch is the most popular but the turkey club and American burgers sell a lot, and for breakfast the citrus fruit bowl is a number one seller.

**What is one item in the kitchen you find yourself using most often?**

My brain *[laughs]*! No, for me, it's tasting spoons. I think that's one of the most important things that I try to impart on the chefs is that you should be constantly be tasting. Never leave hungry, that's part of the job. If you're constantly going around trying things, you'll learn which dishes need salt, which ones are dry, which are too wet, which are losing flavor, you know?

**Who are some chefs that inspire you?**

John Pivar out in Seattle was great. I learned so much from Carlos Guia, who was the executive chef at Aria. I worked with him for years. I remember growing up I would watch PBS's *Great Chefs of the World* – some of those chefs were inspirational.

**How do you stay calm when things get crazy in the kitchen?**

It's a challenge. It's part of the high-

octane environment that is a kitchen. Everything is always last minute because you want to push things so the person gets the food the moment they're supposed to get it. That also creates a level of stress. I have to keep reminding myself to relax and remember things won't always go the way you want them to go. Trust the process.

**What's the difference between working in Vegas and working at The Biltmore?**

It's much smaller here, for sure. There aren't a bunch of people under the influence wandering around *[laughs]*. There's more freedom for some things out here because it's not so massive. It's easier to adopt things and there's the local influence, which is important. If I want to change the menu and have it go live tomorrow, I can do that here.

In Vegas, people who visit want the dishes from around the country or around the world, not the 'local Nevada thing.' The culinary team at Aria was 4,000 people. I was constantly involved in every aspect.

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

I enjoy reading and going out to new restaurants to try out new things. I typically don't go to the same place twice and try to absorb as much as I can from each. I love traveling to see and

***That world – these cool guys in the white coats, they get to play with the food and make these cool things – I wanted to be part of that.***

experience different areas, cultures and food. I feel like everywhere I go I see something inspiring or meet people that I connect with. I try to go to at least one concert or comedy show or live event a month. Arizona has so many of them!

**Which famous person would you like to cook for?**

I should be cheesy and say 'families are our own personal celebrities' *[laughs]*. I would like to cook for my extended family, including late relatives, to get everyone together and have a good time and share stories and laugh and show them how far I have come.

I am a little bit of a nerd and would love to cook for David Attenborough since he has been so many places and has so much wisdom and knowledge. Anthony

Bourdain as well, with his knowledge and skills. He did such an amazing job shining a light on the hidden gems and the behind the scenes of restaurants where the everyday person goes. I would love to just sit and listen to both of them.

**What's next for Chef Andrew?**

I've been at Biltmore for about a year so I'm continuously developing the program and teams. There's a lot of great opportunities to showcase what we've got at our restaurants and get involved in the local scene, like doing something at farmer's markets. We're planning for upcoming holidays. We're kind of secluded, so we want people to know we're here and are excited to serve our community.

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## 'Super' spots to hang for the big game

By Kylie de Best

In just nine days, friends and families will gather around the television to watch the annual Super Bowl. If you're looking for a new vibe for this year's commercials and music – and, okay, football – check out a few options for venues, eats and watch parties happening around the Valley.



**The Phoenician Tavern** (6000 E. Camelback Road, Scottsdale) is welcoming guests that are cheering for both teams, with 12 televisions available for prime viewing. Happy Hour runs from 3 to 6 p.m. and includes drink specials such as \$3 off specialty cocktails, \$8 draft beers, and \$10 mules or Spiked Phoenician Iced Tea. Food specials range from \$8 to \$12 and include items like Kobe beef sliders, chicken wings, and BBQ chicken nachos.

[thephoenician.com](http://thephoenician.com)

**Hash Kitchen** (4315 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix) is focusing on the halftime show with their specials this year. There will be a special Kendrick Lamar-themed brunch and team-themed shots to cheer on your favorite contenders. DJs will spin Kendrick tracks and more fun will be announced in the coming week.

[hashkitchen.com](http://hashkitchen.com)

**The Vig** (4041 N. 40th St., Phoenix) is offering a game day spread so you can focus on the fun. The takeaway special includes chips, queso, sliders, wings, dips, veggies and more for up to 10 people. Cost is \$300 and orders should be placed 24 hours in advance.

[thevig.us](http://thevig.us)

**The Hot Chick** (4363 N. 75th St., Scottsdale) and **Boondocks** (4341 N. 75th St., Scottsdale) are joining forces to bring fans an epic block party of football, food and fun. Jumbo LED screens will show the game and DJs will have music going throughout the entire weekend. There is also an option for a VIP bottle service.

[thehotchickaz.com](http://thehotchickaz.com)

On February 9 starting at 4 p.m., **Roaring Fork** (4800 N. Scottsdale Road) will offer its popular "Dinner on Us" buy one entree, get one free promotion on the eatery's signature wood-fired favorites, like the shrimp and grits, burger, bacon wrapped pork tenderloin, rainbow trout, rotisserie chicken and more.

[roaringfork.com](http://roaringfork.com)

**DraftKings Sportsbook** (8129 E. Bell Road) is hosting a big game watch party at TPC Scottsdale on February 9. Guests 21 and over can experience the game on 2,700+ square feet of video screens and enjoy an elevated menu including a seafood bar, signature pizzas, smoked grilled items and caviar toast.

[draftkingsportsbook.tpc.com](http://draftkingsportsbook.tpc.com)

**Twin Peaks** (2135 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix) is setting up the perfect viewing location with more than 100 TVs, and fans can enjoy a free chips and queso with a \$25 purchase.

[twinpeaksrestaurant.com](http://twinpeaksrestaurant.com)

**Skysill Rooftop Lounge** (11 E. 7th St., Tempe) will host a rooftop watch party and football bingo games on February 9 from 3:30 to 10 p.m. Fans can snack on themed favorites from the tailgate menu like \$4 buffalo chicken sliders and enjoy drink specials like \$6 draft beers.

[skysillrooftop.com](http://skysillrooftop.com)

Using the code *football*, customers can get \$10 off Fiesta Platters at **Someburros** (5115 N. 7th St., Phoenix). Platters include 30 mini chimis (green, red and bean) and 10 taquitos (beef and chicken). The order also comes with a large bag of chips, a pint of signature hot sauce, and half a pint of guacamole. Platters should be ordered by February 8.

[someburros.com](http://someburros.com)

### WORTH THE DRIVE

Verizon's **Super Bowl LIX FanFest** is the largest first-ever simultaneous Super Bowl party across 30 cities – the Cardinals Stadium in Glendale included! From 2:30 to 8 p.m., attendees will have the opportunity to meet former running back David Johnson, Cardinals cheerleaders and other football legends. Food, music and games will also be available before the game starts.

[verizonfanfest.com](http://verizonfanfest.com)

**Lakeside Bar & Grill** (9980 W. Happy Valley Pkwy., Peoria) will open its doors at 10 a.m. on Super Bowl Sunday, with breakfast served until noon. There will be discounted drinks like \$2 celebration shots, a \$5 Bloody Mary and Bloody Maria bar and \$20 mimosa bubbly specials. Food specials include \$12 sliders, \$2 fried ribs (minimum six) and \$1 wings (minimum six).

[lakesidebarandgrillaz.com](http://lakesidebarandgrillaz.com)

**Moe's Southwest Grill** (15611 W. McDowell Road) is offering an early bird special of 15 percent off on orders of \$250 or more (plus free chips and salsa) for catering reservations made before February 7 at 7 p.m. Orders placed by February 8 will receive a \$25 Moe's e-gift card with any order of \$500 or more, plus free chips and salsa.

[moes.com](http://moes.com)



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Each pint of Slice and Dice and Yes, Chef! sold donates \$2 to C-CAP.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEN PARKS-STURGEON

# Yes, chef! Diners encouraged to pay it forward with pints

By Mark Hays

O . H . S . O . Brewery, award-winning chef Mark Tarbell, and Arizona-based Bell Bank teamed up this winter for the “Pay it Forward with Pints” initiative to benefit the Careers through the Culinary Arts Program (C-CAP), a nonprofit that connects high schoolers with opportunities in the hospitality industry while providing them with essential skills and scholarships.

According to Tarbell, who’s been involved with the organization for years, the inspiration behind the Pay It Forward campaign came from “knowing Barb Colleary, a trailblazer for children’s programs who introduced C-CAP to Arizona in 1994.”

“She was a major driving force for good and all things that benefited children,” Tarbell said. “She asked me to be involved in this new, innovative way to support high school students. The program was based in the culinary arts but gave each kid skills and opportunities beyond the stove.”

