ARCADIA NEWS

VOL. 34 NO. 8 — ARCADIA • BILTMORE • CAMELBACK CORRIDOR — NOVEMBER 2026



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Check out the Arcadia News calendars and Dining Scoop for fun places to celebrate the holiday.

PAGE 40

SUPPORTING LOCAL

Arizona Fall Fest returns to Phoenix for its 20th anniversary, featuring 250+ vendors, food, activities and more.

PAGE 24

PLAY THAT FUNKY MUSIC...

Arcadia teen Adam Blais is building a DJ career with ambitions to one-day headline major festivals with his favorite artists.

PAGE 22

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NOVEMBER

Did you know? *Polar Bears (page 44)*

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The Desai family celebrates Thanksgiving with extended family and a table of their favorite dishes.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RAKHI DESAI



EDITOR'S NOTE



Did you know that, in an hour's drive outside of Phoenix (depending of course on the time of day), you can find a field of sunflowers in Buckeye? I recently discovered this and my first thought was, 'Wow, what a perfect backdrop for Christmas cards!' And then I thought, 'Oh no… I'm already thinking about Christmas!'

The holidays creep up pretty quickly, and with it are all the fun stories your neighborhood newspaper loves to share. We've got an extensive list of places to donate for the season of giving, a solid list of spots to celebrate our Veterans and Turkey Day… it's safe to say there's no shortage of stuff going on in the Valley in November.

This edition also includes two stories about the scenery in our neighborhood: Bimson Park and the Cross Cut Canal. Both explain the who, where and what – but it's up to our neighbors to help come up with solutions that benefit all who utilize both spaces. The best thing to do is stay informed, and we're here to help!

In the back of this edition you'll find our Home and Design pages, but the names might look a little different this time around. Arcadia News invited its sister publication Arizona Foothills to share some articles from its own Home & Design magazine. Readers will find a list of home décor pieces, a travel blog from Phoenician Ruth Price, who also founded Desert Design Week, and an article about The Triad.

We are so grateful for our Veterans, our families, our friends and our readers. Thanks for stickin' with us throughout the years – we wouldn't be us without you!

Mallory

– Mallory Gleich

UPCOMING THEMES:

DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
Happy Holidays	*Fitness*	*History*

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"After a good dinner, one can forgive anybody, even one's own relatives." *– Oscar Wilde*

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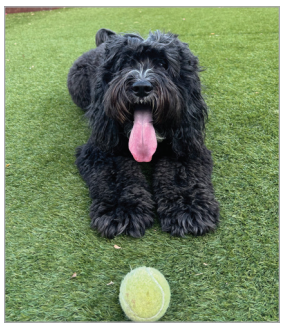
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VOTED BEST LOCAL BURGER IN THE EAST VALLEY TRIBUNE 2020, 2022
VOTED BEST SEAFOOD IN THE WEST VALLEY VIEW 2021, 2025
VOTED BEST TAKEOUT IN THE WEST VALLEY VIEW 2023, 2025
VOTED BEST LOCAL BURGER IN THE WEST VALLEY VIEW 2025
VOTED BEST OF THE BEST SEAFOOD AND TAKEOUT IN THE WEST VALLEY VIEW 2025
VOTED BEST SEAFOOD IN THE GLENDALE STAR 2020, 2023, 2025
VOTED BEST SEAFOOD IN LOVIN' LIFE 2023, 2024, 2025
VOTED BEST LOCAL BURGER IN LOVIN' LIFE 2024
VOTED BEST SEAFOOD IN THE MESA TRIBUNE 2025

ARCADIA'S PETS



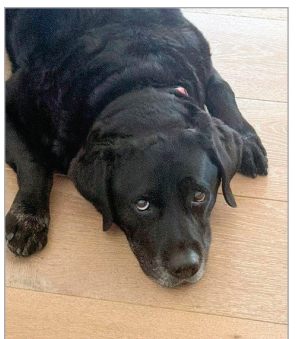
Hi, I'm **Fitz!** My favorite thing to do, no matter the temperature, is play fetch. If I'm not sprinting outside, I'm working a 9-5 at my mom's dog friendly office.

– Annie R.



Griswold is a six-year-old St. Bernard mix, and he has been a part of the family since 2020. He loves walks, hikes, and exploring new places. He's PAW-sitively playful and always gets the zoomies! At home, he loves spending time with his family, keeping an eye on the chickens, and watching for fowl play in the backyard. He's happiest with his favorite people.

– Autumn B.



Baxter is an 11-year-old pup who loves food, kids, and belly rubs. Every kid in the neighborhood loves to see him and he loves to see them when he takes his walk. Baxter loves attention!

– Shelly B.



Pepper and **Penelope** are mini goldendoodle sisters that turned six on October 10. They are the sweetest girls! They traveled with us to new homes, welcomed our baby daughter, and snuggle with us every night. Pepper has a soft spot for chicken, cheese, and her squeaky yellow toy, and Penny is a shy pup who likes to chase birds or bark at dogs on TV.

– Lavi N.

Would you like to share your pet? Send a photo and a description (50 words max) of your pet to ***editor@arcadianews.com*** *or text it to* ***602.840.6379****. Include your pet's name and age, along with any fun facts about them you'd like to share. All animals are welcome!*

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Arcadia local to Grand Marshal the DC Veterans Day Parade

By Mallory Gleich

When Robert Kiyosaki received a phone call from a woman named Diane Ventura telling him he had been selected as Grand Marshal of the 2026 Veterans Day Parade in Washington, D.C., he didn't believe her.

"I actually asked if my friend Ken McElroy had put her up to it because I thought someone was playing a joke on me," Robert said.

Once he realized the call was real, surprise gave way to gratitude. The Biltmore-area financial literacy author never expected the honor, especially given what he described as a "little checkered" time in the Marine Corps.

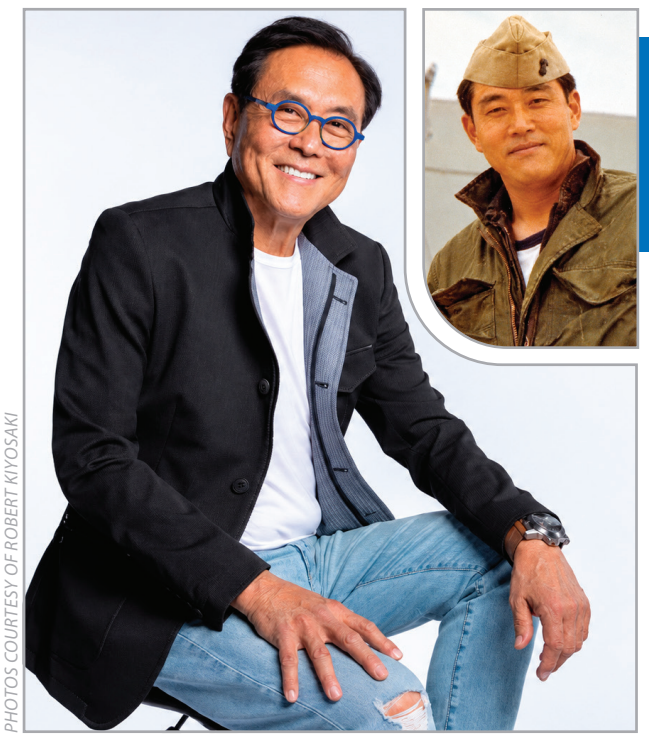
"I made some poor decisions, but those experiences taught me some important lessons about responsibility, accountability, and, most importantly, telling the truth," he said.

He sees the Grand Marshal role as an opportunity to recognize the service and sacrifice of Veterans across generations. Robert's connection to the military began long before he became an author and financial educator.

A fourth-generation Japanese American, he was born and raised in Hawaii in a family with deep military ties. During World War II, some of his relatives in California were placed in internment camps. He also had five uncles who served in that same war – two of them fighting in the Pacific against Japan.

Robert served in Vietnam, first as a midshipman and later as a Marine lieutenant flying helicopters. His return home in January 1972 remains one of his most upsetting memories. After landing at Norton Air Force Base with other returning troops, he recalled being met by protesters who threw eggs and spit at them.

"After serving our country and coming home from war, that was a painful and unforgettable experience," he said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROBERT KIYOSAKI

Robert Kiyosaki. (inset) Robert during his time in the Marines, circa 1972.

He moved to Arizona in 1990, bought real estate, and discovered he enjoyed writing, especially about what he'd learned about financial literacy, which led him to publish "Rich Dad Poor Dad."

"Why don't they teach kids about money in school?" became a driving question behind his writing and the message he continues to promote.

He said his military service taught him discipline, responsibility, and leadership, along with the importance of standing up for what he believes in. Those lessons also inform how he views financial independence.

"We may not agree on everything, but we can still stand together as Americans and honor those who sacrificed to protect our freedom."

"One of the principles that has always stayed with me is mission first, team second, and self third," Robert said. He sees that mindset as relevant beyond the military, including in making informed financial decisions and taking responsibility for one's future.

As Grand Marshal, Robert hopes the parade encourages Americans to set aside their differences and remember those who served the country.

"That's what I hope people take away from this year's parade: respect, unity and gratitude for the men and women who have served," he said. "We may not agree on everything, but we can still stand together as Americans and honor those who sacrificed to protect our freedom."

For Robert, that unexpected phone call represents more than a personal milestone. It offers a chance to honor fellow Veterans and remind the public of the service behind the freedom.

"I'm looking forward to standing alongside Veterans and their families and using the opportunity to remind people that the freedoms we enjoy should never be taken for granted," he said.

nationalveteransparade.org



WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

BRIEFS



The annual **Arcadia Turkey Trot** is happening on November 26 at 8:30 a.m. starting at Arizona Falls (5802 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix). Families and friends can walk, jog or run to benefit Good Soles, a charity dedicated to providing kids with new shoes for the school year. Since its founding in 2017, Good Soles has donated new shoes to Child Crisis Arizona each summer. Registration is $35 for adults, $15 for kids.

arcadiaturkeytrot.org

Arcadia Boy Scout Troop 6 is having its annual wreath sale at Prince of Peace (3641 N. 56th St., Phoenix) on December 5 and 6 from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. or while supplies last. Proceeds from this fundraiser help Troop 6 fund backpacking trips, camp outings and community service projects. Wreaths – and other greenery and decorations – start at $30.

arcadiatroop6.org

Ho Holidays is back! Head to Hotel Valley Ho and enjoy a roller rink experience where retro charm meets festive fun. From November 23 through January 3, the hotel will be covering the OH Pool with a roller rink. There will be food and beverages, letters to Santa, cookie decorating and a photo station, and more. Tickets are free for hotel guests and $25 for locals; included in the ticket price is event access and skate rental.

hotelvalleyho.com

Artist Sal Cosenza will present **Heartscapes: The Exhibition** on November 14 at Richau & Co. Gallery (8700 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale), honoring his late mother, Belle. The event features new paintings, live music, awards for local nurses and a collaborative artwork to be donated to Phoenix Children's Hospital. Guests can enjoy pizza, refreshments and other surprises. RSVP is required.

studiorichau.com

Feeding Students USA's 17th annual **Thanksgiving Feast** at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church will take place November 23, 2026. The organization will feed 1,300 students and their families across seven school districts. Donations can be dropped off at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (3641 N. 56th St., Phoenix) Monday-Thursday, from 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. from November 2-19.

feedingstudentsusa.org

The **Singletons' Santa** program invites community members to adopt single-parent families battling cancer by purchasing holiday gifts from their wish lists. Volunteers can sponsor families, host toy drives or team up with friends and coworkers. Wish lists arrive before Thanksgiving; gift drop-offs are scheduled December 14-18.

thesingletonsaz.org

Ingleside Middle School is celebrating its 70th anniversary with a blast to the past. Grown-ups can dress in their sock hop best (channel John Travolta and Olivia Newton John) and head to Arcadia Gardens (50th St. and Indian School Road) at 6 p.m. on November 7 for dinner, dancing, drinks and more. Funds will support campus improvements, student activities and teacher resources. Tickets start at $100.

givebutter.com/c/inglesidesockhop

House of Clubs (5055 N. 32nd St., Phoenix) is opening in the Biltmore area in November, offering luxury private golf suites with TrackMan technology and 24/7-member access. The club provides indoor practice and play, along with events and programming. Founding memberships are now available at locked-in pricing.

houseofclubsgolf.com

EVENTS

FRIDAY 11/6

First Friday Artist Reception

6 p.m. at Olney Gallery, 100 W. Roosevelt St., Phoenix. "OBSERVATIONS: Two Artists' Journeys Through Nature" features Kimberly Harris' watercolor landscapes and clay sculptures inspired by nature, alongside Annie Waters' abstract acrylic paintings exploring overlooked plant forms. Meet the artists at a First Friday reception on November 6. The exhibit runs through November 25.

trinitycathedral.com

Vanity Fur

7 p.m. at Wrigley Mansion, 2501 E. Telawa Tr., Phoenix. Almost There Pet Rescue is hosting Vanity Fur, a soiree to benefit the nonprofit's specialized care for pregnant mamas, nursing dogs, and puppies rescued from less-than-ideal circumstances. The evening includes food from Pizza to the Rescue, music, drinks, and of course, adorable puppies! Tickets are $200 per person.

almostthererescue.org

FRIDAY 11/6

Ava's Treehouse Gala

6 p.m. at The Phoenician, 6000 E. Phoenician Blvd. The Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children will host its seventh annual Ava's Treehouse Gala, dedicated to bringing hope, healing and critical support to Arizona families facing pediatric cancer. Attendees will find a cocktail reception, dinner, program, live and silent auctions, and more. Tickets start at $500.

azcancerfoundation.org

FRIDAY 11/6 – SATURDAY 11/7

Lura Turner Homes Holiday Boutique

12-6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, at Crossroads United Methodist, 7901 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. Lura Turner Homes for Adults with Special Needs hosts its 41st annual holiday bazaar and craft fair with dozens of vendors offering original art, baked goods, homemade Christmas decorations, jewelry and more. This event is free to attend.

luraturnerhomes.org

FRIDAY 11/6 – SUNDAY 11/8

American Lebanese Festival

5-10 p.m. at the St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church, 5406 E. Virginia Ave., Phoenix. The 25th annual Lebanese Festival means lots of food and fun. Attendees can sample authentic Lebanese dishes like kafta, falafel, hummus, grape leaves and homemade baklava. There will be a hookah bar for the grown-ups, traditional dance performances, live music, activities and a children's play area. Attendance is $5.

stjosephphoenix.org

SATURDAY 11/7

Cycling for one•n•ten

7 a.m. at Prisma Community Care, 1101 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. one•n•ten will host its inaugural cycling event in downtown Phoenix, featuring 20-mile and 100K cycling routes to raise funds for LGBTQ+ youth and young adults. The event includes complimentary meals, rest stops and a post-ride block party. Proceeds support statewide assistance programs, resources, workforce development and more. Registration starts at $50.

bikesignup.com

AONA Fall Festival

1 p.m. at Arcadia Park, 56th St. and Indian School Road, Phoenix. Join your neighbors for an afternoon of activities, raffle prizes, and entertainment. Visit business booths and introduce yourself to police, firefighters, and dignitaries. There will also be live music. Brought to you by Arcadia Osborn Neighborhood Association and GAIN - Getting Arizona Involved in Neighborhoods.

arcadiaosbornphx.com

FRIDAY 11/7

Sit. Stay. Brunch.