The 2024 initiative features two custom beers crafted by O.H.S.O. Brewery: Slice and Dice Rice Lager and Yes, Chef! Amber Lager.

The specially designed cans show colorful graphics, “fun facts,” and images of a smiling Tarbell.

The brews are available at O.H.S.O. and \$2 from every pint ordered is donated to C-CAP.

“We worked hard to find the right choices and were unanimous in the final selection. The rice beer is my favorite. Besides my goofy picture, the graphics are



Kyle Kennedy



Mark Tarbell

great, and I love the names,” Tarbell said. “What’s in the can is tasty and is a great way to raise money for a great organization.”

The custom cans also feature QR codes leading

to C-CAP’s website, where supporters can learn more and make donations.

Proceeds from the initiative directly support Arizona students participating in C-CAP, their competitions, in-class support, and higher education scholarships.

Kyle Kennedy, Bell Bank’s Phoenix president, was excited about the impact of the collaboration.

“Bell has teamed up with O.H.S.O. for the past several years to brand ‘Pay It Forward’ beers, with both businesses donating to a selected local charity for each pint sold. This fun, annual collaboration is echoed in other markets with businesses to benefit charity,” Kennedy said.

This year’s collaboration took on an added dimension when Bell featured several ‘Bell Champions’ – respected individuals who partner with the company to pay it forward to help others.

For Tarbell, the initiative is an effortless way for everyone to make a difference.

“Do good and have a little fun along the way,” he said. “O.H.S.O., Bell Bank, Tarbell’s, and Tarbell’s Wine Store are all supporters, but we also want to thank our amazing communities for the support they give.”

[ohsobrewery.com](http://ohsobrewery.com)

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“Meet Mrs.” | Ray Artigue

Vanessa Bosell Glass

Shakespeare once wrote, “To dance is to be out of yourself. Larger, more beautiful, more powerful.”

Though the English playwright couldn’t have known Vanessa Bosell Glass, his wisdom well applies to her because she has gained much from her love of dancing. The Arizona native’s passion for dance began when her mother put her in classes at age five. She fell in love with the art and never stopped moving.

“Dance gave me a physical voice. I was soft spoken as a young girl, but I could be heard when dancing. It was an outlet, and I could be myself,” Glass said. “My mom used to tell people, ‘I have one daughter, but it feels more like five boys due to all the energy in our house!’”

When she wasn’t doing cartwheels in the grocery store aisles – and sometimes knocking over food displays – Glass was trying on the tap shoes her mother picked up at a garage sale. By the time she was 11, Glass was seriously studying dance and began assisting the studio owner in order to pay for endless lessons.

Fast forward a few years: Glass became a lead performer on the Phoenix Suns, Phoenix Mercury and Los Angeles Clipper’s dance teams. She went on to create and direct the NBA E-League E-Kidz Dancers

“**Whatever your passion, work at it, stick with it, because things don’t always happen overnight.**”

program. While in L.A., she appeared on a hit reality show and in numerous commercials. She performed at the Middle Eastern International Film Festival in Dubai.

These days, Glass is the director for Educational Performance Tours, a company that provides high school students custom, curated educational tours throughout the United States. In the past three years, she has taken dance and theater students to San Francisco, Chicago and New York.

“It’s wonderful to trigger something in young people,” Glass explained, “especially those who feel less confident about themselves.”

She is emphatic in believing that everyone has some measure of talent and it’s just a matter of whether or not it gets cultivated.

“I can’t say enough about Vanessa. She focuses on what matters most, providing our students with world-class training, and they always return inspired and motivated,” dance educator Jennifer Vaughn said.

Glass grew up in Mesa in a single-parent household and didn’t meet her biological father until she was 38. Her favorite book is *Fierce Love*, a story about a mother and her boys in a life filled with defeats and hard-fought victories.

Glass and her husband, Eric, have been together for 10 years. They have two sons, Jett (8) and Major (5). The family loves living in Arcadia and don’t plan on leaving.

“When I was in my 20s, I would sometimes drive through the Arcadia neighborhood and dream of living there one day,” she fondly remembered.



She said her superpower is being able to easily meet and connect with people and her encouragement for others is very straightforward. “Take risks. Whatever your passion, work at it, stick with it, because things don’t always happen overnight.”

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# Celebrating Arizona's educators

*\$1.25M awarded to teachers across the state – including three of Arcadia's own*

By Sherry Sklar

Fiesta Bowl Charities received a record 4,000 applications for its Wishes for Teachers program this year, which granted \$2,500 to 500 deserving teachers across Arizona.

Hopi Elementary fifth-grade teachers Laura Mitchell and Margo Shein and Tavan Elementary second- and third-grade gifted teacher Michelle Moreno Bilger are the three Arcadia recipients of the 2024-2025 Fiesta Bowl Wishes for Teachers grants.

At first, the trio did not believe they had won, mistaking the initial notifications for spam. Realizing after repeated prompts that the emails were legitimate, the winners' disbelief morphed into delight.

"We thought that two applications might be better than one and increase our chances. We couldn't believe that we both received the grant," Mitchell said. "We thought, 'if both of us apply, maybe one of us will get it.' And then we both got it. We were amazed!"

Since its creation in 2016, the program has addressed critical funding gaps, helping teachers who often spend their own money on classroom materials.



In 2023, the program expanded to distribute \$1.25 million annually, benefiting 84 cities and towns, 380 schools, and 108 districts statewide. Teachers were honored during Draft Day at the Fiesta Bowl Museum and celebrated at the Rate Bowl halftime show in December.

Mitchell plans to use the award to organize a Family STEM Night that will feature interactive experiments and activities. She said she's grateful for the funding, which allows her to order supplies through nonprofit DonorsChoose. She notes that the award makes organizing an event of this scale easier, without relying on the PTA or school resources.

"Funding like this allows us to be more innovative in the classroom," she said. "Supplies are needed for the program's science stations, including math games, prizes, and giveaways, so a lot is involved, and this grant is a tremendous help."

Shein will use some of her award money for STEM Night but has plans for the remaining funds, including a refresh of classroom supplies like whiteboards and clipboards, and a binding machine to repair fragile books.



Bilger said she will use the funds to improve the physical classroom for her gifted learners.

"I'm creating a comfortable environment for my second and third grade students," she said. "We need voice-cancelling headphones, a cool-down area, and light shades to create an environment where gifted learners can excel and fully engage."

Bilger cites a need for essentials like a whiteboard, dry markers, erasers, and bookshelves to organize classroom materials, as these items will create an accessible learning environment.

As Arcadia's teachers innovate and

inspire, programs like Fiesta Bowl Wishes for Teachers – thanks to the generosity of community-driven initiatives – ensure they have the tools to succeed.

"Opportunities like this are invaluable," Bilger said. "This grant has helped me enhance my classroom where my students can thrive academically, emotionally and socially."

Fiesta Sports Foundation has supported and celebrated educators statewide, granting more than 2,600 Arizona teachers \$8.25 million in wishes in the past nine years.

[fiestabowl.org](http://fiestabowl.org)

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# Neighborhood pub brings multi-generational Arcadians together

By Sherry Sklar

Wally Collins is the kind of person who makes you feel a little brighter just by being in the room. His impressive career has spanned restaurant consulting, ownership, art, and, most recently, publishing as a new author.

Wally's first book, *Where's My Phone, My Glasses, My Keys, My Remote? The Subtle Joy of Aging* shares insights and humor about embracing life's later years. But what stands out most is his unshakable belief in finding delight in every corner of living.

"Life is joy," he said, his words carrying the clarity of hard-won wisdom.

"Sure, things happen, but you can take those negative experiences and let them help you understand happiness because of that experience."

After serving as an Air Force pilot during the Vietnam conflict, Wally transitioned to a civilian career with Western Airlines. During this time, he met Don Callender, the owner of Marie Callender's Restaurants. In a four-hour meeting, Callender convinced Wally to leave the airline industry and follow his heart into the restaurant business.

This pivotal decision launched a 42-year career as a successful restaurant owner, with ventures spanning Nevada, Florida and Arizona.

In 2002, after working as a consultant and helping develop Alice Cooperstown in Phoenix, Wally opened Wally's American Pub 'n Grille. Located in the Camelback Village Center, it has become a cherished establishment over the past 22 years.

When asked about the "secret sauce" that makes Wally's such a mainstay, the

namesake shared, "the main thing, as far as the restaurant goes, is just staying consistent – being true to what I started and making it a welcoming place for friends and families to come and enjoy themselves."

Wally's son Matt – who now runs the restaurant – shares his father's belief that happiness is something we can create, even in the face of life's challenges.