10:30 a.m. at the Grand Hyatt Scottsdale Resort, 7500 E. Doubletree Ranch Road. Benefiting the Lost Our Home Pet Rescue, the 17th annual holiday champagne brunch and auction is back. This event raises funds needed to support services and programs for pets and people in the community. Guests will be served drinks and brunch, watch adoptable pets on the catwalk and participate in the silent auction. This year's theme is "Every Tail Tells a Tale." Tickets start at $195.

lostourhome.org

SATURDAY 11/7 – SUNDAY 11/8

Shemer Arizona Art Festival

10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Shemer Art Center, 5005 E. Camelback Road. Patrons can revel in two days of holiday shopping with more than 40 artists selected from across Arizona showcasing their works. There will also be demonstrations, Arizona authors, activities, live music, food and beverage vendors, a silent auction and the signature sidewalk chalk festival. This event is free. Also, mark your calendars for the Shemer Honors event, upcoming on November 20.

shemerartcenter.org

Italian Festival

11 a.m. at the Scottsdale Civic Center, 3939 N. Drinkwater Blvd. Bring out the Italian in you and head to the 11th annual Italian Festival. Guests can experience live music, including opera and other performances, a bocce tournament, a handcrafted vendor market, authentic food vendors, face painting for kids and other family-friendly activities. General admission is $15 online or $30 at the door; VIP packages are available.

italianassociation.org

SUNDAY 11/8

The NF Walk

9 a.m. at Chaparral Park, 5401 Hayden Road, Scottsdale. The Children's Tumor Foundation presents the annual NF Walk to raise awareness for neurofibromatosis and schwannomatosis (NF). Along with the Hero Dash and walk, attendees can check out live music, reptiles, crafts, snacks and games. Registration is free but donations are welcome.

ctf.org

Phoenix 10K and Marathon

6 a.m. at Biltmore Fashion Park, 2502 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. The Phoenix 10K & Marathon celebrates its 51st anniversary with the traditional 5K, 10K, and half marathon races. Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego will kick off the race and present the Mayor's Cup to the marathon winner. Runners and spectators can enjoy a post-race VIP lounge, recovery zone, and more. Registration is $30-$160.

phoenix10k.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING, *ARCADIA?*

WEDNESDAY 11/11

Phoenix Veterans Day Parade

11 a.m. in downtown Phoenix, heading north on Third Street from McDowell to Indian School Road. This event has been happening for 25+ years – and it's all about honoring our Veterans. Parade-goers are encouraged to arrive early to find parking. The parade will last for two hours and will feature over 80 participants.

honoringamericasveterans.org

SATURDAY 11/14

Arcadia Neighborhood Picnic

11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hopi Elementary, 5110 E. Lafayette Blvd. Head to Hopi for the annual Arcadia Neighborhood Picnic. Guests can enjoy live music, meet public service agents and K9, check out a Phoenix ladder fire truck and find games for all ages, a balloon twister, face painting, giant bubbles, lunch and ice cream from Leo's – and hang with the neighbors, of course! Admission is free.

acmna.org

Tails on the Trails

9 a.m. at the Phoenix Zoo, 455 N. Galvin Pkwy., Phoenix. In celebration of National Dog Day, the Phoenix Zoo debuted Tails on the Trails, a new event that will give dogs their very own day at the Zoo. There will be designated trails for four-legged guests, activities, demos, vendors, photo ops, doggie pools, a dog parade, and more. Tickets are $45 for humans, $35 for pups.

phoenixzoo.org

SATURDAY 11/14 – SUNDAY 11/15

Phoenix Pizza Festival

11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, at Margaret T. Hance Park, 1202 N. 3rd St., Phoenix. Head downtown for all the slices your belly can handle at the 11th annual Phoenix Pizza Festival. More than 20 pizza vendors and other food vendors will be on-site, plus beer stations, lawn games, live music and a kid zone. Tickets are $22 per person; slices are $2-$4.

phoenix.pizza

TUESDAY 11/17

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 author and professor Mark Graber on "The Constitution of the Confederate States of America." Doors open at 5 p.m. for meeting the speaker, book sale, and Civil War videos. This event is free.

scottsdalecwrt.org



***Ava's Treehouse Gala** at The Phoenician.*

THURSDAY 11/19

It's A Wonderful Life

7 p.m. at ASU Kerr Cultural Center, 6110 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. Welcome to Bedford Falls and idealistic George Bailey, whose story unfolds as he considers ending his life one fateful Christmas Eve. This production adapted from the holiday film reimagines the classic story as a 1940s radio broadcast performed live on stage, with a talented cast of actors playing multiple characters and using vintage sound effects. Tickets start at $42.

asukerr.com

SATURDAY 11/21

Mimosas and Monet

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

hermosainn.com

SUNDAY 11/22

Annual Holiday Concert

4 p.m. at The Madison Center for the Arts, 5601 N. 16th St., Phoenix. Rosie's House students will take the stage at The Madison Center for the Annual Holiday Concert, a free community event featuring seasonal favorites and timeless classics. The performance celebrates the accomplishments of Rosie's House students and brings families and community members together through music. Admission is free.

rosieshouse.org

THURSDAY 11/26

Phoenix Turkey Trot

6:30 a.m. at Wesley Bolin Plaza, 1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix. Work up that turkey day appetite at the Phoenix Turkey Trot. Runners, walkers and joggers of all ages can check out the 10K run, 5K run or walk, or 1K gobbler dash. Post-race, there will be an awards show and snacks before you head out for the big meal. There will also be a costume contest, so dress in your turkey best. Registration starts at $40.

phoenixturkeytrot.com

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OUT OF THE AREA, *BUT WORTH THE DRIVE*



Sedona Trolley Tour.



***Kierland Fine Art and Wine Festival** at the Kierland Commons.*

SUNDAY 11/1

Mariachi and Folklorico Festival

12:30 p.m. at the Chandler Center for the Arts, 250 N. Arizona Ave. This concert is back for its 27th anniversary and kicks off with Entre Dos Mundos: A Día de los Muertos celebration, a free, family-friendly community event. The party moves inside at 4 p.m. with Tucson-based Mariachi Pueblo Viejo, Mariachi Nueva Fusión, Ballet Folklorico Quetzalli - AZ and Viva Arizona. Tickets start at $49.

chandlercenter.org

Sedona Trolley Tour

Times vary, starting at 276 N. State Route 89A. Known as "The Best First Thing to do in Sedona," the Sedona Trolley is an fun way for families and visitors to explore red rock country. The climate controlled, guided tours cover the Chapel, a scenic ride, or a sunset vista tour. Snacks and drinks are welcome. Tickets start at $25.99 for adults and $17.99 for children 12 and under.

sedonatrolley.com

THURSDAY 11/5

Pippin

7:30 p.m. at Arizona Broadway Theatre, 7701 W. Paradise Lane, Peoria. Pippin follows the story of a young prince searching for his purpose. Guided by a mysterious troupe of performers, he explores war, power and love in his quest to discover what will truly fulfill him. The musical combines humor, spectacle and memorable songs, presented through a circus-inspired world. Ticket prices vary – dinner show is available.

azbroadway.org

FRIDAY 11/6

Light the Night

5:30 p.m. at Salt River Fields, 7555 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale. Blood Cancer United's signature fundraising event brings together patients, survivors, families, caregivers, and supporters. The event offers family-friendly activities, fireworks and food trucks. During the walk, participants carry lanterns to celebrate survivors, support those currently battling blood cancer, and remember loved ones who have passed away. Attendance is free.

bloodcancerunited.org

SATURDAY 11/7

Bentley Scottsdale Polo Championships

10 a.m. at WestWorld, 16601 N. Pima Road, Scottsdale. This famed event is celebrating 15 years with even more fanfare than before! Along with polo matches, guests will find live music and performances, rugby matches, human and canine fashion shows, a luxury car show and an all-around good time. General admission starts at $50.

thepoloparty.com

Canines + Cocktails

10 a.m. at Culinary Dropout, 15125 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale. To celebrate the 1000+ dogs who have found loving homes and raise much-needed funds for the dogs at Forever Loved Pet Sanctuary comes the annual Canines + Cocktails event. Guests will find live entertainment from Blaine Long, food and drinks, senior dog kissing booth, auctions and more. Tickets are $150 per person.

foreverlovedpets.org



SATURDAY 11/7 – SUNDAY 11/8

Kierland Fine Art and Wine Festival

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Kierland Commons, 15210 N. Kierland Blvd., Scottsdale. Main Street will have the vino flowing at this annual event. Guests will find over 100 world-class artists showcasing their wares in an outdoor gallery, plus 16 of the region's best wineries pouring more than 150 wines, and live entertainment from local faves Rock Lobster, Sandra Bassett's Motown Experience and more. Admission is free, wine tastings start at $35.

kierlandcommons.com

Camelback Studio Tour

10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, 4 p.m. on Sunday. Locations vary. The Camelback Studio Tour will boast over 40 artists on this self-guided, residential art "show." Guests will visit 15 stops, explore personal art studios and meet the artists. Studios are located in Phoenix, Scottsdale and Paradise Valley. Tourgoers will find a range of mediums – ceramics, print, watercolor, wood sculptures and more. This event is free.

camelbackstudiotour.com

Carefree Fine Art and Wine Festival

10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Carefree Desert Gardens, 101 Easy St. Take the day, relax and stroll through more than 155 juried fine arts displays. Artists from across the U.S. will be on-site showcasing their paintings, sculptures and photography while guests sip domestic and imported wines. For $30, patrons will receive an engraved souvenir wine glass along with 10 tastings. There will also be live music, food and entertainment. Tickets are $5.

thunderbirdartists.com

FRI. 11/13 – SAT. 11/14

Arizona Pinners Conference

9 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, at WestWorld of Scottsdale, 16601 N. Pima Road. If Pinterest is your favorite go-to app, then you won't want to miss the 11th annual conference. Guests can enjoy everything from beauty, makeup, food, arts, crafts and more with over 250 businesses, 100 classes, and all things DIY. General admission is $12; classes are $22-$40 each.

az.pinnersconference.com

SATURDAY 11/14

Harley Owners Group Toy Run

10 a.m. at Tucson Harley, 7355 N. I-10 E. Frontage Road, Tucson. Harley riders – along with the community – are invited to join the Harley Owners Group Toy Run benefiting Tucson Unified School District Southwest Family Resource Center. Kickstands go up at 10 a.m. at Harley-Davidson in Tucson. Bring a new, unwrapped toy and enjoy a self-guided ride, lunch and holiday fun. Registration is $20 per rider.

tucsonhogchapter.com

SATURDAY 11/21

El Tour de Tucson

Times vary, starting at the Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Ave. El Tour de Tucson is a fundraising ride that captivates nearly 7,500 cyclists of all ages. Participants tackle either the 102-, 62- or 32-mile rides. A fun ride with shorter distances is also available. Cyclists can attend the post-ride party with music, food vendors, activities, and an award ceremony. Registration starts at $15 for the fun ride and $40-$300 for the longer rides.

eltourdetucson.org

THURSDAY 11/26

Mesa Turkey Trot

8 a.m. at Red Mountain Park, 7745 E. Brown Road, Mesa. Get your running shoes ready; the 58th annual Turkey Trot is here! Attendees can participate in the one, five or 10K timed race to see who gets to the turkey first. All ages can attend. There is a one mile walk available for kids 12 and under. Registration starts at $45, and proceeds will benefit various nonprofit organizations.

raceroster.com



Support Local! Support Veterans!

Before starting The Brokery, I had the privilege of serving in the United States Marine Corps. It's something I'm incredibly proud of, and the lessons I learned about hard work, accountability, and taking care of others have stuck with me ever since.

Those same values are a big part of why we built The Brokery the way we did.

We're not a national franchise or a corporate brokerage with decisions being made in a boardroom thousands of miles away. We're a locally owned, veteran-owned business that started right here in Phoenix. Our roots are here, our families are here, and the communities we serve are the same ones we call home.

When you support a local business, you're doing more than buying a product or service. You're supporting your neighbors, keeping dollars in our community, and helping local families thrive.

So this November, as we celebrate Veterans Day, I'd encourage you to think local. Whether it's your favorite restaurant, coffee shop, or real estate brokerage, your support makes a difference.

Support local. Support veterans. And to all those who have served, thank you!

Semper Fi,

THE
BROKERY

Tucker Blalock Managing Broker, Co-Founder
602.561.0445 | Tucker@TheBrokery.com
Oleg Bortman Associate Broker, Co-Founder
602.402.2296 | Oleg@TheBrokery.com

How you can help others this holiday season

By AJ Stone

Donation drives offer a way to support neighbors and others who may be struggling this holiday season. Throughout the Valley, opportunities exist to donate time, money, food, and gifts to underserved populations and neighbors in need. Below are a few organizations providing ways to contribute.

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS UCC

5524 E. Lafayette Blvd., Phoenix
sohucc.org

This Arcadia-area congregation supports Nourish Phoenix. In November, they are collecting new, unwrapped toys for Santa's Workshop, which provides gifts for children in need. In December, the church is collecting new and gently used blankets to support underprivileged neighbors. In addition, hygiene items, clothing, and small household items can be dropped off at the donation box under the front patio.

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church is looking for donations for its Thanksgiving Giveaway. Donors are asked to drop off shelf-stable food and cash donations. For the Christmas Giveaway, warm winter clothing donations are requested. Donations can be dropped off Monday through Thursday between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF PHOENIX

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

The all-volunteer Christ Child Society is organizing a Christmas Giving Toy Drive for Catholic Charities foster children between the ages of three and 15. To donate, take unwrapped, labeled gifts to the St. Pope John Paul II Building at Mount Claret Retreat Center between 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. on December 3. For ten and above, gift cards of $25 or more are recommended.

ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK

2831 N. 31st Ave., Phoenix
stmarysfoodbank.org

On Saturday, November 7, the Esplanade will host Phoenix's largest communal dining table, featuring family-style meals crafted by James Beard-nominated chefs Roberto Centeno, Armando Hernandez and Nadia Holguin. Proceeds will benefit St. Mary's Food Bank. Tickets are $500 per person. MDSkin is collecting canned goods and nonperishable foods at its Valley locations to help stock the food bank's shelves ahead of the holidays. Those donating five or more cans will receive an entry for a chance to win three microneedling treatments.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

420 W. Watkins Road, Phoenix
stvincentdepaul.net

St. Vincent de Paul volunteers can assist in kitchens, dining rooms and food banks. Ahead of Turkey Tuesday on November 24, Arizonans can donate frozen turkeys at Basha's or Food City locations or organize their own turkey giveaways. With food assistance needs rising, SVdP hopes to collect 500,000 pounds of nonperishable food. Community members can also sponsor holiday families, with gifts due by December 23.

PARADISE VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

PVUMC invites holiday shoppers to its annual Christmas Bazaar and Craft Fair on November 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Featuring handmade crafts, goodies, entertainment, a silent auction and door prizes, the event also benefits nonprofits through a portion of its proceeds. Through November 18, the church is also seeking sponsors to adopt children, from infants to teens, and seniors for the holidays. After registering online, sponsors receive wish lists and are asked to provide two gifts per recipient by November 16.

PHOENIX RESCUE MISSION

2515 N. 34th Dr., Phoenix
phoenixrescuemission.org

Phoenix Rescue Mission is collecting donations for its annual Fill-A-Bag drive. Thanksgiving needs include canned fruits and vegetables, gravy, mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, and turkeys. For Christmas, the mission anticipates distributing more than 2,000 meal and gift bags and welcomes new, unwrapped toys, wrapping paper and gifts for children through age 18. Sports equipment, books, journals, puzzles and board games are among the suggested donations.

FEEDING STUDENTS USA

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

On the Prince of Peace campus, the Feeding Students USA pantry supports working families who "fall through the cracks of public aid." Now through November 16, Prince of Peace is collecting boxed stuffing, canned goods, and shelf-stable sides to assemble Thanksgiving meals for those in need this holiday season.

MDSKIN LOUNGE

4455 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix
mdskinlounge.com

MDSkin is also partnering with Toys for Tots to spread holiday cheer to children in need. From November 2 through November 20, all locations across the Valley will collect toy donations to help make the season brighter. For every two toys donated, participants will receive an entry to win a full Botox treatment of up to 100 units. A minimum of two toys is required to enter.

HOMELESS YOUTH CONNECTION

9100 N. 2nd St., Phoenix
hycaz.org

Homeless Youth Connection supports young people ages 13 to 21 through its Holiday Magic Starts Now! campaign. Because many recipients have limited space, small gifts and gift cards of $25 or more are encouraged. Suggested donations include Walmart, Target, grocery store, restaurant or Visa gift cards, along with practical treats like beef sticks, granola bars, gum, candy and card games packaged in an 8-by-10-inch gift bag.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Eastside Baptist Church
2828 E. Thomas Road, Phoenix
samaritanspurse.org

Samaritan's Purse invites families to participate in Operation Christmas Child, a holiday initiative that delivers shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies and personal care items to children in need. National Collection Week runs from November 16-23, with drop-off locations throughout Arizona. Participants should label boxes by the recipient's gender and age range.

ARMER FOUNDATION FOR KIDS

11022 S. 51st St., Suite 200, Phoenix
armerfoundation.org

The Armer Foundation for Kids helps families manage the financial burdens of caring for children with serious medical conditions. The nonprofit hopes to collect more than 9,000 toys for its annual Holiday Toy Drive, benefiting patients at Banner Children's Hospital. Suggested donations include socks and blankets, pajamas, hair accessories, coloring books, crayons and art supplies, puzzles, books, games, stuffed animals and other comfort items, as well as gifts and activities suitable for teenagers. Donations are due by December 18.

HARVEST COMPASSION CENTER

4744 E. Thunderbird Road, Phoenix
harvestcompassioncenter.org

Harvest Compassion Center provides food, clothing, hygiene products and baby supplies to families in need through donations and volunteers. Its Holiday Toy Drive is accepting donations through December 23, building on last year's effort that brought holiday joy to more than 5,500 children. Those interested in volunteering can also apply online, with the Maryvale and West Phoenix locations currently seeking additional help.

ARIZONA CANCER FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

7010 E. Cochise Road, Scottsdale
azcancerfoundation.org

Arizona Cancer Foundation will host a drive on December 1, from 4 to 6 p.m., at Wine Girl in Scottsdale. Families can enjoy a festive pantry drive featuring Santa photos, cookies, cocoa, and holiday crafts. Guests are encouraged to bring new, unwrapped toys and pantry items to donate.

HOPE WOMEN'S CENTER

1640 E. McDowell Road., Phoenix
hopewomenscenter.org

Hope Women's Center hosts annual Christmas Boutiques where women who participate in its classes can use earned points to shop for holiday gifts for their families. The program empowers women to choose meaningful presents for their loved ones. Community members and businesses can support the initiative by donating clothing, toys, holiday supplies and other items to help stock the boutiques for the season.

THE FOSTER ALLIANCE

3110 E. Thunderbird Road, Phoenix
thefosteralliance.org

The Foster Alliance supports children entering the foster care system by providing essentials such as backpacks, birthday bags, bedding and toys. This holiday season, the organization invites the community to support its Fill Santa's Sleigh event on December 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Scottsdale Quarter. Guests can enjoy live music by Pete Pancrazi, hot chocolate and treats while spreading holiday cheer.

DUET

10000 N. 31st Ave., Phoenix
duetaz.org

Duet is collecting new toys and gift cards for grandfamilies. Donations can be dropped on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. through December 5. Community members can also contribute through Duet's Amazon Wishlist, which is available on the website.

PHOENIX CHILDREN'S

1920 E. Cambridge Ave., Phoenix
givetopch.org

Help bring holiday cheer to hospitalized children through Phoenix Children's Toyland. From December 10-20, donate new, unwrapped toys from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays.

ARIZONA'S CHILDREN ASSOCIATION

4524 N. Maryvale Pkwy., Phoenix
arizonaschildren.org

Arizona's Children Association's annual Gifts of Hope campaign supports children, young adults and families facing financial hardships. Community members can sponsor a child or sibling group, organize a gift drive, make a financial contribution or shop the campaign's Amazon Wish List.

WASTE NOT

Thanksgiving meal donation campaign
wastenotaz.org

Waste Not is partnering with On the Road Meals and Aioli Burgers to provide Thanksgiving meals to Arizona families. Each $3.50 donation funds one meal prepared and delivered through Waste Not.

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What will happen to Bimson Park?

By Rachael Bouley

Bimson Park is a landmark, the unofficial pocket park between Chase Bank and The Henry at 44th Street and Camelback. However, the future of this green space remains uncertain amid ongoing discussions about proposed development.

Bimson Park originated as a compromise between the historic Valley National Bank (now Chase) and the City of Phoenix during the property's development from 1965 to 1967.

The city and community sought to preserve the residential character, so they incorporated an open green space. Bank representatives expressed their support at a city meeting, stating it "would not only be a beautiful addition to 44th Street and Camelback, but one that the entire city can be proud of."

After decades, the long-term vision for Bimson Park came under threat in 2007 when developer Opus West proposed Arcadia Place. This mixed-use development would have replaced much of the green space and part of the parking lot with condominiums, restaurants, and retail.

"Although the bank building would have remained, the proposal galvanized neighborhood activists and preservationists, including the building's original architect, Frank Henry, and sculptor John Henry Waddell, who joined the effort to protect the site," explained Erin Lindsey, who is on the board of Preserve Phoenix, a historic preservation advocacy group working toward practical solutions for the park.

At the time, the Phoenix City Council denied the proposal for a retail and condominium project on the pocket park.

"In response, Friends of Bimson Park was created to advance an idea to preserve and enhance the grounds surrounding the landmark Arcadia branch bank of Valley National Bank for the benefit and enjoyment of residents and all of Phoenix," Lindsey explained.

Friends of Bimson Park aimed to preserve the bank, enhance the open space, and establish a sculpture garden celebrating the site's architectural and artistic significance as an example of Phoenix's mid-century modern architecture.

"Although Bimson Park was never formally established as an official park, its vision remains a compelling blueprint for the property's future: one that honors the original understanding between the bank and the city while preserving the site's architectural character and paying tribute to Walter Reed Bimson, the banking pioneer who helped shape modern Phoenix," Lindsey added.

Despite this goal of protecting a piece of the city's history for future generations, the fate of the Valley National Bank building and its surrounding green space remains uncertain.

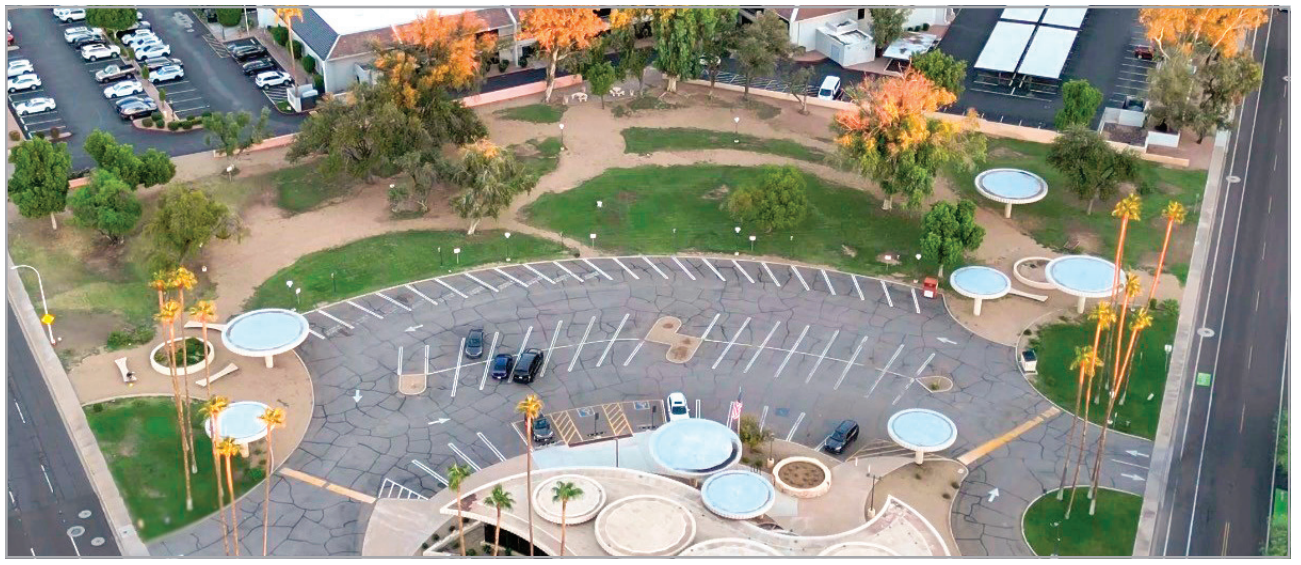


PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN LINDSEY

Bimson Park could become a parking lot under the developer's proposed design, although Preserve Phoenix and residents are pushing for a more balanced solution that adds parking while protecting green space.

The property's September 2025 sale has renewed discussions about its unresolved preservation status, as Bimson Park has still not been formally established.

The new owner of the 1.47-acre parcel is a firm connected with Arte Moreno, which also owns the mixed-use development immediately east of the open space.

"Proposals to convert the green space into additional parking by the new owners have raised concerns about losing a landscape that has been central to the site's original vision," Lindsey said.

On August 27, 2026, the developer's attorney presented a proposal to rezone the park. The first iteration of the design plans included moving the mushroom shade structure and adding a standard paved parking lot with trees.

During this opportunity to gather feedback and answer questions, many community members opposed the parking lot plans, saying they would take away green space, and raised concerns about future intentions and the preservation of the bank.

Preserve Phoenix is actively working to facilitate meaningful discussions to balance historic preservation with practical solutions.

"Although we would love to see the space be a well-maintained park for the community and serve its intended purpose as an architectural companion for the bank property, we also believe there could be a way to create a park-like parking lot that can satisfy the desires of all parties," Lindsey said. "Using alternative materials and creative landscape architecture can honor the intention of the bank and add to the character of Arcadia."

Preserve Phoenix is actively engaging with developer representatives and the Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association to discuss the property's future.

On September 3, 2026, the ACMNA Board passed a motion opposing the plan as presented. The board held another meeting on October 8 to review an updated parking lot design based on community suggestions.

"Our ultimate goal is to preserve the vision of Bimson Park by protecting the relationship between the historic bank building and its surrounding landscape, enhancing the open space for public enjoyment, and realizing the long-standing vision of a sculpture garden honoring Walter Reed Bimson and Arizona sculptor John Henry Waddell," Lindsey explained.

"If additional parking is necessary, we believe alternatives that incorporate parking beneath a meaningful public park deserve serious consideration."

With the park's future still undecided, Preserve Phoenix encourages the community to share their thoughts and consider a more preservation-minded design.

Residents can email their district representative, Councilman Kevin Robinson, at council.district.6@phoenix.gov or contact the Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association at info@acmna.org.

Old Crosscut Canal Park receives $3.5 million for renovations

By Alex Gross

According to the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department, $3.5 million has been budgeted out for the Old Crosscut Canal Park (which runs along 48th Street between Osborn and Indian School Roads) for irrigation and landscaping upgrades.

Renovations are set to take place between 2028 and 2030. This will be the largest improvement to the park since it was founded over two decades ago.

The project is funded by the Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative. This 1999 law dedicates one cent of sales tax for every $10 in purchases to renovating the city's parks and desert preserves. Voters renewed the initiative for another 30 years in 2008.

Attendees at neighborhood meetings have voiced a desire to plant more trees along the path and even build a restroom facility. The scheduled upgrades are a part of the city's Parks Master Plan, launched in 2024 as the first update to the citywide parks plan since 1989.

Old Crosscut Canal Park helped unite the Arcadia neighborhood in the 1990s, according to Arcadia neighbor Judy Maltz.

Arizona State Route 143 was initially planned to stretch all the way up to Camelback Road, running alongside the canal where the park now sits. But this caused a group of adjacent Phoenix neighborhoods to band together in an attempt to curtail construction.

"With Arcadia Camelback Mountain Neighborhood Association, Arcadia Osborn Neighborhood Association and then Orangedale just south of us, we were able to activate and stop that whole thing," Maltz said.

Since that initial activation, the neighborhood associations have encountered different challenges. Currently, attention is focused on a disagreement with the developers over what used to be R&G Ranch, a private park established in the late 1950s for the exclusive use of employees and families of Phoenix Newspapers, Inc.

The plot of land, which sits at the corner of Indian School Road and 48th Street, was sold to a housing company that hopes to build a gated community. Their plans for a private driveway would intersect the park's paved path, sparking pushback.

Issues concerning the park are complicated by different government and corporate bodies claiming the land. The Bureau of Reclamation owns the Old Crosscut Canal. Separate usage contracts with the Salt River Project, Maricopa County Flood Control District, and the City of Phoenix add extra layers of approval before changes can be made.

Some residents believe the park's practical value for walking dogs or playing with the family matters as much as its status as a community landmark.

"No matter what part of the neighborhood you live in, we are all Arcadia," Maltz said. "We rallied 30 years ago, and we really need to stay informed and together on issues that affect the neighborhood."

parksmasterplanphx.com

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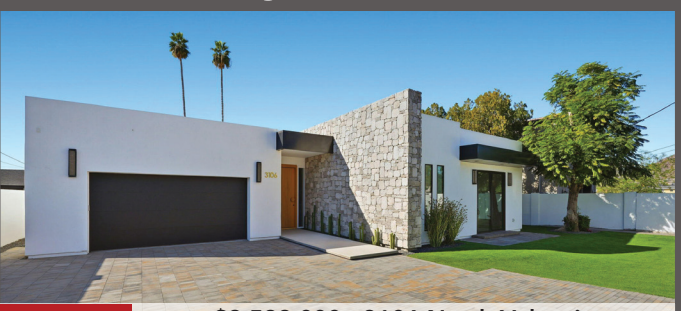
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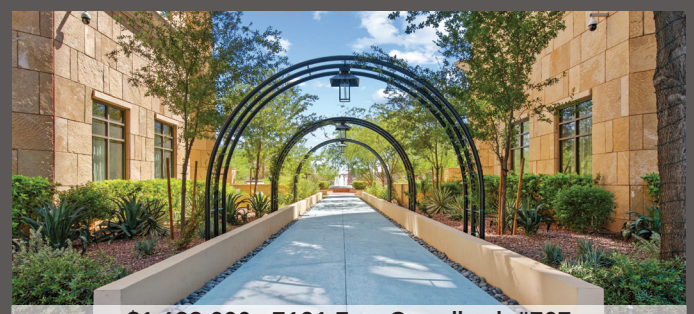
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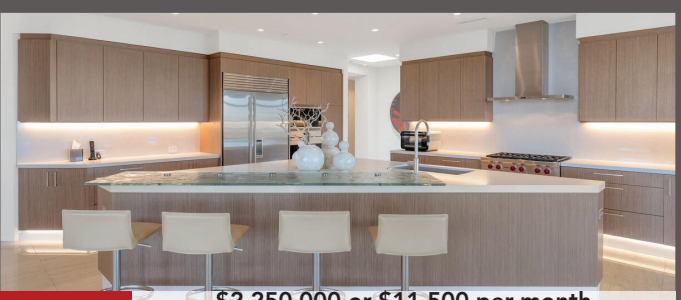
$2,599,000 3106 North Valencia
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 3,930 square feet
3106valencia.com



$1,699,000 7181 East Camelback #707
2 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,265 square feet
7181camelback.com



$5,995,000 5521 East Lafayette
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 5,522 square feet



FOR SALE OR LEASE

$2,250,000 or $11,500 per month
3801 North Goldwater #400
2 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3,443 square feet
3801goldwater.com



NEW LISTING

$5,500,000 10229 North 64th Street
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 5,984 square feet
10229north64thstreet.com

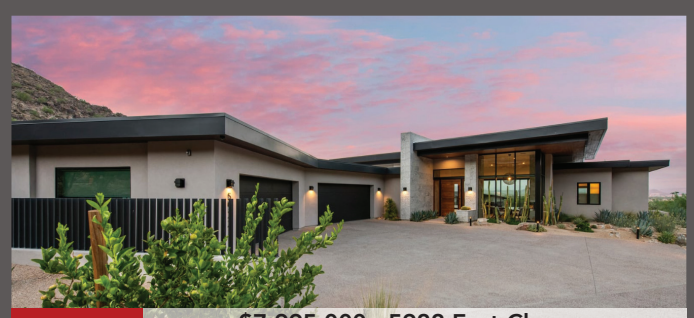


NEW LISTING

$3,995,000 5344 East Valle Vista
3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3350 square feet



$1,699,000 4843 North 72nd Way
2 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,122 square feet
4843north72ndway.com



NEW LISTING

$7,995,000 5922 East Cheney
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 5,581square feet
5922cheney.com

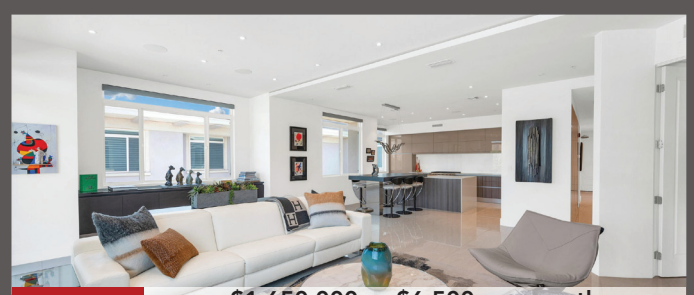


NEW LISTING

$1,175,000 2225 East Piestewa Peak
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,183 square feet

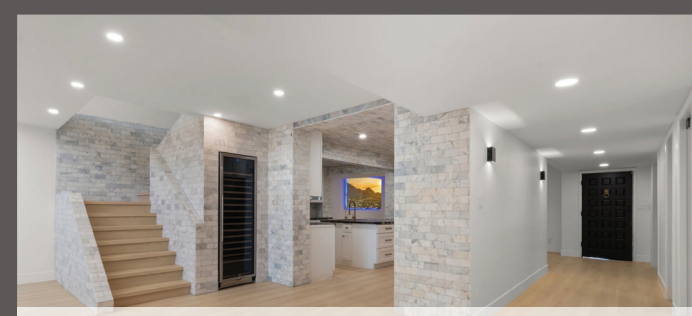


$10,900,000 2205 East Colter
7 bedrooms, 9 baths, 11,039 square feet
2205colter.com