"We have become a neighborhood institution and are starting to see the kids who grew up with us returning with their families," he said. "This is the fun part for us, being a multi-generational gathering place. How many restaurants can say that?"

Matt is dedicated to carrying on the path Wally began decades ago. He highlights the importance of working with local partners, such as Willie Ituli Produce, Shamrock Foods, Noble Bread, and Pie Snob.

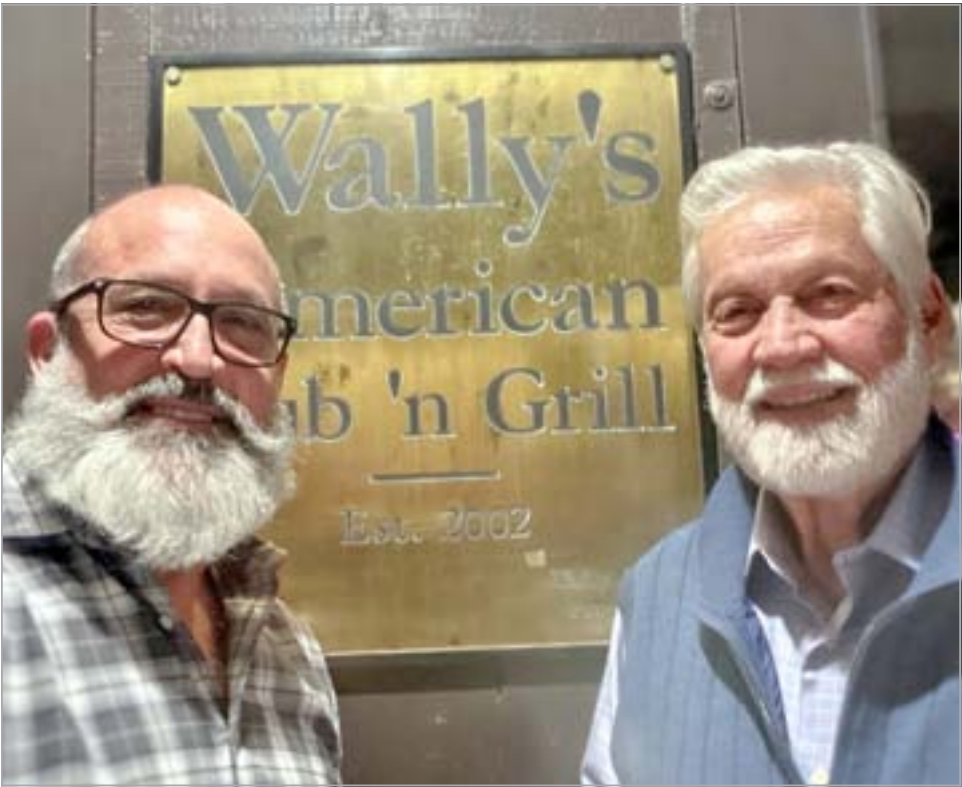
"We have built these strong relationships over the years," he and Wally agreed. "We are the epitome of 'buy local.' Using Valley

purveyors and supporting small businesses has been key to our success, and our guests appreciate that."

After decades in the restaurant business, Wally decided it was time to step away.

Now, he spends most days immersed in creative pursuits. Wally paints, writes, or sculpts almost every day. His artwork decorates the walls of his son's (Matt and Chef Chris Collins of Common Ground Culinary) restaurants, and he hosts an annual art sale on the restaurant's patio.

This philosophy of staying engaged and finding purpose also prompted Wally to write his first book. The amusing title belies a wry look at his experience with



Matt and Wally Collins.

aging and emphasizes the importance of staying engaged and active.

"I wanted to convey that it is essential to keep moving forward in life. We must keep challenging ourselves because when you become stagnant, you lose your motivation," he said.

Wally participates in book signings and discussions, often hearing from audience members who resonate with his insights and observations. His next book, a comparative biography, explores the shared traits and experiences of Picasso and Hemingway. A devoted aficionado, he even won the renowned Hemingway Look-Alike Contest, an event held annually in Key West, where the iconic writer once lived.

Matt also embraces his creative side by designing silver and turquoise jewelry in

his home studio. He said it's a pastime he truly enjoys and one that keeps him active.

The Collins family's story is one of creativity, resilience, and connection, a legacy that continues to inspire and serve the Arcadia community they love.

wallyspub.com



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WALLY COLLINS

## MEET THE AUTHOR

**WHAT:** Readers are invited to meet Wally and pick up a signed copy of his book *Where's My Phone, My Glasses, My Keys, My Remote? The Subtle Joy of Aging*.

**WHERE:** Wally's American Pub 'n Grille, 5029 N. 44th St., Phoenix.

**WHEN:** February 21 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

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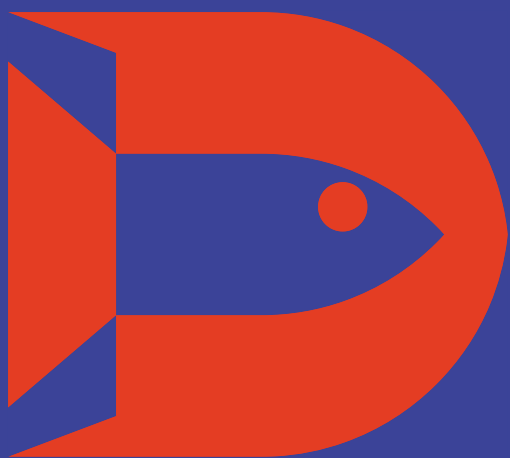
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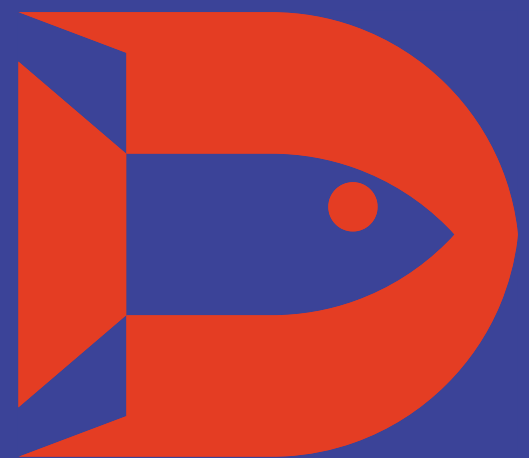


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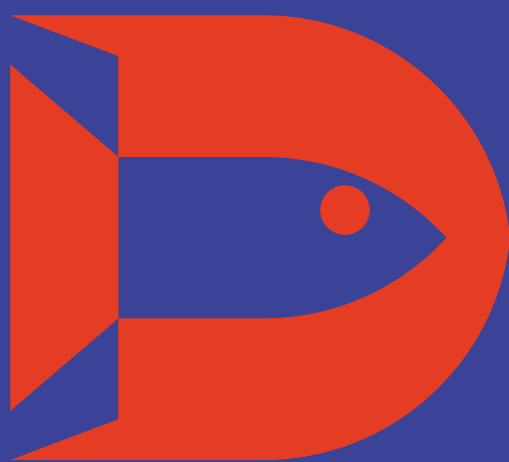
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## DISTRICT 6 UPDATE

### What's new in the district

To start off February's note, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the brave firefighters from Arizona, across the nation, and in neighboring countries who are putting their lives on the line to protect our communities.



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

The Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management sent 100 personnel to Southern California to assist in combating the wildfires that erupted in January. They have been working tirelessly to help manage neighborhood of Altadena where the Eaton Fire has burned.

In addition to Central Arizona Fire, a second Arizona agency was deployed to Altadena, with another two were positioned in the Cleveland and San Bernardino National Forests. Central Arizona Fire brought five trucks and a water tank to the scene, conducting tactical patrols to prevent flare-ups. Their dedication and sacrifice are truly appreciated.

## LIGHT RAIL

The new light rail extension is here, and will be running in front of City Hall in mid-2025.

The community will see trains operating sporadically in the downtown Phoenix area along Washington and Jefferson Streets, as well as 1st, 3rd and Central Avenues to include CityScape in its route. Testing has also extended south along 1st and Central Avenues down to Cocopah. This is a huge step forward for our city's growth and sustainability, and we can't wait to see how it transforms travel for everyone.

## CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

The Phoenix Police Department's Citizens Police Academy began in April 1986 with the intent to provide business and community leaders an inside look at law enforcement. That concept still stands today with over 91 Citizens Police Academies having been completed and hundreds of citizens having learned "what we do, and why we do it."

A variety of topics may be offered during each academy experience: deadly force encounters, firearms and decision-making, tactical training, 911 Communications, Crime Lab, Air Support, Unit and more.

Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, must pass a required background check, and commit to all dates of each academy session. Learn more about the program at phoenix.gov.

Thank you,  
*Kevin*

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# A BRIGHT LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

## How Evyn Upton is conquering Emanuel Syndrome

By Mallory Gleich

In January 2020, Ashley and Justin Upton's worlds changed forever when they received a phone call that would define the course of their daughter's life. The family – who had already been through numerous medical evaluations, with both them and the doctors unsure what was going on – had been awaiting the call that would confirm Evyn's diagnosis: Emanuel Syndrome, a rare chromosomal disorder that affects multiple systems in the body.

While the diagnosis was daunting, it became the starting point for a future that would test the family's resilience and hope. The five-year-old's medical journey began during her two-week checkup, when doctors discovered a heart murmur.

At her first cardiologist appointment, she was diagnosed with two heart conditions: Patent Ductus Arteriosus (PDA) and Patent Foramen Ovale (PFO). PDA is a condition in which a blood vessel connecting the pulmonary artery to the aorta remains open after birth. PFO is an opening in the heart's septum that typically closes after birth but in this case, remained open.

A referral to an ENT specialist revealed that she had severe laryngomalacia, a condition in which the soft tissues in the larynx partially block the airway, making feeding, breathing, and sleeping a struggle.

"She also faced significant skin issues, needed ear tubes, and experienced low muscle tone. Every day brought new obstacles to overcome, and each moment became a learning experience," Ashley said.

Evyn's official diagnosis of Emanuel Syndrome came when she was eight months old. This chromosomal disorder occurs when a small "derivative" chromosome, made up of parts of chromosomes 11 and 22, is present.

"As a balanced carrier of the condition, I had no symptoms myself, but Evyn inherited this extra chromosome, resulting in physical delays, including difficulty walking and non-verbal communication," Ashley said.

Through it all, her and Justin's family's support never wavered. Friends and relatives helped with childcare for their oldest daughter, provided emotional encouragement, and accompanied them to continuous appointments.

"There was a period of denial for all of us, but ultimately, we united as a family to face the challenges ahead," Ashley said. "The first year and a half was incredibly difficult."

Most days were spent attending doctor appointments and specialist visits, enduring hospital stays, or going to therapy sessions for physical, occupational, speech, and feeding needs.

Adding to the difficulty was the pandemic, which made everything more isolated and uncertain.

The family's greatest fear was that Evyn might contract the virus, and with her fragile health, they worried about the future.

She missed out on seeing and playing with other children and it wasn't until she was 3.5 years old that she could finally start interacting.

Throughout this time, the couple researched everything they could about Emanuel Syndrome and rare diseases – and that's when they discovered the PANDA community.

"If someone had told me we would be where we are today, I wouldn't have believed them. The path has been long, but with the support of our family, incredible therapists, doctors, and the Emanuel Syndrome community, we have found our rhythm," Ashley said. "Things are always changing, but the most important lesson I've learned is to trust my instincts,

**“She has brought joy to our lives and changed us in ways we will forever be grateful for.”**



Ashley, Jaxon, Sydnee, Evyn, Myles and Justin Upton.

advocate fiercely for my daughter, and take life one day at a time."

Evyn is an early riser, so the family starts their day between 5 and 6 a.m. They spend time snuggling, reading books or listening to music.

"We have a jam session on the way to school, where she does full days, split between her SPED class and mainstream classroom for specials and reading time," Ashley said. "She has developed quite the friend group in both classes. After school, she loves to come home and play with her siblings, Sydnee, Myles and Jaxon."

When Ashley and Justin told their baby girl she would be part of the upcoming PANDA Fashion Show in March, they said her reaction was priceless.

"She smiled, her face lighting up with excitement, and did her signature 'excited hands' gesture," Ashley said. "Sydnee is her biggest supporter and can't wait to be on stage with her, celebrating pediatric medical research and the amazing people working to improve children's lives."

Through all of the struggles and uncertainties, Evyn has made one thing clear: her journey toward growth is just beginning.

"She has brought immeasurable joy to our lives – joy we could never have imagined before her diagnosis. She has changed us in ways we will forever be grateful for," Ashley said. "Despite the difficulties, she brings a light into our lives that brightens even the darkest days."

### PANDA'S UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 29** is PANDA's 25th Anniversary - A Celebration of Children Helping Children Fashion Show, presented by Fox Restaurant Concepts. This year's evening gala will have the signature fashion show, silent and live auctions and an after-party.

**April 27** is PANDA Lemonade Stand Day, a day when children across the Valley help turn lemons into lemonade by raising money for rare diseases. Visit the website for a full list of lemonade stand locations.

[azpanda.org](http://azpanda.org)

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# The Dining Scoop

## THIS MONTH: CHICKEN WINGS

**T**is the season for football parties and get-togethers, and no fiesta is complete without those saucy, zesty chicken wings that have become a staple at many Valley eateries. Arcadia's chicken wing scene has something for everyone, from casual sports bars to trendy eateries. Here are a few spots we love:



### JT's Bar & Grill

4829 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix  
jtsarcadia.com

JT's was established in 1996 and has been a treasured local fixture ever since. The current owners, Sergio Ramos and Matt Fredrick, took over in 2014 with a clear goal: to preserve the establishment as a neighborhood staple for the community to enjoy. Chuck Sanders and Katie Coughlin (lifelong friends of Sergio and Matt) take care of the day-to-day operations.

One of the highlights of JT's – and their most popular item – is the wings. Each order is fried, sauced, and “grilled to perfection.” Those who prefer their wings extra saucy can get them double-dipped. Flavors include mild, medium, hot, suicide, teriyaki and spicy honey BBQ, but the fan favorite is the “works,” a signature blend of sauces that caramelize over the grill.

Monday nights feature a special wing promotion that draws in regulars and newcomers. The bar keeps its menu short and sweet, offering burgers, chicken sandwiches, tacos, salads, traditional appetizers, draft beers, bottled beers, and house wines.



### The Dirty Drummer

2303 N. 44th St., Phoenix  
thedirtydrummer.com

The Dirty Drummer's first location (there were once 14) opened in 1975, and the fifth location, where the current pub is, opened in 1980.

Co-owner Dana Armstrong's dad, Frank “Drummer” Armstrong, and his friend “Dirty Dave”

Werner combined their nicknames to develop the moniker back in the 1970s. These days, Dana owns and runs the establishment with friends Andrew Smith and Tom Bernard.

When the trio bought the last remaining Dirty Drummer in 2019, they chiseled away the white tile to reveal the original epoxied wood bar top. This inspired them to renovate the restaurant back to its original look.

“We kept the best parts of the original menu, like the Drummer Burger ‘cooked with wine,’ plus the classic hot sandwiches,” Dana said. “We added vegetarian options like Impossible burgers, cheese crisps, and salads to accompany our signature crinkle cut fries, tater tots, onion rings, and more.”

The grilled wings have their own history:

“Decades ago, Dave was frying wings and decided to throw them on the grill after tossing them in sauce in an effort to make them less messy to eat. This opened up new flavor profiles, texture and caramelization that took the Drummer Wings to the next level,” Dana said. “Their trajectory shifted and grilled wings became the popular menu item they are today.”

Diners can also get their wings traditionally made in flavors including hot, honey hot, BBQ, teriyaki, red gold, garlic parmesan, lemon pepper, habanero or dry rub. They're offered by the dozen or half dozen and are served with carrots, celery, and a choice of dressing.



### The Vig

4041 N. 40th St., Phoenix  
thevig.us

The first Vig was founded by Tucker Woodbury and Jim Riley and opened in December 2006. The restaurant's name was inspired by the term “vigorish,” which refers to the commission charged by a bookmaker, reflecting the owners' connection to the restaurant and hospitality industries.

“This clever nod hints at the vibrant and energetic atmosphere we aimed to create,” Woodbury said. “The restaurant serves a variety of American comfort food with a modern twist, combining classic pub fare with more contemporary dishes.”

The Vig's wings are a fan favorite. They're made through a three-step cooking process: baked, fried, and grilled, and served in a pound-size portion with flavors like traditional buffalo, BBQ, and Thai sweet chili. Each order comes with carrots, celery, and blue cheese dressing.

Other menu items include shareable appetizers, salads, burgers and sandwiches.



### Attic Ale House

4247 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix  
theatticalehouseaz.com

Attic Ale House opened its doors in 2013. On the menu is classic bar fare, including two types of wings – the crispy version (traditional buffalo, Louisiana style, Santa Fe dry rub, Korean) or the Triple Threat version, which is six fried wings tossed in all three traditional sauces: buffalo, Louisiana Attic and Santa Fe seasoning and then char-grilled.