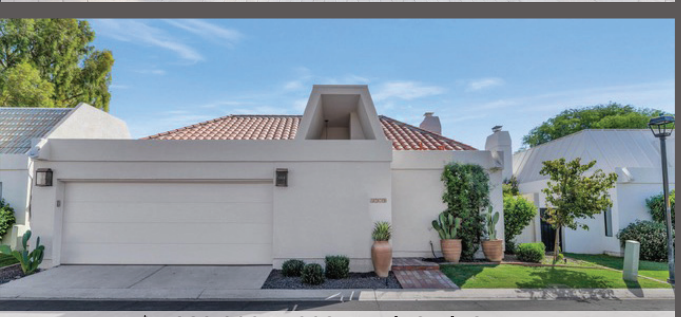


FOR SALE OR LEASE

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3801 North Goldwater #402
2 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,498 square feet
3801goldwater402.com



$1,175,000 7240 North Via De La Montana
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,613 square feet



$1,229,000 5309 North 25th Street
3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1,834 square feet
5309north25thstreet.com



NEW LISTING

$3,840,000 4642 North Alta Hacienda
1.09 acres Phoenician Golf Course View Lot,
$1,000,000 under appraisal!
Altahaciendalots.com



NEW LISTING

$649,000 3904 East Sahuaro
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,628 square feet
3904sahuaro.com



SALE PENDING

$970,000 5850 East Kathleen
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,605 square feet
5850kathleen.com



SALE PENDING

$3,250,000 3965 East Sierra Vista
5 bedrooms, 5 baths, 4,487 square feet



NEW LISTING

$900,000 4428 East Turney
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 1,942 square feet
4428turney.com

602.989.8300 | robert@thejoffegroup.com | TheJoffeGroup.com

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NEW LISTING
$1,799,000 3901 East Weldon
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,280 square feet
3901weldon.com



NEW LISTING
$899,000 4422 North 75th Street #3007
2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,269 square feet
4422north75thstreet.com



SALE PENDING
$1,695,000 5109 North 33rd Street
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,659 square feet
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$2,595,000 3308 East Stella
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$1,795,000 4721 East Calle Redonda
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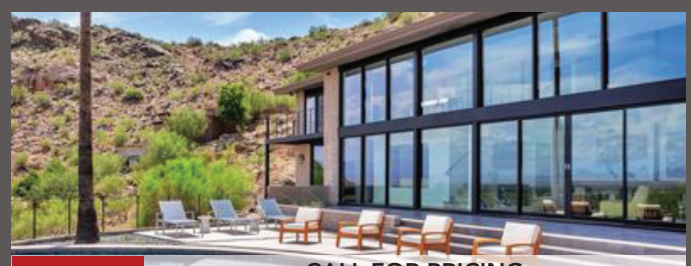
SALE PENDING
$7,500,000 9735 East Kemper
5 bedrooms, 7 baths, 7,742 square feet



$1,395,000 8675 East Via De Los Libros
3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,412 square feet
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NEW LISTING
$7,795,000 11616 North Miller Road
6 bedrooms, 7 baths. 8,943 square feet



COMING SOON
CALL FOR PRICING
5939 East Hummingbird Lane
3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 4,084 square feet



$24,000,000 5500 North Dromedary
1 bedroom, 3 baths, 4,641 square feet
23.66 acres



$7,300,000 7102 East Kalil
5 bedrooms, 7 baths, 8,200 square feet



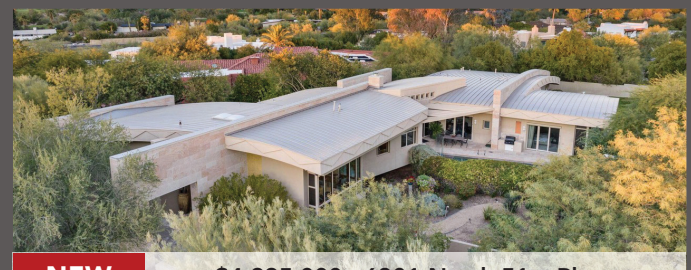
$6,995,000 7347 North Red Ledge Drive
5 bedrooms, 6 baths, 7,300 square feet
7347northredledge.com



COMING SOON
CALL FOR PRICING 6221 East Sage Drive
4 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3,971 square feet



NEW LISTING
$1,495,000
2626 East Arizona Biltmore Circle #17
3 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2,436 square feet



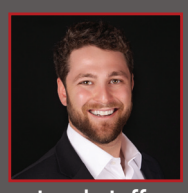
NEW LISTING
$4,995,000 6301 North 51st Place
4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 5,930 square feet



NEW LISTING
$2,100,000 4114 East Mitchell
3 bedrooms, 4 baths, 2,497 square feet
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In the kitchen

with Jackson Thorn, Co-founder of Six Byrd Cider

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The Thorn family has come a long way from making cider in the family's garage. From sweeping sawdust in his dad's furniture shop to crafting ciders in Tempe and Arcadia, Jackson Thorn has followed his entrepreneurial spirit to Six Byrd Cider, where there's always a new flavor brewing.

You're an Arizona native?

I'm an Arcadia native! I grew up in Arcadia proper and went to school at Prince of Peace, Hopi, Ingleside and Arcadia High School. My dad owned a furniture company called Thornwood over by Tovrea Castle. That was my playground. I started working with my family at 5 years old, sweeping sawdust.

What did you want to be growing up?

I think growing up under an entrepreneur, the goal was to work with my dad. I had other side jobs, like, I worked as a lifeguard at Paradise Valley Country Club and some other sales roles. But the ultimate goal was to work with my dad and then maybe take over the business one day. Unfortunately, we lost the company in the big crash of 2008.

I graduated high school in 2011 and wasn't really thinking about work, I was heading to the next chapter of my life. I was setting myself up to be in a sales role. I like to chat!

Tell us about the journey from sweeping to cider.

I always knew I wanted to do something for myself. Out of college, I wanted to work for a brewery. I interviewed with Phoenix Beer Co. for one of my last projects in college and got to know the owner over there; I basically asked, 'How do I start a brewery?'

I had my eye set on doing that, so out of college I tried working for New Belgium, Ballast Point, Bootleggers in LA… I got close but they wanted me to get some sales experience and then 'maybe we'll hire you down the road.'

I reached out to Santa Fe Brewing, and the owner emailed me back saying 'don't work for a brewery just because you think it's cool.' And that lit a fire and I decided I was going to do my own thing. After graduation – I was going for business communications – I worked for a tech company and got some sales experience for a few years.

My cousins Jared and Eric, at the time, were making cider in their home kitchen and they invited me to come check it out. One day we decided to level up and get serious.

What's the 'home' process like?

You can go buy a gallon of apple juice – we used to go to Whole Foods – and buy some yeast at a home brew store. Drop the yeast in the apple juice, let the yeast eat the sugar and turn into alcohol and CO2. Those are the two byproducts. Cider 101: yeast eats sugar, you'll see it bubbling at the top, ethanol, boom.

How long from yeast to drinkability?

Temperature is what's going to change that answer. I think at room temp it'll take about two weeks. If you're doing a cold fermentation, it'll take a month or two.

The colder the yeast is, the longer it takes to eat the sugar. It slows it down and if you do it like that, you'll end up with typically nicer notes in your cider – but not everyone has three months to put out a product. If you use, for example, a Saison yeast, you want it at 90 degrees – the yeast will eat the sugar in three to four days. It's quick.

The flavor depends on the yeast. Another example is white wine yeast. It'll eat all of the sugar from the apples. We have a drink called pure liquid gold that is bone-dry – zero residual sugars.

Are there classes or a certification for cider-making?

I'm sure there are, probably in California, Oregon, maybe Colorado, there are programs people can attend. It wasn't on my mind when I first started.

If we could go back in time, that might've been a good thing to check out [*laughs*]. We're doing good, but maybe a couple years to focus just on learning cider might have been helpful – especially in the beginning of starting a business in the cider industry.

Go back to the beginning. How did you get into the biz?

The only reason I got into cider is because my cousins have such a passion for it. They were fermenting apple juice, trying different yeast strains, seeing where it lands. The early adoptions of the cider industry weren't great; it wasn't that exciting to me at that moment.

I decided to give it a shot, and we were making cider out of my uncle's garage near The Henry on Camelback. We would make them in three-to-five-gallon batches, messing around with every kind of yeast strain, and then – backsweetening is the term – adding in prickly pear or pineapple. So you take out all the sugar and then naturally add it back in with the fruit. That's when I started getting more interested in it.

Our first cider, the prickly pom, resulted from us trying to make a prickly pear work, since we're Arizona natives. Prickly pear by itself is good but it's not great, so we combined it with all these different flavors until one day we grabbed a pomegranate, blended it in with little tube testers… my uncle drank the first batch [*laughs*]. It was so good. It disappeared quickly.

At that point, I was really into it – it was the best cider I'd ever had, so I was now exploring other ciders around the Valley.

What's the story behind the name?

Originally, we launched our business as Crush Craft Cider. We had a cease and desist order from a guy named Kevin out in California. His trademark is Crush & Craft. He was not a nice guy – he deleted our Instagram and Facebook account and sent in his trademark to Meta before we could change the brand name.

We were pretty upset, so I threw my middle fingers up in the air and said two Byrds for Kevin. Jared and Eric did the same. We said "Six Byrds for Kevin!" After the fact I joked that we should be called Six Byrd Cider Company and it stuck!

How do you come up with the flavors?

We have a new flavor every week. Most places have 12 ciders year-round, or distribution places have four ciders to choose from. For October, we released pumpkin pie a la mode; everything is seasonal based. We've got the classic

prickly pom and hazy apple (also born in my uncle's garage) – those two are year-round.

Everything else is available for a week, maybe two, sometimes for the month. Spiced apple is our intro to fall: cardamom, cinnamon, clove, allspice and apple. I'm a chai guy, so we have a chai cider that's made with Teaspressa. We also do a lavender flavor with her.

We have a 988 blueberry pie a la mode that we do with OHSO every year; that one we do for suicide awareness in September. Our apple pie a la mode flavor won a World Beer Cup award last year. We're always rotating an 'a la mode' flavor. We're doing a lemon berry crisp flavor collab with the Queen Creek Olive Mill – they're opening a store in Arcadia soon.

We're doing a maple bar flavor – syrup and apple go well together. Cranberry spice; our hot mulled ciders are coming out in November. We start out with a gallon batch, just to make sure the flavor is there, and then bump it up to one barrel. Then 10 barrels. At any one time, we'll make three to six different varieties.

What do you say to those who aren't a fan of the drink…yet?

Just try it! People sometimes get stuck in a mindset of 'I don't know what it is, it's just for girls, it's a sugar bomb.' There are negative connotations against cider where it starts off on the wrong foot and people decide they don't like it before they even try it.

Six Byrd does a lot of festivals and a group will come up and they always say, 'I hate cider, I don't want a sample,' and the wife or girlfriend will take one and the guy will take a sip as they're walking away… and it's my favorite thing, because they'll come back and say, 'wow, this is really good.' [*laughs*]. It's an uphill battle. Open your mind, try it!

"My favorite thing is when people come back and say, 'wow, this is really good.' Open your mind! Try it!"

Where have your adventures taken you?

It's been eight years now, on this cider adventure. I do like to travel a lot, and when I do, I look up 'cidery near me' and I'll try the local product. We go to Oregon every year. I was just in Denver. I went to Stem, which is owned by the same group as Formation Brewing, and got a tour with their cider maker. It's a good way to learn and network.

Every weekend we're doing some type of event, whether it's a tap takeover or a festival… I'll be at Taste of AZ, a whiskey festival at Sloan Park, events at the AZ Science Center. We love to make connections with our people.

What is one item during production you find yourself using all the time?

Apples! [*laughs*]

Who inspires you?

I'm going with the easy answer: my dad. Growing up and seeing him go to work every day. We didn't take weekends off. Saturdays and Sundays we would go to Thornwood and we would work. Seeing him work so hard with something he was passionate about was instilled in me. It's why I'm such a hard worker and passionate about my favorite things.

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

I'm 34, so weddings, baby showers, two-year-olds' birthday parties [*laughs*]. When I'm not attending events, I like to travel to Oregon for golf and fishing. I go every year. Travel, golf and fishing are the top three.

As far as everyday things, I like to garden. Dig It, Grow It, Share It is a community garden around 27th Street. I'm the Number 2 over there [*laughs*] – I have a main plot and a couple smaller plots. Every day after work, I go over there and putter around in the garden.

Suggest a few spots that a Valley newcomer should go.

Sunny's Lounge is one of my favorite spots! I love Pizza to the Rescue, and Tandy's and Mixela – I go for wine, tapas and crudo. Their sushi is fantastic. My local hang is Tombstone Brewing. They make great beer.

What's next for Six Byrd Cider?

Making a shelf stable product – it costs quite a bit, so there's an investment there for some new equipment that'll allow us to work with more stores that keep it out, like Total Wine, Trader Joe's, etc. It'll allow us to grow. After that we'll probably have to work with a distributor, which is big news. We're excited!



"Meet Mrs." | Ray Artigue

Mollie Dodd

For Mollie Dodd, education is about more than just what students learn from a textbook.

It's about exploration, sparking curiosity and giving youngsters the opportunity to discover what's truly possible.

She also well understands that it only happens with quality teachers and the resources that you provide to them.

"I believe that the best and most effective teachers build a sense of community in their classroom, one that is based on trust, understanding and respect," said Mollie. "If students feel that they're in a safe space where they can make mistakes as they learn, they can achieve anything."

> ***Teaching and working with young children is what made me happy.***

As executive director of the Madison Education Foundation, Mollie brings both the perspective of a former teacher and the heart of a parent. She is adamant that every child deserves the chance to learn and thrive.

Mollie had an a-ha moment when she was a freshman at Southern Illinois University.

"Like any 18-year-old, I wasn't going to do what my parents suggested (they wanted her to be a teacher). So, I tried three other majors without success. Then one day I realized that teaching and working with young children is what made me happy. I changed my major that day and 20 years later I still love being a part of the education system," said Mollie.

She moved to Arizona in 2001 and taught in the Chandler Unified School District for seven years before eventually moving to Arcadia. She has been a substitute teacher at Tavan and Arcadia and also a tireless fundraiser for their booster clubs.

When Mollie isn't busy spearheading fundraising campaigns for the eight Madison elementary schools, she pursues another passion: pickleball. She even travels to compete in regional tournaments.

"Pickleball is great fun but taking care of the kiddos in our public schools is where my heart is," said Mollie with unmistakable passion. "It's all about raising them up to be good human beings."

Mollie and her husband, Nick, have three adult children, Jackson, Emily and Katie, and they are all football zealots.

"Football brings our family together, though our kids have divided loyalties among their college alma maters. It's Notre Dame all the way for me and my husband."

Not surprisingly, Mollie loves reading and her favorite children's books are *Tops and Bottoms, The Giving Tree* and anything by Dr. Seuss. Among her novel favorites are *The People We Keep* and current blockbuster, *Theo of Golden*.

When Mollie isn't involved with her many fundraising responsibilities she loves to travel, especially with family.



"What encourages me most about young people is their ability to think outside the box and use their creativity with technology to help build a stronger community and world," she said.

Asked about her legacy and she didn't hesitate.

"I want to leave behind a legacy of making a difference in the lives of children and families and in my community. I hope to be remembered as a good mom, loving wife, and an advocate for education."

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IN GOOD SPIRITS hospitality

Local nonprofit helps families thrive through scholarships

By Alex Gross

By founding the support group Single Moms Rise, Angeles Klein hoped to give her community a sense of connection and understanding. But when she started looking for ways to aid other single moms directly, she realized something bigger was in store.

She looked to The Sparkle Foundation, a California-based nonprofit that provides financial support to single mothers and their children. Through holiday gift drives and Mother's Day celebrations, the organization aims to put "that sparkle" back in the eyes of families who slip through the cracks.

Klein started the foundation's Phoenix chapter in 2024. Her existing network of single moms in the area let her hit the ground running.

"My first year, I think we had 10 single-mom families," Klein said. "This last year has really been our growth spurt. We had 25 families with 50 children total."

One of the organization's most expansive offerings has been its enrichment scholarships. Funds allow children to participate in extracurricular activities ranging from sports and dance to theater and tutoring.

A popular program, especially over the summer, has been swim lessons. Because of the popularity of pools in Phoenix and Klein's personal tie to the cause, the foundation has enrolled dozens of kids in classes.

"One of the moms from my community lost her son to drowning," Klein said. "He was almost three years old. I've made it a goal of mine to help and continue all of this in his honor."

The opportunity to take free lessons has not only given kids valuable life skills but also raised awareness of pool safety that might not have existed otherwise.