### Long Wong's

2812 E. Thomas Road, Phoenix  
longwongs28st.com

That bright pink sign and front entrance with the lawn ornaments and metal statues strewn about is hard to miss. Inside, guests will find Long Wong's award-winning wings. Diners can get 'em plain, medium, hot, suicide, BBQ, spicy BBQ, spicy ranch, lemon pepper, garlic parmesan, and honey hot. Bone-in are available in a dozen with two sauce choices and an additional \$1.50 for all drums or flats. Wings can be ordered in increments of six, 12, 18, 24, 30, and so on.

## THE SCOOP



**Éléphante** coastal Italian restaurant is now open at Scottsdale Fashion Square (7014 E. Camelback Road). The menu features wood-fired dishes, seasonal pastas, sustainably sourced seafood, craft cocktails, and a curated wine list. Within Éléphante is Bar Bambino, an intimate cocktail lounge that offers live DJ performances and tableside cocktail service.

elephanterestaurants.com

**Perks**, a café located at the Biltmore Esplanade (2501 E. Camelback Road), opened in January. The eatery offers gourmet iced teas in flavors like butterfly pea flower, peach, green tea lemonade, watermelon mint tea, coffees, and light bites like pastries from Jonathan Robins Pastry.

episcopo.co



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# Come be part of Gilbert's Heritage District renaissance

If the last time you visited Gilbert was ten years ago, you would not recognize it today. What was once a few restaurants is now more than 30 destination dining spots near almost two dozen shopping options in a 1.5-mile stretch of Gilbert Road.



*Robin's Adventures*

BY ROBIN SEWELL

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

The heart of the city is the Heritage District, and it has become one of the Valley's most walkable areas. Seven days a week, 365 days a year, there are people walking day and night. On Saturday mornings, it's hopping with activity next to the town's iconic Water Tower.

The Gilbert Farmer's Market, with more than 100 vendors year-round, boasts chemical-free,

organic produce from local farmers, farm fresh eggs, meat, cheese, bread, sweets, coffee and tea, sauces, seasonings, treats and gifts for your pooch and more. What farmer's market would be complete



Liberty Market

without food trucks? Each week, Gilbert Farmer's Market has a variety of repeat and brand-new offerings.

Beside the farmer's market is one of the OG restaurants that kicked off Heritage District's renaissance. Liberty Market is the perfect spot to grab a bite for breakfast, lunch, or dinner, but its outstanding artisan coffee program is my main reason for visiting. My favorite pick-me-up is the Cortadito, a double dose of micro-Cuban lattes. Thick and creamy with a punch of espresso, the drink gives off a smooth, sweet aftertaste thanks to the turbinado sugar.

Joe Johnston might just be the best thing to happen to Gilbert. He is, after all, a self-described vision person, and those visions, so far, have paid off: Liberty



Toasted Mallow

Market, Joe's Real BBQ, Topo Arizona, Agritopia, Joe's Farm Grill, BARNONE and Epicenter all have Joe Johnston's mark. He is helping create spaces where people can gather and connect as a community.

Further north on Gilbert Road is where visitors will find Tricia Arce, owner of Toasted Mallow. What's funny about Tricia's story is that she isn't actually a fan of the classic marshmallow – something about the texture she finds off-putting. Her son, however, really loves them, so Tricia decided to create a marshmallow she could enjoy with her boy.

A baking contest at work created the perfect opportunity. Tricia brought in the homemade marshmallows and they were a hit at the office – so much so that



Topo Arizona

it prompted mom to sell her creations on Etsy. The marshmallows took off. Tricia quit her job and she and her wife opened a brick-and-mortar shop in Gilbert.

Toasted Mallow offers more than 30 flavors, cupcakes frosted with a marshmallow frosting, milkshakes with marshmallow fluff, moon pies, fluffernutter sandwiches, cookie sandwiches and s'mores. Who knew that marshmallows are so versatile?

From the bustling farmer's market to the innovative ventures of entrepreneurs like Joe Johnston and Tricia Arce, Gilbert exemplifies the power of vision, passion, and community connection.

[gilbertmarket.com](http://gilbertmarket.com)  
[thetoastedmallow.com](http://thetoastedmallow.com)



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New beginnings

February is a great time to continue setting goals for the future. Unfortunately, achieving something new can often mean letting go of something else. For example, to have a new job, you will eventually have to let go of your current role. As much as you are gaining something new, you will also lose something.

We don't think about how much our jobs mean to us. They are often a bigger part of our identity than we are consciously aware of. And, we are attached to our colleagues more than we might want to admit. On more than one occasion, I've stayed in a job longer than I should have because I loved my team.

Change can also be tough when the decision is made for you. From the news reports, it's clear that many companies used the end of 2024 to lay off workers. This is a tough experience for anyone, and can take months or years to fully recover.



Career  
Corner

BY ANGELA COPELAND

Career expert  
and founder of  
Copeland Coaching.  
copelandcoaching.com

Whatever the reason, if you want to look for a new role, this is the perfect time to begin.

Start by sprucing up your LinkedIn profile. Ensure your resume is up to date, and uses a current style. If you haven't searched in a while, look online to find the latest resume trends.

Think twice before publicly posting on LinkedIn that you

are open to work. It's a new trend to let your network know that you're looking for a job. Unfortunately, if you are still employed, it may make you look like you aren't committed to the company.

If you aren't working, it might make you look desperate. It's better to tell your contacts individually that you're looking. Set your profile as open to work privately, so that recruiters who are looking for candidates will find you.

Reconnect with old business contacts, and friends who may be aware of job openings, but be sure to lead with your friendship, rather than your request for help.

When everything is up to date, begin to apply for jobs, but don't apply in the typical online way – or if you do, do more than just apply. Try to find the hiring manager. In other words, try to look up your potential future boss on LinkedIn and send them a message. If they like you, they will ask the recruiter to interview you. It can be a faster and easier process than applying online.

Today is the perfect time for new beginnings, and I wish you luck!

30 YEARS AGO



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Ray and Eunice Williams met in 1943 at a USO dance. After the war, Ray began his career in education with SUSD as a teacher and school bus driver. He served the majority of his 37 years in the industry as principal of Tavan Elementary. Ray passed in November 2010 at age 90.**



Ray's first fifth grade class, circa 1948.

**Eunice worked with voter registration, elections, and had a side-business as a seamstress. Most of her time was spent raising sons Alan, Dan, and Steve. Once everyone was out of the house Eunice enjoyed crafts, travel, and reading.**

**Alan attended ASU for his undergraduate, but his graduate studies at the University of Utah were interrupted by being drafted. He served in Vietnam, then pursued a career in chemical engineering. He is retired and lives with his wife Carolyn in Colorado. They have two daughters, Chrissy and Julie.**

**Dan completed a zoology degree at ASU then moved to Finland where he met his wife Marjorie (an American touring Finland). They married and moved back to the USA. They have two children, Mathew and Miriam. Dan got his Doctorate at Auburn University and began teaching biology at the college level in Montana and Nevada.**

**Steve was in outdoor retail for 18 years before getting a degree in elementary education at ASU and a Masters in educational leadership from NAU. He has two sons, Kurtis and Colin. He taught at Arcadia Neighborhood Learning Center, later renamed Echo Canyon.**

## Want to know more about Arizona law? Start here!

By Rachael Bouley

Centered around a restored cellblock on the sixth floor of the Old Courthouse in downtown Phoenix is the Maricopa County Justice Museum and Learning Center.

The courthouse, which opened its doors in 1929, featured elements like arched windows and terra-cotta tiles, which were inspired by the region's early Spanish influence. One of the most recognizable buildings at the time, the courthouse served as the seat of government and judicial proceedings for Maricopa County until 1994, when a new Superior Court building was constructed.

The structure has been restored to its 1920s grandeur and is still an active courthouse today, providing people a unique combination of historic insights and contemporary courtroom experiences in one location.

Visitors can tour the history of local laws, notable court cases, and state and federal constitutions.

"This is a one-of-a-kind destination for those interested in Arizona's rich legal history and the enduring principles of justice," Laurie Williams, Executive Director of the Maricopa County Bar Association, said. "To our knowledge, it is the only museum of its kind located within an active courthouse in the United States."

Students, families, and history lovers are



Displays at the museum focus on watershed moments in Arizona's legal history, including *Miranda v. Arizona*.

invited to journey through justice and dive into Arizona's legal legacy. Exhibits showcase many key moments that shaped the state and the nation, such as the landmark Supreme Court case *In re Gault* and the impeachment of Governor Evan Mecham.

Visitors can explore the lives of Arizona's legal icons, including Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court – or experience life in a mid-1900s jail, complete with original, preserved prisoner artwork.

"Every corner of the museum tells a story about the evolution of justice, the importance of individual rights, and Arizona's role on the national stage," Williams said.

The museum's special exhibit, *Breaking Ground: The Remarkable Journeys of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and Arizona Women in Law*, is a powerful tribute celebrating her trailblazing career and honoring more than 30 pioneering women lawyers and judges who achieved groundbreaking milestones in Arizona's legal community.

"Their stories remind us that determination, courage, and hard work can pave the way for others to follow," Williams said.

The museum hopes to continue honoring trailblazers and watershed moments. Currently, it is revitalizing an exhibit dedicated to the *Miranda v. Arizona* case, exploring its profound impact on the legal rights of individuals nationwide.

The Justice Museum is committed to inspiring the next generation. Over the past eight years, it has held an art contest for children to encourage creativity with the themes of justice and equality. They plan to announce a 2025 contest in April via their website.

"Whether you're a history enthusiast, a student, or simply curious about the stories behind Arizona's legal system, this is a welcoming place to learn, reflect, and be inspired," Williams said.

The Justice Museum and Learning Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 125 W. Washington. Admission is free.

*P.S. The museum is in a working courthouse, so visitors should allow time to pass through security and be mindful of courtroom proceedings.*

[justicemuseum.org](http://justicemuseum.org)

## Welcome to the neighborhood, Bella Vista College Prep

By Lauren Geiser

Bella Vista College Prep (BVCP) recently relocated from Cave Creek to Arcadia, allowing the school to boost enrollment from 68 to 100 students. BVCP combines rigorous athletics with elite training to help create the next generation of basketball stars.

Their approach to private school has allowed students to excel both in the classroom and on the courts. Principal Matt Gordon is a seasoned basketball coach with almost 20 years of experience, having been at Phoenix College before joining BVCP.

"I've always wanted to be involved with high-level athletics with academics," he said. "When the opportunity came to lead Bella Vista, I jumped at it."

The school's basketball program is a cornerstone of its reputation, with approximately 70 percent of students participating. Seven teams – six boys' teams and one girls' team – compete in elite leagues such as the EYBL Scholastic League and The Grind Session.

Nike's EYBL Scholastic League comprises 14 schools across the U.S. and is widely regarded as the country's top high school basketball league. Bella Vista's boys' team is currently ranked No. 12 in the ESPN National High School Top 25.

Another equally prestigious league, the Grind Session, saw Bella Vista's girls' team win the championship in 2023 and become the national runner-up in 2024. These platforms draw top-tier talent, with many athletes advancing to collegiate programs and professional opportunities.

"We currently have a student from Senegal, Mo Sylla, who is projected to be a lottery pick in the 2026 NBA Draft," Gordon said.

Mo, who came to Bella Vista after playing at the NBA Academy in Mexico, recently committed to play at Georgia Tech next year.



Bella Vista defeated 1 of 1 Prep Academy 77-66 in the championship game of the Beach Ball Classic Prep Division in December 2024.

The team also features standout players like junior Miles Sadler, ranked among the top 30 players in his class; senior Jaion Pitt, ranked in the top 100; and sophomore Paul Osaruyi, named one of the top five players in his class in the United States. The program's global reach is unparalleled, with students hailing from 25 different countries.

Bella Vista also excels in extracurricular programs, such as the National Honor Society, International Club, and its ROBO Bears robotics team that participates in the annual FIRST Robotics Competition.

Bella Vista's 15-to-1 student-to-teacher ratio provides each student with a hands-on approach to education, where they can ask their teachers specific questions about their work to maximize time spent in the classroom.

Sports are embedded in the school schedule, allowing students to engage in athletic development while staying on track academically. The curriculum offers traditional

courses brought to life using real-world sports case studies, examples and media from high-profile leaders within the global sports industry.

The school's commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals extends beyond academics and athletics. Gordon believes sports teach students essential life skills.

"They teach you how to communicate, work with others, sacrifice for a greater good," he said. "In our society, it has become individualized, and being involved in sports teaches selflessness and helps students when they move on to college, life, business and relationships."

With its focus on academic rigor and elite and individualized training, Bella Vista College Prep remains dedicated to creating a supportive environment where students can pursue their athletic passions and educational goals.

[bellavistacollegeprep.com](http://bellavistacollegeprep.com)

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## Plant-based treats with hidden health perks

**F**ebruary is the month of love, and what better way to show yourself and your loved ones some care than with delicious desserts that also nourish the body? These plant-based treats can satisfy a sweet tooth while delivering surprising health benefits.

Strawberries are packed with antioxidants like vitamin C, which support immune health and glowing skin. When dipped in chocolate sauce made with dairy-free chocolate chips, you also get a dose of flavonoids – compounds known to promote heart health by improving blood flow and reducing inflammation.

Dates, the base of the chocolate tahini balls, are naturally sweet and full of fiber, providing energy without the sugar crash. Tahini is made from sesame seeds and adds healthy fats and minerals like calcium and magnesium to support bone and heart health. Unsweetened cacao powder contributes a deep chocolate flavor along with mood-boosting

### 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](http://youcare-selfcare.com)

properties and antioxidants that help fight free radicals.

Vegan raspberry cheesecake offers a creamy, dreamy finish that's surprisingly wholesome. The crust, made with dates and almonds, provides fiber, protein, and heart-healthy fats. Cashews – a great source of plant-based protein and magnesium – help regulate blood pressure. Sweetened naturally with maple syrup and raspberries rich in vitamin C and fiber, this dessert is as nourishing as it is beautiful.

*Join my monthly membership for printable recipes, health videos and live Zoom cooking classes. Only \$10 a month!*

### Vegan raspberry cheesecake SERVES 8-10



#### Ingredients

- 1 cup slivered almonds
- 1 cup medjool dates, pits removed and soaked in boiling water for 15 minutes
- 3 cups raw cashews, soaked in boiling water for 30 minutes
- ½ cup dairy-free milk
- ½ cup maple syrup
- 2 cups frozen raspberries
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice
- Raspberries for topping

#### Directions

1. Put the almonds and dates into a food processor and blend until fully blended. Press the mixture into the bottom of an 8x8-inch springform pan with a parchment paper liner.
2. Rinse out the food processor and add the soaked and drained cashews, dairy free milk, maple syrup, vanilla and lemon juice. Blend until completely smooth.
3. Transfer to a bowl and fold in the frozen raspberries.
4. Pour this into the springform pan, cover, and freeze for at least six hours.
5. When ready to serve, release from the pan, top with fresh raspberries, and let sit for about 15 minutes to slightly thaw before slicing.

### Chocolate tahini bites SERVES 9



#### Ingredients

- 1 ½ cup pitted medjool dates (soften in boiling water for 15 minutes first)
- ¼ cup unsweetened cacao powder
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ½ cup tahini
- 1 cup shredded or crushed coconut

#### Directions

1. Put the dates, tahini, cacao powder, and vanilla in a food processor.
2. Roll into about 18 balls.
3. Roll the balls in coconut and store in the freezer until ready to serve.

### Chocolate strawberry hearts SERVES 12



#### Ingredients

- 1 carton strawberries
- 1 cup dairy-free chocolate chips

#### Directions

1. Remove the leaves from each strawberry and carve out the stem with a paring knife.
2. Cut the strawberries in half, then cut a "v" shape at the center of each half.
3. Melt some chocolate in the microwave or a small pot.
4. Insert a wooden stick at the bottom of each strawberry. Dip the top half in chocolate and lay on parchment paper.
5. Put the strawberry hearts in the freezer for about 10 minutes to set. Store in the fridge until ready to eat.

# These pups are on a mission to strengthen school safety

By Rachael Bouley

There are various ways to define an attack on a school – situations that are all too familiar and concerning – but one point of consensus is that such incidents should never occur.

In response, one Arizona nonprofit is prioritizing student safety. Kids Best Friends is committed to enhancing school security by utilizing trained canine companions to help protect students and staff.

The organization was founded in 2022 by Caitlin Malone, who volunteered with pups in schools and hospitals as a teenager. It was this experience that helped to form the idea behind Kids Best Friends.

Malone teamed up with law enforcement, K9 handlers, dog trainers, veterans, and security specialists to bring working dogs into school communities for safety and emotional support.

“Our children need and deserve proactive protectors on campus to keep them safe,” Malone said. “As parents, we want our children to thrive and learn in school, but at the end of the day, the only thing that matters is that they come home safe.”

The nonprofit uses a custom program for dual-purpose working dogs and handlers to provide a proactive, holistic approach to safeguarding students and staff. Their mission is to mitigate potential violence while therapeutically promoting students’ safety and peace of mind.