"I realized I made a good choice on the lessons because they were teaching him stuff I never would have thought of teaching," said Kristin, a parent who has known Angeles since Single Moms Rise and whose son received an enrichment scholarship.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGELES KLEIN

Angeles Klein (second from right) and her team help single mothers and their children succeed with community support.

As a nonprofit, the Sparkle Foundation runs entirely on volunteers and fundraising. Donations fund initiatives like enrichment scholarships or micro-loans for single-mom entrepreneurs looking to build a startup. Volunteers work behind the scenes of holiday and Mother's Day gift drives, wrapping presents and assembling appreciation bags.

Companies have also donated services, and families have nominated single moms for different programs, making the Sparkle Foundation a truly community-driven organization.

"I've been building the Phoenix chapter over the last three years. And I'm a single mom myself," Klein said. "Without the community, we wouldn't exist. The 'thank yous' that we get after the holiday gift drive make everybody cry. Phoenix must be a very special place because these moms have been so incredibly grateful."

Moments of connection make all the hard work worthwhile. Not only for the foundation's team of directors, but also for the moms they empower.

sparklenow.org

A lifetime education in wine

By Michael P. Murphy

When Paul C. Ringgold responded to an ad for a sommelier position, he didn't doubt his qualifications; he had a lifetime of experience in wine and the hospitality industry. But his new employer wanted him to be a certified sommelier, so Paul took a 16-week training course and aced the final exam. It's safe to say the guy knows his beverages.

Paul's journey to being a certified sommelier has been an adventure in learning, a combination of being in the right places and knowing the right people. He has even called it fun. It began about 40 years ago, when he worked at a private country club in Greenwich, Connecticut, and got his first taste, pun intended, of wine culture.

"I think the biggest influence was in 1995, when I got engaged to a German girl from the wine region," he said. "She wanted me to come to Germany, learn the language, learn the culture, and I agreed. She lived in a vineyard. That's how I got my baptism in wine. Everywhere you went was a winery."



Paul Ringgold

Paul and his new wife enjoyed life traveling and learning around Europe. When they returned to Phoenix, he worked at AJ's Fine Foods, where he received further training, including in retail. That led to a position as wine manager at Smitty's on Tatum and Shea. There, he met local radio host Beth McDonald, who invited him to KEZ's Beth and Bill morning show many times to talk about reds, whites, and everything in between.

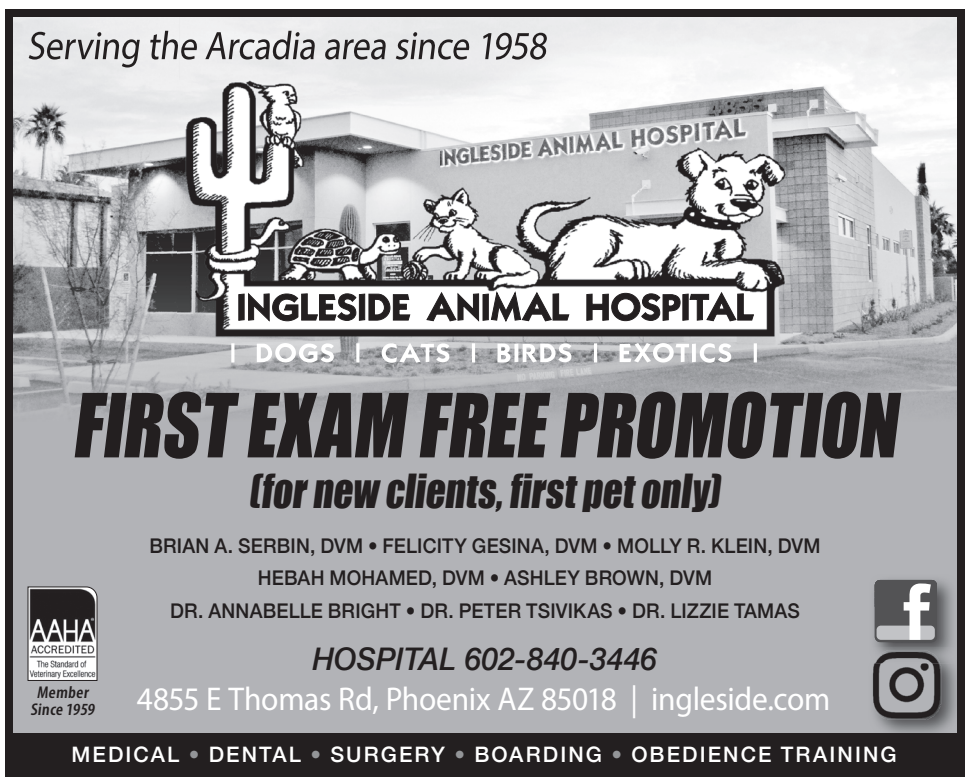
Other positions followed. Paul created a popular program at AZ Wine Company, and later he and his wife owned a successful import business. After J. W. Marriott hired him, Paul and his family moved to North Carolina, where he became a Banquet Beverage Manager. He now serves as Head Sommelier at Lincoln Steakhouse at the J. W. Marriott Camelback Inn, where his lifetime education has now come full circle.

"My job is to educate people who work with me on the floor," he said. "I meet with wineries and winemakers all the time. It's fascinating. They're agricultural at their core. People think it's snobby, but it's not. They're very down-to-earth people."

With Thanksgiving coming up, Paul has recommendations for the best wines to pair with that traditional turkey dinner.

"I always talk about pinot noir," he said. "It's what they call a bridge wine, and you can have it with anything. White meat, red meat, whatever. It's an amazing wine. For white wine, I would recommend viognier, a perfect white wine for roasted turkey."

Whether you're pouring a bold red or a crisp white, Paul believes the best wine brings people together. After four decades in the industry, he knows a thing or two about vino – and he's still finding new reasons to love it.



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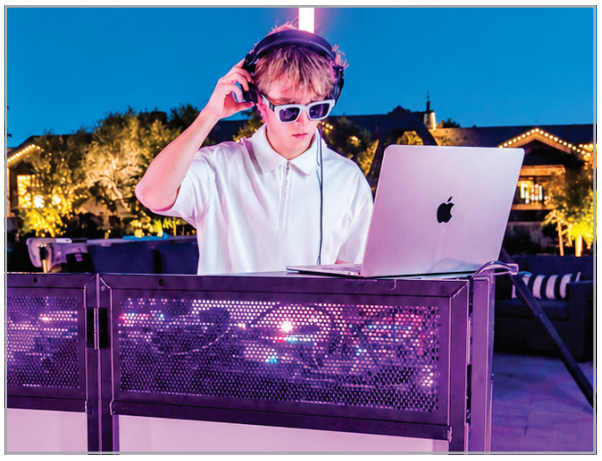
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PHOTOS COURTESY OF ADAM BLAIS







Adam Blais blends house music, creative transitions and crowd favorites to keep audiences dancing at events big and small.

AHS student finds rhythm behind the mixing board

By Mark Hays

Adam Blais's love of music has grown into a budding DJ career, complete with school events, private parties, and a rapidly growing social media following.

Adam said his interest took off after attending his uncle's wedding and watching DJ Ryan Ingram perform. He started producing his own music about six years ago, when he met Ryan, who agreed to give him a few lessons.

"I've grown up loving music," Adam said. "Ryan showed me just like super basic stuff, and I was like, 'This is awesome! I would love to do this."

His parents gave him a small DJ board the following Christmas, and he began practicing after school.

"I'd come home and just play on it for hours. I loved it," he said.

As he began booking gigs, Adam reinvested his earnings into equipment, gradually building his setup with a new mixing board, speakers, subwoofers, and lights.

His work eventually expanded to high school football games, basketball games, and assemblies, as well as weddings, bar mitzvahs, birthday parties, and private events.

Adam said he particularly enjoys house parties, where he can mix electronic dance music with familiar songs that get people singing along.

One of his most memorable experiences came when he organized a party at his own house. With security, wristbands, and a small stage for his DJ setup, the event drew about 200 people.

"We just packed inside my house and were dancing all night long, and it was so, so much fun," Adam said. "It made my heart so full."

Adam primarily plays house music, a style of electronic dance music he said offers plenty of mixing opportunities.

"The thing that I love about it is you can be so creative with it, yet it's so simple at the same time," he said.

That creativity comes through in the technical side of DJing, too. Adam explained that DJs work between two tracks, finding ways to transition smoothly from one song to the next while both are playing.

Techniques can include adjusting a song's high, midrange, and low frequencies, swapping bass lines, and layering vocals over another track's instrumentals.

"The whole idea of it is, how can I get from song A to song B by sounding the best?" Adam said.

More recently, Adam began sharing his work on TikTok, where he said he gained about 30,000 followers in the first month. He sees social media, original music, and reaching new audiences as key steps toward turning DJing into a full-time career.

His ambitions extend to major music festivals, where he hopes to perform alongside established names like Calvin Harris.

"My goal is to get into that scene and play headliners in front of like tens of thousands of people," he said.

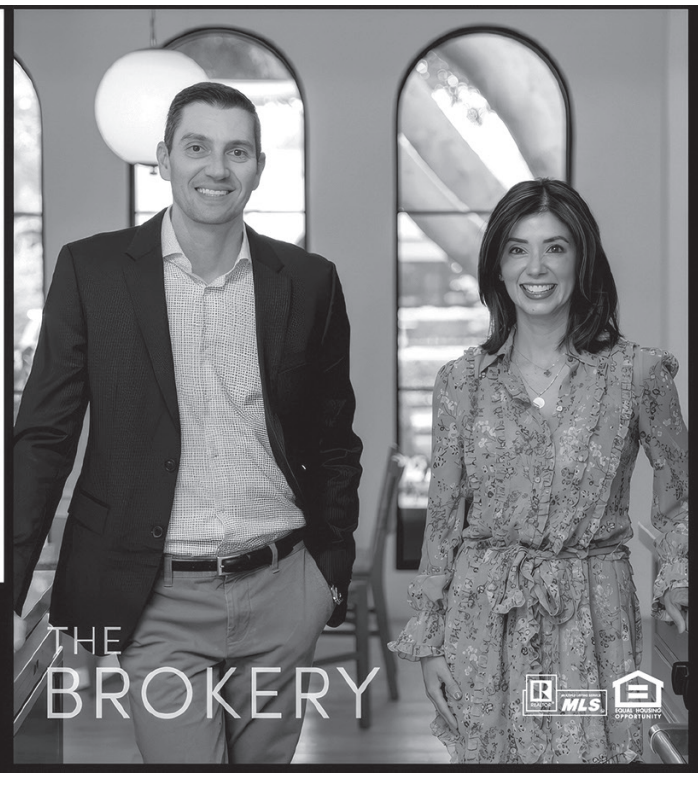
For now, Adam keeps building his experience one event at a time, driven by a passion for music that began years before he stepped behind the DJ booth. And who knows – at your next local event? You might see a familiar face behind the decks.



ADAM'S CURRENT HOUSE RECOMMENDATIONS

- **"Ladies and Gentlemen"** – Ben Miller
- **"How Ya Feelin'"** – L.P. Rhythm
- **"Fancy Footwork"** – Chris Lorenzo, Chromeo
- **"Without U"** – Silva Bumpa
- **"World Hold On (Fisher Rework)"** – Bob Sinclar

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Every story is worth sharing

By Madalyn Paltzik

When Arcadia resident Alexis Magness spotted a group of women dressed in pink at a business development event late last year, her curiosity was piqued. By the end of the event, she had approached Six-Figure Chicks founder Mel Carr with a question – although the setting was unconventional: the bathroom.



Alexis Magness

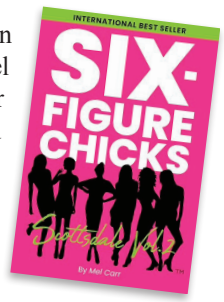
"I approached Mel and asked her if I could join the Six-Figure Chicks while she was washing her hands," Magness laughed.

The encounter ultimately led her to contribute a chapter to *Six-Figure Chicks: Scottsdale Volume 2*, part of a nine-book series featuring women sharing stories about their lives, careers, and challenges. After meeting with Carr and reading a previous Phoenix volume, Magness was hooked.

"She asked me if I'd like to author a chapter and I said 'yes' before I even knew what that entailed," she said. That meant writing candidly about something that had followed her through much of her life: self-doubt.

"I spent most of my life feeling inadequate, unworthy, and undeserving," Magness said. "I've always been very hard on myself."

Reading other contributors' stories encouraged her to share her own. Their willingness to discuss difficult experiences, she said, showed her that vulnerability could be a source of connection rather than weakness.



"If I can help one woman who is feeling insecure to feel more confident and rise to her potential, I've accomplished something," she said.

Writing the chapter also forced her to identify the common thread behind her personal and professional choices. With help from an editor, she landed on an answer: helping people.

Since *Six-Figure Chicks: Scottsdale Volume 2* was published, Magness said she has surpassed her 2026 professional goals and received invitations to appear on three podcasts and speak at a two-day women's conference called SparkleFest.

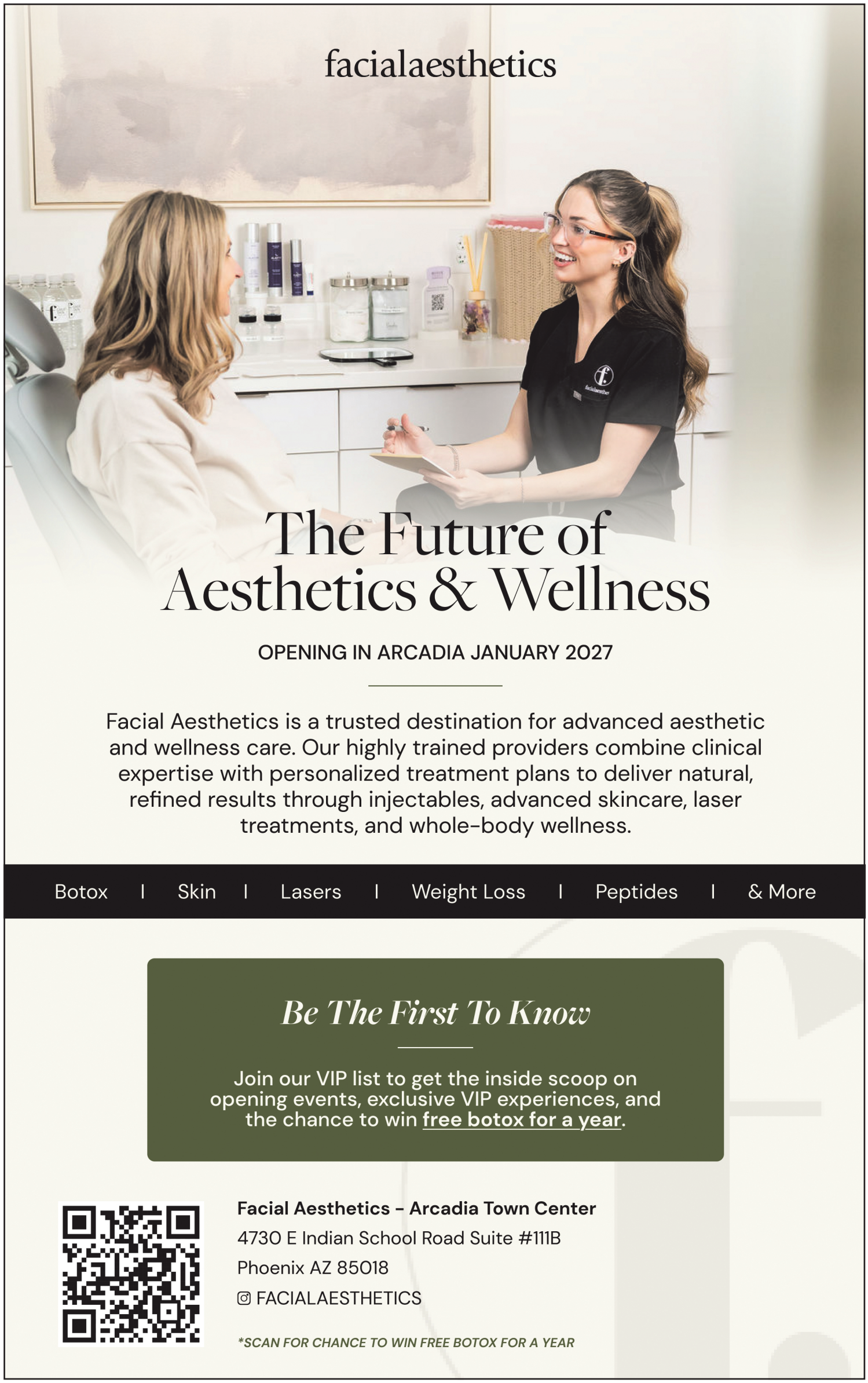
She was also offered a board position with the Scottsdale Women's Council of REALTORS. The book reaching international bestseller status added another milestone. Yet she hopes readers take away something beyond professional achievement.

She cautions women against becoming so focused on caring for others and saying "yes" that they neglect themselves. Her advice for women hesitating to pursue a new opportunity is equally straightforward: do it.

"Sometimes we just need someone to tell us 'you got this.' Sometimes we need to tell *ourselves* that," she said.

For Magness, the experience has allowed her to share a part of her story she once kept to herself and, hopefully, remind another woman that she is capable, worthy, and ready to take the next step.

sixfigurechicks.com



Certified Local Fall Festival celebrates 20 years

By Rachael Bouley

One of Local First Arizona's signature events returns November 7 at Margaret T. Hance Park for its 20th anniversary.

For two decades, the free event, now known as Arizona Fall Fest, has brought thousands together for a day of shopping, food, and entertainment in downtown Phoenix. It has become part of Local First Arizona's mission to strengthen local businesses and communities and build a resilient, inclusive economy.

Thomas Barr, VP of Strategic Initiatives for Local First Arizona, credits the festival with connecting people to place and building hometown pride.

"We needed an event to bring everyone together to meet locally owned businesses," Barr said. "Its purpose is to connect people who care about their community with the entrepreneurs and businesses in our neighborhoods that make Arizona a great place."

When it first launched in 2005, the festival featured 30 vendors in the parking lot of Duck and Decanter. It has since grown into a much larger event at Hance Park.

"We host over 250 vendors, have a local craft beer and wine garden, 20+ food trucks and tons of activities for everyone in the family to enjoy and experience together," Barr added.

While it's grown tremendously over the years, one thing has stayed the same: Arizonans own every business. A variety of industries are represented: restaurants, boutiques, jewelers, artists, wineries, breweries, bookstores, museums, and makers.

Regular participants include Changing Hands Bookstore, Cowtown Skateboards, SanTan Brewing, Samurai Comics, Frances Boutique, Stinkweeds Records, Fairytale Brownies, and many others.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LOCAL FIRST ARIZONA



Arizona businesses are proudly showcased at the festival, with 15,000 people expected to attend.

"For the first time, many people are discovering these businesses and considering the importance of how you spend your money," Barr explained. "We know that more money stays in our community when spent with a local business, and to see that click for thousands of people has a major impact for Arizona."

Guests can browse a wide range of products from unique vendors and enjoy food and drinks from eateries and food trucks. Activities include live music by local bands, a Bark Park with dog adoptions, the Children's Museum of Phoenix, and a live mural.

The festival highlights the impact of supporting local, where meaningful connections form and stories are shared.

"This event has been a staple for businesses to build a following and grow," Barr said. "Companies at the original fall festival like Spinato's Pizzeria have attributed the event to being part of their growth strategy to expand from two to eight locations."

The 20th anniversary edition will be a very special day, with the Localist Activity Zone raffling off gift cards to restaurants, breweries, and coffee shops, plus popcorn and character photo opportunities with Harkins Theatres. Musical chairs, kite making, and bubble soccer will also be part of the fun.

"We will be introducing the best new way to find businesses in Arizona through the Localist AZ App," Barr added. "Attendees who download the app will be provided with Localist postcards and a raffle ticket, and we'll have new t-shirts, hats, and tote bags to show off that you love supporting local."

The 2026 Arizona Fall Fest will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The first 300 attendees will receive a free tote bag filled with goodies and coupons.

localfirstaz.com/fall-fest

Making peace with the past, to thrive in the future

By Mallory Gleich



Eleanora Ioffe

When she arrived in America in 1977, Eleanora Ioffe was 21, exhausted, and facing a future she couldn't imagine. Today, that life-changing journey is the subject of *An Immigrant's Song: On Becoming Myself,* Eleanora's memoir about family, freedom, growth, and the unexpected ways we come to understand ourselves.

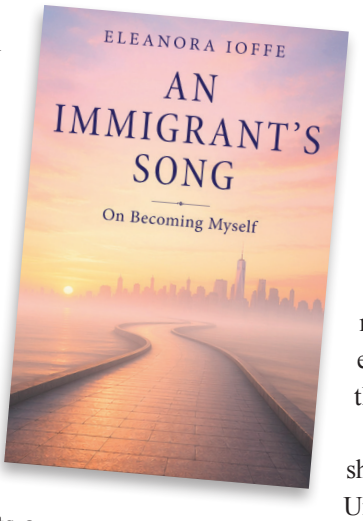
She decided to write the book to preserve what remained of her family's history. By the time she started writing, both of her parents had passed away, she had no extended family in the United States, and she had lost touch with relatives in the former Soviet Union.

"The past was slipping away," Eleanora recalls, prompting her to gather old photographs, documents, and memories before they disappeared entirely.

Growing up Jewish in the Soviet Union meant navigating a society where antisemitism was part of everyday life. Her father encouraged her to keep her identity private, repeatedly warning her not to tell anyone. Though meant to protect her, the message left a lasting impression on a shy young girl. Leaving the Soviet Union offered a chance to start over, despite the uncertainty of emigrating and the intimidation she faced from Soviet authorities.

On April 13, 1977, Eleanora and her brother landed at New York's JFK Airport, stepping into a world of freedom and opportunity that had once seemed impossible. In the memoir, she describes the experience as being "born at age 21."

Suddenly, she had to learn everything: navigating grocery stores and banking, finding work and paying rent. Her first American job was on a factory assembly line, earning $2.50 an hour. She later moved into receptionist and clerical positions, eventually building a 20-year career in marketing and communications. Along the way, she also worked as a Russian-language translator and freelance interpreter.



She kept learning and took every opportunity offered. Over the years, she explored yoga and dancing, acting, modeling – even flying a plane. She credits a lifelong curiosity, fueled by childhood imagination and books, for her willingness to try new things.

Immigration also taught her that life doesn't have to follow a predetermined path.

"Once you have left your country, your language, your familiar world and everything you know behind, the idea of reinventing yourself becomes much less frightening. It actually becomes natural," Eleanora said.

While writing her memoir, she said revisiting difficult memories helped her reconsider experiences she had carried for decades and gradually let go of old pain and resentment. She discovered that documenting the past could also help her make peace with it.

Ultimately, she hopes readers will recognize something of their own experiences in her story, regardless of where they come from.

Her central message is that while our past shapes us, it doesn't have to dictate our future. Understanding our beginnings can help us accept what we can't change and choose a new direction when we need to. *An Immigrant's Song: On Becoming Myself* is available for purchase on Amazon.

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Pop-up fashion events bring designer names to closets

By Sherry Sklar

This holiday season, enjoy a distinctive shopping experience: browse racks of beautiful garments at a spectacular private residence while taking in the views and sipping champagne.

Kelly Rickard founded Arcadia Sample Sale two years ago with the idea that Phoenicians deserved an insider sample sale like those in New York, Los Angeles, and other major cities.

Rickard pursued a career in technology sales for a decade before she started her family. While on maternity leave, she explored her resale interest, starting with her own closet, selling clothes in the secondhand market, and rekindling her love of fashion and connection. Her resale interest eventually became a full-time career and laid the groundwork for Arcadia Sample Sale.

The pop-up sales offer designer fashion, with most current-season inventory at 70-90 percent off retail. Headliner labels include PatBO, Agua Bendita, dRA Los Angeles, NKN Nekane and others.

"For a moment you get to step into this world," Rickard said, describing the event as an experience that lets shoppers socialize and enjoy fashion savings. "All the major cities have a sample sale presence. We're the fifth-largest U.S. city by population, and we didn't have anything like that."

Rickard read that designer Mara Hoffman was closing her fashion label in May 2024 after 24 years in business. She loved the designer and knew her online customers loved her, too. On a lark, Rickard obtained Hoffman's email and reached out.

"She called me from the streets of New York City five minutes later," Rickard said. "Fast forward two weeks, and I had her final 5,000 units on my doorstep." Rickard knew she could sell the garments on Poshmark, eBay, or through livestream sales from her storage, but thought that the line deserved to be showcased.



PHOTO: ASHLEY ORR

Kelly Rickard, founder of Arcadia Sample Sale.

Arcadia local Katrina Barrett offered her showroom for the first event. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and afterward customers offered to meet her in parking lots to shop her car trunk. "I knew I was on to something," she said.

The sample sale evolved into rotating pop-ups in Arcadia, Paradise Valley and Scottsdale that draw an estimated 300 attendees at each event.

Arcadia Sample Sale buys overstock or canceled orders and sells at a discount.

"The business model is exciting for smaller brands too, as it gives them exposure in a new market," Rickard said.

She works directly with brands and sources fashion that she wants hanging in her own closet. The merchandise is on-trend and seasonal. She explained that most items sell for less than $100, with $59 to $99 as the typical sweet spot.

Beyond the pop-up, Rickard and her team host twice-weekly Instagram Live shopping events, Tuesday and Thursday Instagram Stories merchandise drops, and sell merchandise through Shopify. Rickard and her friends model the garments.

"We drink a little wine, laugh a lot, and let our true personalities come out to our audience," she said.

The December event will support Phoenix Children's Hospital's Sage Committee, which focuses on children's mental and behavioral health. Proceeds from VIP night ticket sales will benefit the initiative, along with 100 percent of sales from a participating jewelry vendor's children's jewelry collection.

Looking ahead, Rickard aspires to expand her business without losing its magic.

"Seeing familiar faces shopping regularly is such a thrill for us!" she said. "We're bringing discounted designer into homes with views, cocktails, and a party-like experience, and I don't want to change that as we grow."

Learn more on Instagram @arcadiasamplesale

Sharing stories about a life that keeps giving

By Robin Sewell

At 10, Jeremy Keck wondered whether he would live long enough to graduate high school, own a home, or have children. Years later, when he shared those childhood thoughts with his wife, Ana, they stayed with her. At that age, her biggest concern had been finishing homework in time to watch her favorite cartoons.

Jeremy accomplished everything he had wondered about and left Ana with a story she now shares to help other families find hope.

Born with a complex congenital heart condition that Ana describes as a single ventricle and transposition of the great arteries, Jeremy underwent six open-heart surgeries over his lifetime. His care included a pacemaker and a Fontan procedure.

"He never wanted his heart condition to define him," Ana said.

Instead, Jeremy pursued the future he imagined. Ana still has a high school assignment listing his goals: a wife, two children, a dog, a home, and a successful business career. He graduated from Arizona State University with honors and became a partner at Chasse Building Team. A scratch golfer, he also found time for a sport he loved. He never set limits for himself; he set goals and achieved them.

Jeremy and Ana's first date was Valentine's Day in 2011. They married in 2014 and welcomed daughters Emilee and Kaylee. Their family included a dog named Ted and the Arcadia home Jeremy built.

Ana remembers his patience with their children and the encouragement he offered her on difficult days. His mother, Terri, had long been his advocate and protector, and Ana came to understand the care and vigilance woven into their family's life.

But there was also laughter. During an early hospital stay, Jeremy urged Ana to leave and celebrate her birthday with a mimosa. After another, he wanted brunch and a hike on Camelback Mountain.

In June 2020, Jeremy suffered a cardiac arrest during a golf trip to Pebble Beach. A security guard performed CPR before paramedics arrived. Jeremy spent a month in intensive care before returning home. On September 2, he died at work. He was 37.

People have asked Ana why she married someone whose condition could leave her a young widow. She says loving Jeremy was reason enough.

"I hope that people realize some love stories are not always forever, but that does not make them less special."

As the Phoenix Heart Ball approaches November 21, Ana's work on its committee connects that love to a purpose. She thinks about the procedures that gave Jeremy more years and hopes research will give other families more time, including the chance to watch children graduate from college and get married, as he had hoped to do.

Being part of the committee has also connected Ana with kindhearted women who share her commitment to giving back, an experience she describes as an honor.

She also carries forward Jeremy's commitment to service. He helped raise money for Phoenix Children's alongside his mother and supported the Boys & Girls Club through the 20-30 Club.

"I love telling his story because it brings awareness to children who are born with CHD," she said. "These children can grow up and have full lives."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANA KECK

Jeremy, Ana, Emilee and Kaylee.

Ana calls sharing his story an honor. Through her grief, she has also found the resolve to create experiences with their daughters. Jeremy wanted to visit all 50 states and reached 40; Ana hopes to visit all 50 with the girls before they leave for college.

"I make an effort to wake up every day with a purpose, big or small."

She wants their daughters to know how deeply their father loved them, how hard he fought to come home, and how much he believed in helping others. Her own involvement gives them a way to see those values in action. That is what Ana is doing each time she tells his story.

On stage or sidelines, this jazz artist always goes back to music

By Sherry Sklar

Joe Costello is an Arcadia-area entrepreneur who runs an entertainment company with a roster of more than 1,200 performing artists. What's more, he built that business on the professional skills he learned as a touring blues and jazz drummer. As a young man, Costello was devoted to a performing career, studying and practicing intensely to reach his 10,000-hour practice goal and achieve fame as a musician.

"I loved it. I loved everything about it," he said.

Costello, who grew up just south of Albany, New York, graduated with a bachelor's degree in jazz ensemble from SUNY Fredonia and moved to the heart of the jazz and blues scene in New York City after graduation to pursue his ambitions.

There, he joined a blues band that played throughout the city and traveled the upstate circuit, playing festivals and clubs, living out of a van, eating bad food, and getting by on little sleep.

"I'm glad that I survived; that's all I can say," Costello said with a laugh.

His entrepreneurial drive grew from watching his parents run a restaurant and from his own experiences as a touring musician. Stepping away from the uncertainties of music, he built a successful technology business in New York. After several trips to Arizona for trade conferences, Costello decided not to wait until retirement to make the move.

"I was like, 'you know what? I've done my time,'" he said. "I'm ready to go and do this. Why would you go out to Arizona when you get too old to enjoy all of what it offers?"

Costello relocated to Arizona with his wife and stepdaughter, and they fell in love with the state's natural beauty and lifestyle. The family settled in Arcadia Lite, drawn to the neighborhood's character and sense of community.

He eventually launched a home automation company during the housing boom. As the housing market collapsed, he shut down the business and made a very clear decision about what came next.

In blues, a turnaround is the phrase that brings the progression back to the beginning. Costello's career had reached one of its own.

"Every day I wake up, if it doesn't involve music, I'm not doing it," he said. "Booking, playing, recording, whatever it was, but it had to be music."

Costello formed a group that became the house band at Montelucia Resort. As outside corporate events and destination weddings began coming in, he had to find replacement musicians for nights when his band couldn't play. Costello realized that instead of simply sending someone over, he could manage the entire process.

"I was the filter, making sure that whoever I replaced us with was seamless and transparent," he said. "That was kind of like the light bulb moment."

> ***Every day I wake up, if it doesn't involve music, I'm not doing it.***

From there, the business grew into Onstage Entertainment Group. His touring and hospitality experience gave him an advantage. He could walk into a room and quickly understand the acoustics, staging, clientele, and logistics. Today, Onstage Entertainment provides talent for many of the Valley's resorts, country clubs and corporate events, with a roster ranging from musicians and mentalists to A-list entertainment.

Costello once struggled to find gigs on his own. Now he creates work for other musicians and entertainers. He admits that even today, when he watches a concert, part of him still imagines what it would be like to be the drummer looking out at an arena filled with people. He admits, though, that chasing fame requires an all-consuming commitment, and there are no guarantees.

"If you're going to do it, you have to be 110 percent in it ... and in the end, you still might not make it."

Costello's path ultimately brought him back to music, not as the touring drummer he once imagined, but as someone creating opportunities for other performers.

onstage.biz



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE COSTELLO

Joe Costello is the owner and founder of Onstage Entertainment Group.