The K9 teams undergo specialized training for 18 to 24 months in Phoenix and Colorado Springs to detect unauthorized weapons and intercept other possible threats.

Dr. William Ellinger, along with his partner Promise Lee, are working dog experts at the facilities in Arizona and Colorado. With over 60 years of combined experience, they train the animals to be highly skilled, confident and comfortable working in large crowds and with kids of all ages.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAITLIN MALONE

Kids Best Friends handler Dustin and K9 Lucy.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) certifies the dogs as Canine Good Citizens. When paired with a former military or law enforcement professional, the duo intend to boost campus safety and build positive relationships throughout the school community.

Kids Best Friends’ teams handle routine security patrols, greet students and attend events to create a safe, supportive

atmosphere. From full-time placements at Arizona, California, and Utah schools to pro-bono K9 security services at special events, they make a noticeable difference in community safety.

“When a school is interested, we visit the campus, go over needs, protocols, and security measures they have in place, and talk through the many ways a KBF K9 and handler can support their security, community values, and unique culture,” Malone said. “Every school is different, but even the most fortified, with every security layer in place, are made safer with a working K9.”

After pairing schools with a handler and dog, the team customizes training to best support the campus. As more schools and police departments sign up to partner with Kids Best Friends, the nonprofit hopes this approach to school safety can be expanded across the country.

“Working as a handler with the Kids Best Friends program has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my career,” Caleb Welch said. “I’ve seen firsthand how a highly specialized working dog can positively impact the safety and well-being of students, families, and the faculty.”

These K9s become part of the school they serve, as children share the joy of interacting with these intelligent and loyal animals.

“One of the most incredible aspects of this program has been watching how the dog’s presence creates an environment where students feel secure and at ease, without the intimidation or fear that sometimes comes with traditional security measures,” Welch added.

Out of extreme caution, Malone and the Kids Best Friends team do not publicly share which schools they work at, but they want folks to know that safety is the main priority, and a goal they strive to meet every single day.

[kidsbestfriends.org](https://kidsbestfriends.org)

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# DID YOU KNOW? EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

## HOW TALL?

# 1,454'

The Empire State Building stands at 1,454 feet tall, including the height from the base to the antennae, which accounts for 204 feet. On a clear day, visitors have a telescopic glimpse of Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York. The 86th and 102nd floors are specially dedicated as an observatory. The latter offers a 360-degree view of the city.

## HOW HEAVY?

# 365K TONS

Designed by William F. Lamb of the architectural firm Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, the Art Deco style of the Empire State Building was chosen to symbolize the strength and innovation of the time, and at its completion, the entire structure weighed 365,000 tons.

The exterior of the building is composed of 200,000 cubic feet of Indiana limestone and granite, 10 million bricks and 730 tons of aluminum and stainless steel.

## HOW MANY?

# 1,576 STEPS

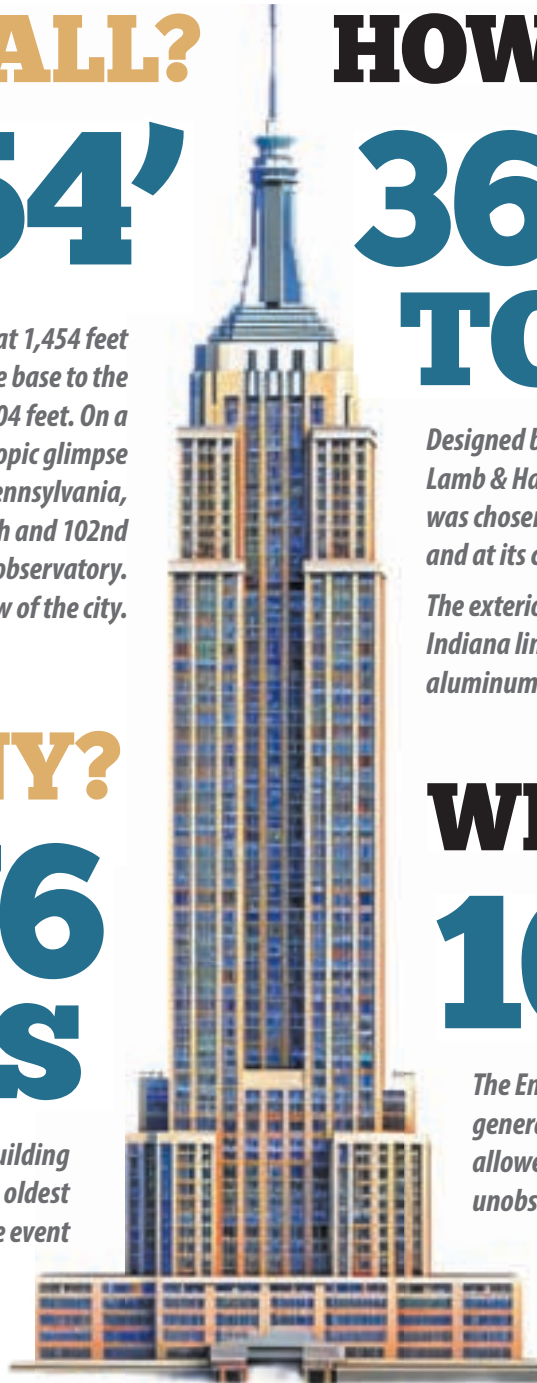
An annual race called the Empire State Building Run-Up has been held here since 1978. It's the oldest and most well-known stair race of its kind. The event challenges participants and athletes from around the world to climb 86 floors of the Empire State Building... 1,576 steps total.

## WHAT FLOOR?

# 103RD

The Empire State Building's 103rd floor is inaccessible to the general public – only VIPs, celebrities and dignitaries are allowed to check it out. It has a glass barrier that allows for unobstructed views of the city.

The glass is designed to protect visitors while maintaining that immersive experience of being 1,250 feet in the air. Those with vertigo are strongly advised against visiting that floor.



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DID YOU KNOW? EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

Construction began in March 1930 and was completed in just one year and 45 days – it officially opened for business in May 1931.

It cost approximately \$40 million to build, which would be around \$700 million today, adjusted for inflation.

The Empire State Building has 6,514 windows.

Fourteen workers died (five from falls) during its construction, which is low, considering the era and the size and complexity of the project.

Cornell University researchers analyzed millions of photos and concluded that the Empire State Building is one of the most photographed buildings in the world.

The observation deck is often illuminated with different colors to commemorate holidays, special events, or awareness campaigns.

During WWII, the Empire State Building was blacked out at night to prevent enemy aircraft from identifying the city.

It's one of the most iconic landmarks in the world and was featured in films like *King Kong* (the 1933 version), *An Affair to Remember*, *Superman II* and *Elf*.

Security to enter the building is similar to what takes place at the airport: it's manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week and protected by state-of-the-art security equipment.

With over 2.8 million rentable square feet, the building has its very own ZIP code: 10118.



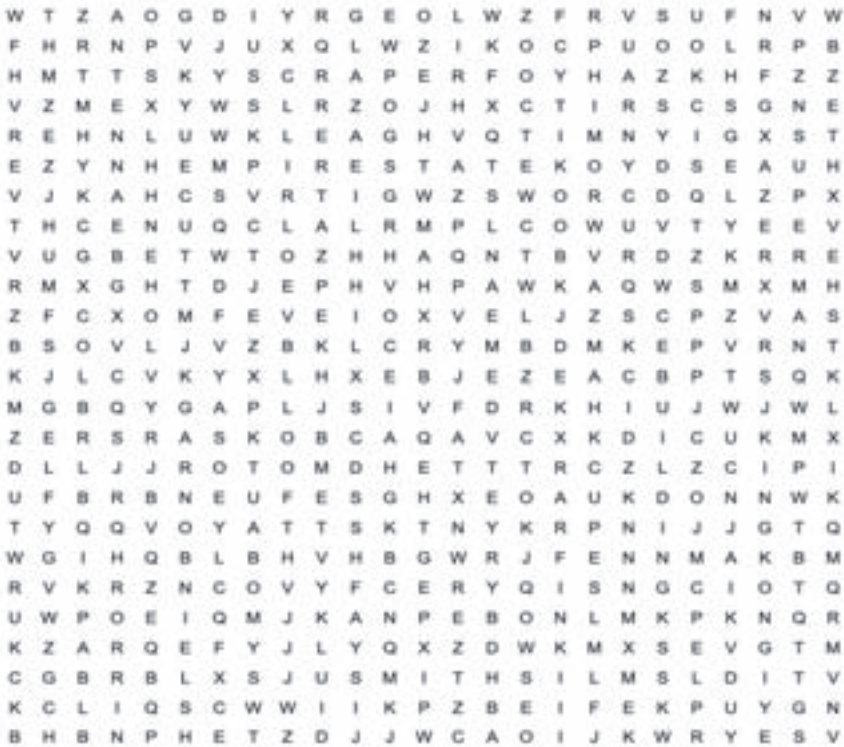
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In the 1920s, New York City builders were in a mad dash to erect the world's largest skyscraper in the state. The competition between 40 Wall Street's Bank of Manhattan building and the Chrysler Building, an elaborate structure crafted by Walter Chrysler, were the most notable of the time.