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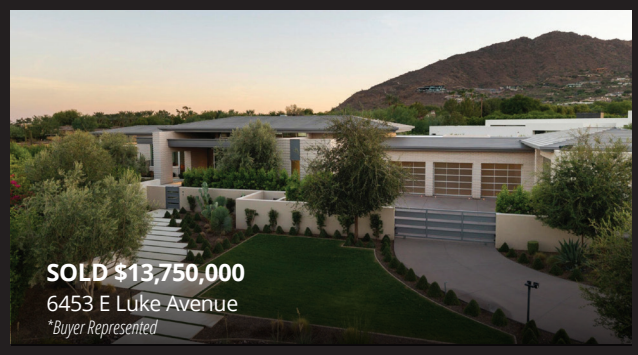
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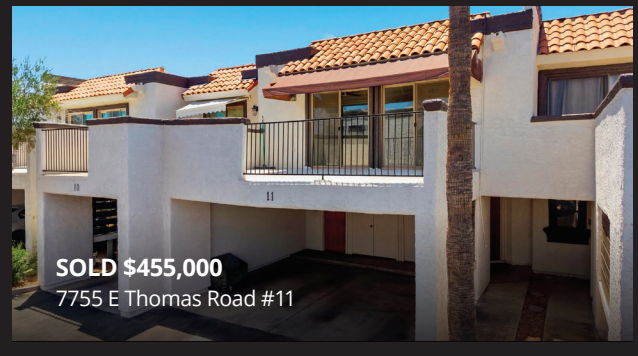


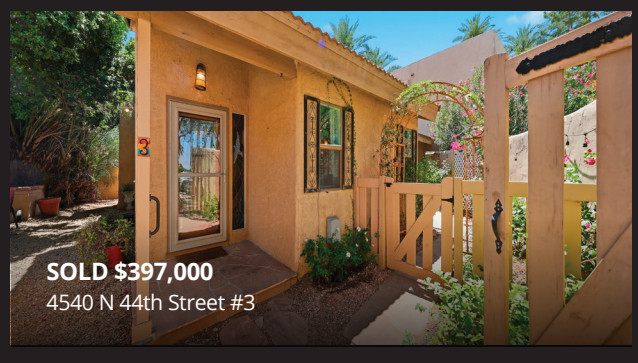


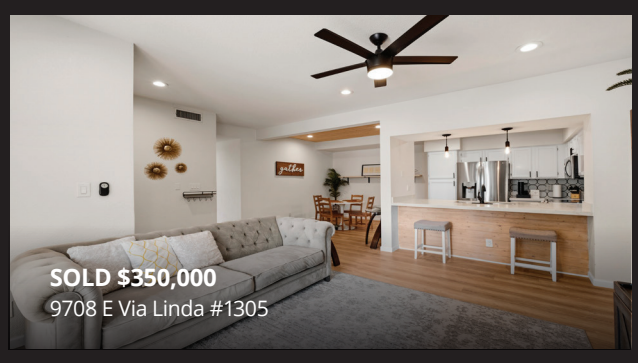


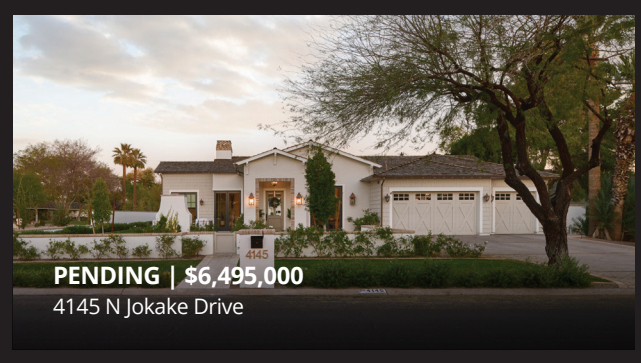


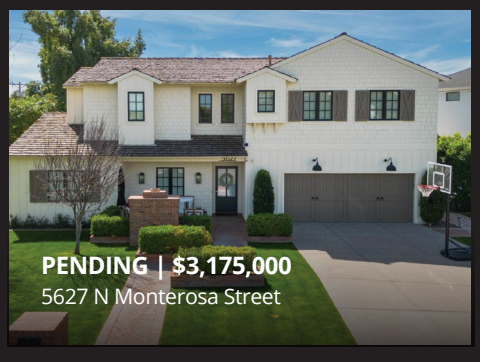


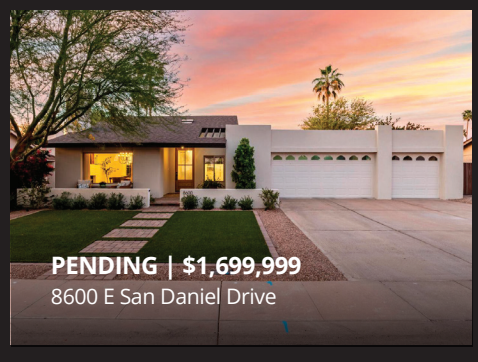




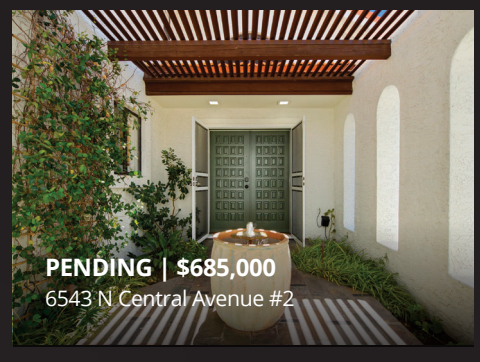












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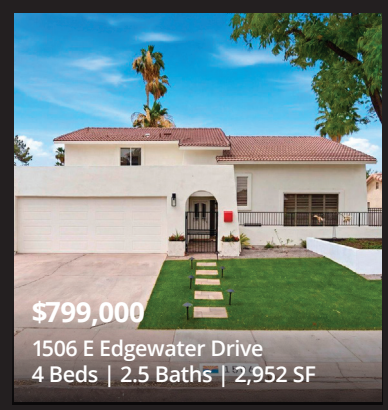


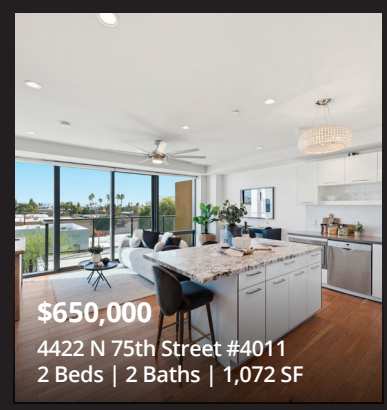




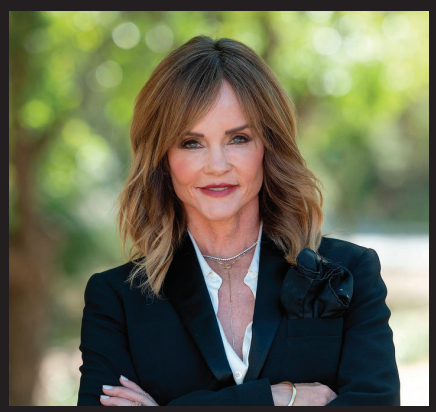








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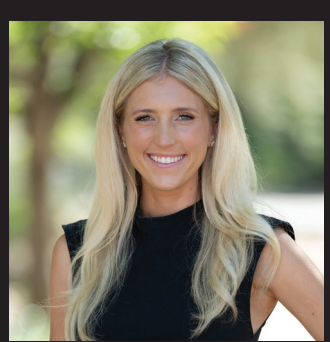
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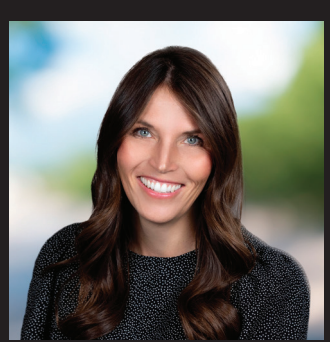
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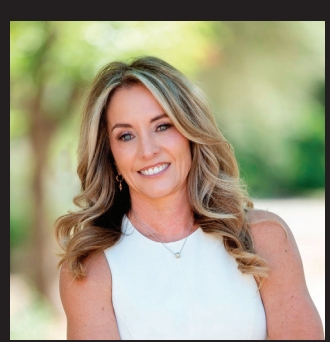
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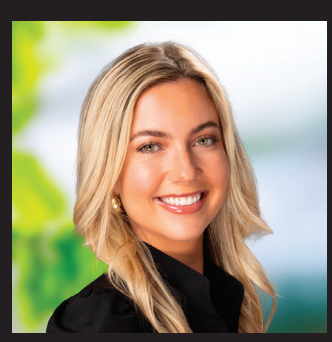
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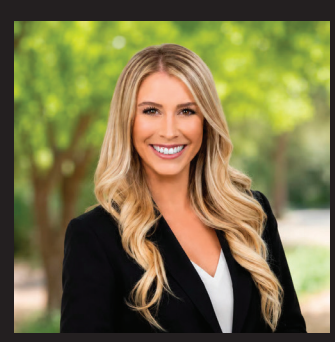
Meghan Marum



Laura Ingram



Eliza Stooks



Siena Koppelman





(left) In 1934, Arizona created a short-lived "Arizona Navy" of patrol boats and National Guard troops to block California's Parker Dam construction. (right) The Pima Air & Space Museum opened in May 1976.



Robin's Adventures

BY ROBIN SEWELL

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

Stories of service are woven into Arizona's history

In Arizona, we don't remember our Veterans out of ritual, we remember them because their stories are stitched into the very fabric of our state. On Veterans Day, Arizona feels a little more reverent, a little more connected, as we pause together to honor the men and women whose service has protected and shaped our nation including this beautifully rugged place we call home.

We carry the legacy of the Navajo Code Talkers with us, Marines whose unbreakable code helped turn the tide in the Pacific during World War II. Their work stayed secret for years, but their impact endures as one of Arizona's most extraordinary contributions to our country.

We see that legacy in places like Oro Valley's Arizona Heroes Memorial, where Forever Bricks hold names and stories, and Legacy Trees stand as symbols of resilience. It's a space where families gather, and where gratitude becomes something you can touch.

We honor it in Tucson at the Pima Air & Space Museum, where aircraft that once carried hope, strategy, and sacrifice now rest under the desert sun. Nearby in the town of Sahuarita, the Titan Missile Museum reminds us of the vigilance required during the Cold War. And in Mesa, the Air Force Commemorative Museum keeps alive the legacy of pilots, crews, and innovators who for a century have shaped American air power.

We remember the lesser-known chapters, too, like the brief but important period when the U.S. Navy operated along the Colorado River in Yuma, before the region evolved into one of the nation's most important Marine aviation hubs.

For us, Veterans Day isn't ceremonial. It's personal. It's the Veteran running a small business in Mesa, the retired Airman volunteering at a school in Flagstaff, the National Guard Veteran volunteering at the VA, or the Army Veteran finding peace hiking Camelback Mountain at sunrise.

We honor our Veterans with landscapes that mirror their strength, like Piestewa Peak and with memorials and plaques, that preserve their stories, like the Civil War markers at Picacho Pass.

And on Veterans Day across this wide and beautiful state, we say something simple and sincere: We see you. We thank you. We will never forget.

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The Triad

How Phoenix became home to Case Study Apartments No. 1

By Scott Jarson

For many of us, there is one building that stays with us, evoking a memory, a special person or a particular time in life. For me, one special place is the Triad Apartments, better known as Case Study Apartments No. 1, designed by Alfred Newman Beadle.

Located on 36th Street near Campbell Avenue, the Triad could easily be overlooked. Yet this modest three-unit complex represents one of the most significant works of postwar modern architecture in Arizona.

Modern architecture is part of our desert DNA today, but in the years following World War II it was still an experiment. It wasn't until the mid-1950s that modernism truly began to take hold here. So how did Phoenix become home to the only official Case Study project ever built outside California?

To understand why the Triad matters, you have to understand the Arts & Architecture Case Study Program. Running from 1945 to 1966 under editor John Entenza, it became the most influential residential design initiative of the postwar era, challenging architects to create practical, affordable and beautiful homes using modern materials and ideas. When the program expanded to include multifamily housing, Phoenix unexpectedly became part of that story.

Arizona's answer came from Alfred Newman Beadle, the architect who almost single-handedly introduced a disciplined interpretation of International Style architecture to the desert. His proposal, a deceptively simple triplex called the Triad, was originally intended for Redlands, California. When that development fell through, Entenza instead selected Beadle's Phoenix project for publication as Case Study Apartments No. 1. By a fortunate twist of fate, Arizona became home to the first and only official Case Study project ever built outside California.

Built in 1962, the design was unmistakably Beadle: a modular structural grid, deep roof overhangs, floor-to-ceiling glass and a sheltered courtyard organized around a floating wood boardwalk. At a time when ranch houses dominated the Valley, Beadle proved that modern architecture could thrive in the Sonoran Desert. The shaded courtyard created its own comfortable microclimate while connecting three compact, 840-square-foot homes into one seamless indoor-outdoor experience. It was the very definition of gestalt, where the whole became greater than the sum of its parts.

From the beginning, the Triad attracted architects, designers and creative thinkers who would shape Arizona's design culture. Edward "Ned" Sawyer, FAIA, one of Beadle's closest associates and a former resident, perhaps described it best:

"The environment was perfect for the Arizona climate. The shaded central courtyard created protection from the harsh summer sun and allowed for comfortable outdoor living. Living in the Triad was living in art, and that was the idea behind the Case Study Program."

Beadle's daughter, Gerri, remembers something simpler:

"When I was about four, my mother's parents lived in the Triad, and my younger brother and I spent countless hours there with Grandma and Grandpa. It was a shady, cool place to play. The Triad was the first place I remember having a wooden boardwalk. We used to run and jump from the boardwalk to the concrete patios without touching the stones. The wood made a different sound than the concrete when we ran across it."







Sometimes the greatest measure of architecture isn't how it photographs, but the memories it creates.

Sometimes the greatest measure of architecture isn't how it photographs, but the memories it creates.

Like many midcentury modern landmarks, the Triad eventually slipped into a period of benign neglect before a local artist recognized its significance and carefully restored the property in 2012. Two years later, new ownership continued that commitment, ensuring that Beadle's original vision remained intact. Today, the Triad remains one of the few places where you can still rent and experience authentic midcentury modern living.

The principles Beadle explored here became the foundation for what we now recognize as the "Beadle Box." Its exposed structure, open floor plan, shaded courtyard and disciplined simplicity carried forward into many of his best-known works, including the Boardwalk and Three Fountains.

For me, the Triad represents far more than an important building. It is a direct link between the Case Study Program, Beadle's enduring legacy, and Arizona's own architectural heritage. More than 60 years later, it still does exactly what great architecture should do. It provides shelter, fosters community, and quietly reminds us that the best ideas never go out of style.

Scott Jarson is a writer and co-founder of azarchitecture/Jarson & Jarson Real Estate. Since 1987, he has specialized in marketing architecturally significant homes and is widely recognized for his expertise in Arizona architecture, design and preservation.



Design Dispatch

Copenhagen's 3daysofdesign

By Ruth Price

This summer, I attended 3daysofdesign in Copenhagen. As the founder and creative director of Desert Design Week, I've always looked up to this festival as one that gets it right. It engages the city, draws visitors from around the world, supports regional talent and blends emerging voices with major brands.

It's no surprise that the country that helped democratize design is able to create a festival that feels so accessible. For me, the most memorable moments were the immersive brand experiences that created an entire world around their stories. From Vipp's playful take on a guesthouse, to Vibia's contemporary lighting installation inside a centuries-old church, to Dusty Deco's apartment takeover mixing new and earlier works with bold art and collectible objects, each experience felt completely its own. Here are three that stood out.

DUSTY DECO

Dusty Deco's exhibition inside a 250-year-old building in Christianshavn was one that I returned to three times. New introductions, updated pieces and earlier works were paired with art and collectible objects, creating a brand experience that completely drew me in.

The apartment's wood paneling, soaring lattice-clad ceilings, wide plank hardwood floors and unmistakable Danish design character were everything I hoped to experience in Copenhagen. The art, curated from the brand's artist roster, was bold and original, and every object reflected a sense of craftsmanship. Nothing felt overly styled. Instead, the apartment felt layered, collected and genuinely lived in.

VIBIA

If Vibia exists to create beautiful atmospheres, it was taken to another level with the help of Note (design studio).

Inside Helligåndshuset Church (House of the Holy Ghost), a dramatic dark wooden table anchored the installation while light moved across the centuries-old architecture in a way that felt powerful yet visually soft.

What made the installation so compelling was the tension between old and new. Contemporary lighting inside a historic church could have felt unexpected but instead felt completely natural. The installation wasn't only about the products themselves, but about how light interacts with architecture over time, shifting not only how a space looks, but how it feels to be in it.

VIPP

Vipp is one of those brands that understands how to turn practicality into something iconic. I explored the Vipp Loft, a guesthouse showcasing the brand's furniture, lighting, accessories and kitchen designs. A chef prepared a Spanish-inspired meal while the light-filled space embodied the simplicity of Danish design with a muted palette of creams, grays, browns, and caramels.

Tucked behind the courtyard, a former 1950s auto garage has been transformed into a cultural space. Here, Barcelona-based architecture and design studio Mesura reimagined the Vipp guesthouse through the lens of Danish Midsummer. "From Guesthouse to Playhouse" featured an oversized conversation pit that encouraged communal gatherings. Instead of a quiet retreat, the installation became something more social, playful and memorable.