Both builders tried to beat each other by adding more floors. The race heated up in August 1929, when General Motors executive John J. Raskob and former New York Governor Al Smith entered the race with the Empire State Building.

Upon learning that the building would be 1,000 feet tall, Chrysler changed his plans a final time and fixed a stainless steel spire to the top of his skyscraper, making the Chrysler Building a record 1,048 feet tall. Raskob and Smith shot back with an even taller design, and ultimately, the structure soared 1,454 feet over the streets of Manhattan. It would remain the world's tallest building until the completion of the first World Trade Center tower in 1970.

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# I'd like to think that heaven is just a really big kitchen

It has been said that cooking is like painting or writing a song. To most folks the kitchen is either heaven or hell – there is no in-between. The kitchen gives voices to folk's moral positions and religious values. Even mundane activities and conversations come alive with little effort.



*Thyme in My Kitchen*

BY SHERRY KLUSMAN

@thyme.in.my.kitchen

Through creating dishes from scratch, solace, inspiration, self-expression, and endless possibilities present themselves in one room.

Cooking with intention, practicing mindfulness

and compassion and being present in the process of the meals you choose to prepare is liberating. It's not simply fuel, but a sacred appreciation for the nourishment it can provide us. Get a little crazy and visualize the magic coming from your fingertips as you prepare the meal, harness the kindness and love, then stir it all together!

It's so important to create a space that feels like a calm, inspiring sanctuary. It's

not about size, cost, or having stainless-steel appliances. It's about the energy and the way you feel inside your kitchen. Place a few treasures around that remind you of people dear to you. Photos of family, a copy of mom's favorite recipes organized into a spiral cookbook or a tea towel inscribed with thoughtful sentiments hung on an oven door can touch your heart at the most unexpected moments.

That feeling of warmth and safety in a kitchen can often go as far back as childhood. You knew that somebody would always be in or around the kitchen, and this is what you still believe as an adult. When you have warmth and safety surrounding you, you feel you can achieve anything. This is the power of the kitchen, and this is the strength it has in a family home.

A lot can happen in the kitchen. You can find that one minute you will be discussing politics and world events, and the next minute you can be dancing to your favorite song. The comfort that comes from food prepared in a kitchen is hard to replicate. It's one of those rooms that's always welcoming. It's a versatile



space. Around the kitchen table, stories filled with laughter and tears can be shared; plans for the family can be made.

One of my favorite ways to show love is to cook. Preparing meals daily can feel like a thankless task with the endless shopping, cooking and cleaning up for a meal that gets consumed in minutes. Time always seems to be of the essence and in many households both parents work, meaning there really isn't much time to focus on meal preparation.

To cook a meal is to perform a task that has an immediate effect. When so many ways of caring can be invisible, misconstrued, or take time to come to fruition, there's a comfort in doing something that you can feel, smell, and taste right away. Symbiotic pleasure is the best kind. Cooking is an art and a masterpiece. It can be fun and easy or hard and challenging.

Cooking has opened my eyes and my heart to a lot of different foods. Never would lentils, arugula, and tomatillos be considered flavorful additions, but now they are indispensable! Cooking motivates me to try different cuisines and

ingredients. One can't ignore the magic behind the scenes – the aroma of fresh celery, basil, cilantro, lemongrass, the pungency of fresh garlic. Cooking holds a special place in my heart, offering a source of joy and empowerment. During life's uncertainties, kitchens become a sanctuary. With a focus on creativity, cooking has become a therapeutic journey that continues to nourish both body and soul.

My German grandmother's tiny kitchen was the heartbeat of my existence. Gram's act of service was her love language. All the intimacy of our three-generation family was wrapped up in batches of chop suey, pork chops with dressing, goulash, lemon meringue, apple pie and cookies. If heaven could be a kitchen, then bringing back quiet tranquility could once again be discovered through the harmony felt with food.

Cooking holds a transformative power when shared with others. I extend my appreciation and love by cooking for those dear to me. It is a mutual exchange of care and gratitude where the act of creating something from scratch holds immeasurable value. Each bite is an invitation to experience the world and, of course, there's no holding back the telling of the crazy stories behind every dish. Through sharing and learning about food, meaningful connections are made allowing insight into the lives and passions of others.

Be reminded that there's no way around several hours of slicing, marinating, and preparing the items purchased. The chemistry of these things fitting together becomes deeply soothing. What could be better than watching someone take their first bite of something you poured your entire days' worth of emotions into? To know how someone else takes their coffee or tea: milk or sugar or lemon – is a small and delightful act of caring.

**February's cookbook recommendation:** "Cook, Eat, Repeat" by Nigella Lawson

**February's novel recommendation:** "The Book of Love" by Kathleen McGowan

**February's recipe:** Black Forest Brownies

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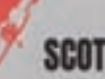
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# Titan Times



VOL. 2 NO. 05

FEBRUARY 2025

From the students of Arcadia High School

## Seussical the Musical

By Amelia Guzman

Every year, Arcadia theater students put on two performances. While the fall show is typically some sort of play – such as *Clue*, *The Canterbury Tales* or *Radium Girls* – the spring show has traditionally been a musical.

*Legally Blonde*, *Percy Jackson* and *The Lightning Thief: The Musical* have all graced the stage at Arcadia High. These acts are especially tough, as they challenge the actors to flex their drama muscles while putting their singing and dancing skills to the test.

At the same time, these annual performances allow theater students to showcase their talents while also learning something new – and leaning into the more technical side of things, since the stage, props, and costumes are all found and built by the students.

This year, Arcadia theater director

Richard Fairchild chose *Seussical the Musical* – a comedic tale – for the spring performance. Audiences will see and remember cherished characters from childhood, such as Cat in the Hat and Horton from *Horton Hears a Who* transporting them into the familiar worlds of Dr. Seuss's books.

Arcadia senior Karlee Larche-Albee said one aspect she's excited for is the Arcadia Orchestra, who will be playing live music from the pit during the performance. Check out *Seussical* on March 27, 28 and 29.

### ACT TEST-TAKING TIPS

This spring, third-year high school students have an opportunity to take the ACT (a free entrance exam used by most colleges and universities to make admissions decisions), which will help

them with college applications next semester. Good luck to all who are taking the test – and if you need, here are a few tips to help you succeed:

**Practice, practice, practice.** The ACT website has free questions available for each section of the test. Do these; it's important to anticipate what kind of questions will be asked and *how* they will be asked. Answer the practice questions and then review them.

**Read all the answer choices carefully.** Some questions on the ACT will ask you for the best response *or* the one that makes the most sense. Reading all the answers will help you eliminate incorrect answers.

**The ACT is designed to be quick and test your ability to work fast.** If you are a slow test taker, or one who prefers to look over your answers, practice answering the questions quickly. Set a timer when taking practice tests to ensure that you are answering the questions quickly enough and are able to complete them all during the actual test.

**The ACT does not penalize for incorrect answers.** Don't leave anything blank!

– Maya Campbell

### VALENTINE'S DAY – IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS

With the upcoming arrival of Valentine's Day, we teenagers tend to scramble over affordable Valentine's gifts that our significant other will enjoy. At the end of the day, it comes down to a common but meaningful phrase: "it's the thought that counts." Here are some creative ways to show others you love them without breaking the bank.

### Personalized handwritten notes

Nothing says "I care" better than a handwritten note or letter. Taking time to sit and write about your feelings can really mean something to your significant other, friend, or family member.



### Photo collage or scrapbook

Scrapbooking might seem outdated, but such an activity can turn out to be an amazing keepsake for your special person. Photo collages and scrapbooks are excellent ways to summarize the status of someone's relationship through pictures of your adventures.

### Friendship bracelets

Channel your inner creativity and create matching bracelets for you and your special person. As teenagers, we're constantly looking for a new and unique accessory, so why not make something special only you and your better half can wear?

Whether you celebrate Valentine's, Galentine's, or February 14 like any other day, it's important to remember that the holiday is ultimately about connection. Let's make this Valentine's Day all about the thought behind our gifts.

– Brooke Waddle



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