– Ruth Price is the founder and creative director of Desert Design Week, celebrating design, architecture, interiors, art and creative culture across the Southwest through curated events, editorial storytelling, home tours and creative collaborations.



Dr. Michael Wolff

SOUTHWEST SPINE & SPORTS • SCOTTSDALE

Dr. Michael Wolff, a double board-certified physician and founder of Southwest Spine & Sports, is dedicated to helping patients resolve neck, back, and joint pain without surgery. Using advanced regenerative treatments, he restores function and promotes long-term wellness by treating pain at its source. As the Southwest's leading Discseel® Master Instructor, Dr. Wolff performs this groundbreaking procedure to repair leaking discs and relieve low back pain. A recognized Scottsdale trendsetter, he pioneers safe, effective regenerative therapies that improve function and help patients focus on optimizing their health.

AZF: You are passionate about the role regenerative medicine plays in treating back, neck, and joint pain. Why are biologic treatments your focus of expertise?

When people are in pain, they often focus on the symptoms. Diagnosing the root cause and developing personalized, comprehensive treatment plans centered on natural biologic therapies can be extremely effective in jump-starting tissue repair and accelerating the healing process. Whether you're a professional athlete or a weekend warrior, regenerative medicine can deliver profound results and lasting relief.

AZF: Why should patients with degenerative disc disease, sciatica, or chronic back pain consider the Discseel® procedure in lieu of surgery?

The Discseel® procedure uses a natural biologic to repair leaking spinal discs and reduce nerve inflammation. Not only does it seal the disc, but it also promotes healing by stimulating new cell growth and improving disc integrity. It is a precise, minimally invasive procedure that treats the root cause of the problem. Steroid injections may provide relief for only a short time, while surgery is invasive, costly, and requires a lengthy recovery. More than 82% of Discseel® patients report significant improvement.

AZF: What brings patients from across the Southwest and beyond to seek biologic treatments, including Discseel®, from you?



I think many patients are willing to travel when they feel they have found a physician they can trust. After more than 26 years of safely performing intradiscal procedures, I'm grateful that patients from across the Southwest and even Canada have chosen Southwest Spine & Sports.

I always start by understanding the patient. Biologic therapies aren't a "one-size-fits-all" treatment, and not every patient is a candidate. I take time to understand each patient's symptoms, conduct a thorough physical examination, and review their imaging before determining the best treatment approach. My goal is to provide personalized, science-backed care while ensuring each patient feels confident in the path we choose together.

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When aesthetic meets function

Sumptuous materials, intentional design and exceptional craftsmanship set the foundation for a well-styled home and breathtaking spaces.

By Zenobia Mertel



Williams Sonoma

Stanley Tucci-styled and amateur-approved, this pizza oven can be used indoors or outdoors and cooks everything from Chicago deep-dish to New York thin crust to perfection. The rotating cordierite baking stone ensures every pie is evenly baked. $799.95

williams-sonoma.com



Phillip Jeffries

Make a memorable statement with this Phillip Jeffries sculptural wood covering. Authentic oak and paulownia wood are thinly sliced, dyed and hand-laid for a contemporary motif creating a bold, large-scale look. Price upon request.

phillipjeffries.com



L'Objet

Modern design meets timeless elegance in the hand-painted, fine-white porcelain dinnerware set by Perlée. Crafted in Portugal, the stunning set comes in four colorways and is $2,730.

l-objet.com

Perigold



Eichholtz's handcrafted Jasper Planter combines form and function with its sophisticated brushed gold finish and smooth surface. Available in two sizes, this large Dutch-designed piece is $2,495 and is suitable for indoor use.

perigold.com



Anthropologie

Light the way with Anthropologie's scalloped wood wall sconce. Striking from every angle, iron hardware juxtaposed with the delicate nature of the green and white petal canopy makes for an unexpected, well-played design. $198.

anthropologie.com



Four Seasons

The luxurious Four Seasons, 350 thread-count linen set arrives in bespoke packaging and comes in an array of tranquil colors. The shams are embroidered with the Four Seasons logo, adding a touch of glam while ensuring a perfect night's rest at home. $740.

shop.fourseasons.com



Matterly

Set the scene with a stylish, personalized entrance. This monogrammed double-door doormat is shed-resistant and low profile, making for a smooth transition. Priced at $140, the Neighburly Escher mat is a fan favorite.

mymatterly.com



AZF trendsetters

SOUTHTOWN DENTAL CARE:
MATTHEW E NELSON DDS

Smile Well. Live Well.

Dr. Matthew E. Nelson

SOUTHTOWN DENTAL CARE · SCOTTSDALE

With nearly 20 years of experience, Dr. Matthew E. Nelson has built Southtown Dental Care around one goal: making dental visits more comfortable. He has owned and operated his Scottsdale practice for more than 17 years and has been named a Top Cosmetic and General Dentist by his peers in *Phoenix Magazine* for 10 consecutive years.

AZF: How did you end up in the Valley?

We could choose anywhere in the country, and we chose here for the sunshine and opportunity. We live in Paradise Valley and love the convenience, restaurants and events. I'll never get tired of seeing the sun reflect off Camelback Mountain.

AZF: If you picked one quote to live by, what would it be?

"Don't get bitter, get better."

AZF: Why did you become a dentist?

I was born into a dental family; five people in my immediate family have attended dental school. What drew me to dentistry was the chance to change how people feel about something that's genuinely stressful and to curate a specific experience for my patients.

Southtown Dental Care: Matthew E. Nelson, DDS
7101 E. Thomas Road, Scottsdale, AZ
480-568-2328
@smilesbydrmatt
southtowndentalcare.com

Now welcoming new patients.

AZF: What motivates you in your work each day?

Being better: staying current on techniques, investing in technology and keeping a stable, long-tenured team. Dental practices are being bought by large corporations, and patients feel it — the personal touch goes away. I see an opportunity to stand out with our team and experience. Recent advances include 3D printing, AI technology for X-rays and the elimination of those miserable, gooey impressions.

AZF: What is your favorite thing to do in dentistry?

Treating patients with dental anxiety and helping them overcome it. We've built the practice around making that easier—massaging chairs, noise-reducing headphones and, most significantly, oral sedation.

AZF: What is oral sedation dentistry?

Patients take medication before the appointment, arrive relaxed and drowsy, and we can often complete years of postponed treatment in one visit. We provide comprehensive dentistry—cleanings, veneers, cosmetic bonding, crowns, implants and Invisalign—in-house.

AZF: What is most important to optimize oral health?

Consistency: Use an electric toothbrush twice a day for two minutes, floss daily, have regular dental cleanings, wear a custom-fitted night guard and minimize processed sugars.



PHOTO BY ERIC CARAIG

In September, the Xavier swim and dive team completed 100-yard relays to show their visible support for those facing mental health challenges.

Xavier swim teams raise almost $19K for mental health awareness

By Kylie de Best

Mental health challenges affect millions of Americans. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, more than 1 in 5 U.S. adults live with mental illness. Recognizing the growing need for support, Xavier alum Kelly Scott partnered with Valleywise Health in 2020 to establish Swim for the Light, an annual student-led campaign dedicated to addressing challenges facing young people.

Now in its seventh year and currently led by Xavier seniors Ashley Gilcrest and Emily Horst, Swim for the Light aims to raise awareness and provide resources for behavioral health programs for teens and young adults at Valleywise Health.

Throughout the campaign, the Xavier Swim and Dive Team has worked toward reaching a collective fundraising goal of $15,000 through online donations and their individual fundraising pages on Give Lively. This year, Brophy Prep also joined the initiative to help collect donations.

A culminating event on September 18 marked the end of the campaign, bringing together student-athletes, coaches, alums, and families to talk about mental health and expand access to care for young people across Maricopa County. The team also completed 100-yard relays to show their commitment to visible support for those facing mental health challenges and to end the stigma.

"Everyone knows someone who struggles with mental health," Ashley said. "If you get an injury, you go to the doctor, and I think it's equally important to find help when you're struggling with mental health. We're trying to bring awareness to that."

The campaign got an added boost with a new matching challenge from The Vineyard Family Foundation and Beyond Accessible, which matched donations dollar for dollar up to $5,000, letting community members double the impact of their gifts to support behavioral health programs for teens and young adults at Valleywise Health.

> ***"It is so important to continue to shed light on these issues because they are very real."***

Kelly originally became aware of the need for mental health support after a close friend of hers went through a behavioral health crisis in 2020, prompting Kelly to do something to help. She decided to partner with Valleywise because her dad worked with them, and she saw the many resources it offered, including the First Episode Center, which specifically serves adolescents experiencing behavioral health crises.

"It has been so amazing to see Swim for the Light continue through the years," Kelly said. "It is so important to continue to shed light on these issues because they are very real, and it is critical that people know they are not alone and there are support systems both willing and able to help."

Since its founding, Swim for the Light has raised over $70,000. As of press time, the swimmers have raised almost $19,000 – beating their original goal and then some. Beyond donating, any sports team, club, or organization is also encouraged to create their own fundraisers in support of Valleywise Health's mission.

swimforthelight.org

New coach looks to lead Arcadia basketball to the next level

By AJ Stone

Arcadia High School has plenty of reasons to be excited about the upcoming basketball season. With new head coach Rod Briggs at the helm, the Titans are looking to build on last year's success and take the next step.

The Titans finished last season 24-6, including a 7-3 mark in region play, earning second place in the 4A Desert Sky Region. Now, with a new leader, Arcadia hopes to keep that momentum going. Briggs brings a coaching philosophy rooted in communication, teamwork, and accountability.

"I have 37 years of experience to draw upon, and I have learned from experience as a coach, administrator, and as a parent of student-athletes," Briggs said. "I believe communication is a key to success, and that clear and honest communication with players is very important."

While winning is always a goal, Briggs also wants to build a program that develops resilient athletes and strong teammates.

"We want to develop athletes that leave the program with this experience that will help them later in life," Briggs said. "We have two main goals, and that is to play for each other and go 1-0 each day of practice and each game. If we don't have a good practice or lose a game, we look forward to trying to go 1-0 the next day or game."

On the court, Briggs favors an up-tempo offense and a tough defensive approach. He wants the Titans to push the pace, create transition scoring opportunities, and keep opponents on their heels.

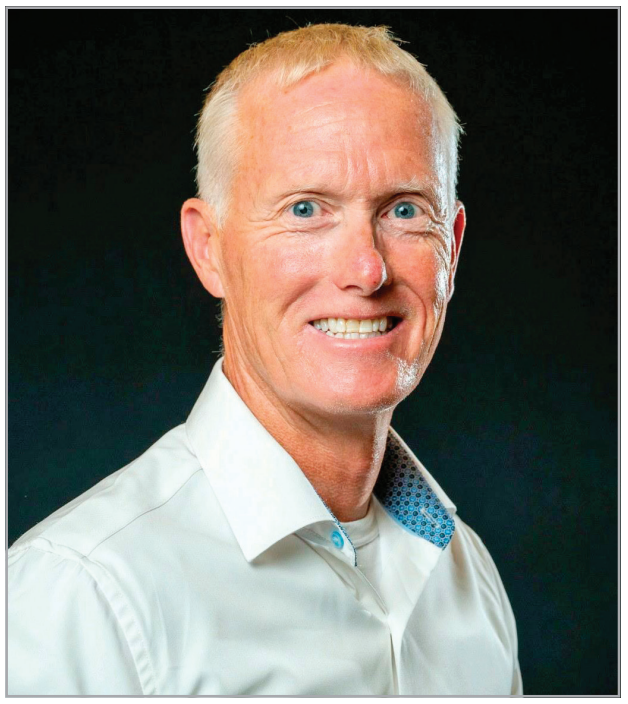


PHOTO COURTESY OF AHS

Arcadia High School boy's basketball coach Rod Briggs .

"Our goal is to run in transition and score before the other team's defense is set," Briggs said.

Making that style work starts in practice. Briggs plans to emphasize game-like situations, evidence-based learning and a balance of repetition and challenging drills to prepare players for competition.

"Our practices are well planned to use the latest evidence-based learning. We focus on making practice like the game," Briggs said. "I love using a constraint-led approach, but some long-proven repetition is the mother of all learning. We want to practice challenging both physically and mentally to maximize learning and time on task."

Briggs also knows that success takes more than scoring ability. When evaluating players, he looks for those willing to defend, rebound, and put the team first.

"The guys who rebound and defend always are going to impress coaches," Briggs said. "I want a team-first attitude and a great teammate."

The Titans have a strong foundation to build on. They went 11-2 at home last season and finished ranked No. 16 in Arizona. The team won the 2026 AIA 4A state championship, defeating top-ranked Deer Valley 57-51 in the title game. However, the team will need to account for the graduation of one of its top performers, Mason Kendrick, as it works to establish its identity under new leadership.

For Briggs, the focus is less on expectations and outside opinions and more on building a team that improves every day. Discipline, focus, and trust will be essential as the Titans work toward their postseason goals.

"We will build a solid foundation and work hard to be the best team we can be," Briggs said.





Jerry's

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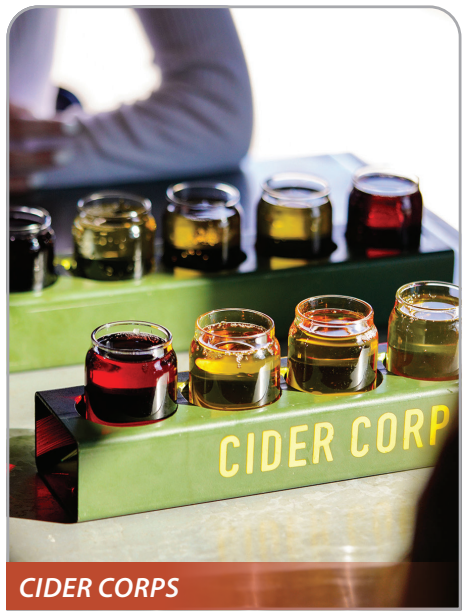
@jerrysfillingstation



40th St & Camelback Rd.


ARCADIA MEAT MARKET


CHOP STEAKHOUSE



CIDER CORPS


FOUR PEAKS

The Dining Scoop

This year we're celebrating more than once – with our Veterans on November 11, and with family, friends and neighbors on November 26. If you'd like someone else to do the cooking, there are plenty of restaurants and businesses offering specials. Here are just a few!

VETERAN'S DAY

Arcadia Meat Market (3950 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix) offers an ongoing 10 percent community service discount. Veterans and active military, police officers, firefighters, first responders and teachers can receive 10 percent off their purchase year-round with valid ID.

arcadiameatmarket.com



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In honor of those who served, **Rainbow Ryders** is proud to offer a special Veterans Day discount. Use code "SALUTE505602" to book a shared basket sunrise hot air balloon flight for just $175 per person. Military ID is required at the time of flight, discount valid for entire party.

rainbowryders.com

Beginning at 4 p.m., active-duty military members and veterans can enjoy 20 percent off dinner at **Roaring Fork**. Guests must present valid military identification to receive the discount. The offer excludes alcohol, tax and gratuity.

roaringfork.com

Four Peaks is thanking Veterans with a free barbecue platter complimentary with any purchase of $3+ for those who show ID. The platter includes house-smoked pork, St. Louis-style beef ribs, BBQ chicken, cowboy beans, coleslaw and cornbread.

fourpeaks.com

Every Tuesday during breakfast, **Whataburger** offers service members and veterans a free taquito with ID. The taquito includes eggs, bacon, sausage or potatoes, with optional American cheese. Service members and veterans also receive a free 16-ounce hot or iced coffee year-round when dining in.

whataburger.com

Over Easy offers a year-round discount for Veterans with 10 percent off their bill every time they visit.

eatatovereasy.com

Whether you're in the mood for brunch at **Hash Kitchen** or handmade pasta at **The Sicilian Butcher** these sister concepts offer Veterans a year-round 10 percent discount on their bill.

hashkitchen.com
thesicilianbutcher.com

Cider Corps, a Veteran-owned and family-operated craft cider company, gives Veterans and active service men and women 30 percent off beverage purchases at the taproom every day.

cidercorpsaz.com

The oldest bar in Scottsdale – **Rusty Spur** – is offering a free t-shirt to Veterans and active military members. No purchase necessary, while supplies last.

rustyspursaloon.com

32 Shea is offering a free pastry and free medium coffee of any kind to Veterans and active military members.

32shea.com

Lakeside Bar & Grill is offering a free Lakeside Burger to Veterans and active military members.

lakesidebarandgrillaz.com

Swizzle Inn is offering a free t-shirt to Veterans and active military members.

theswizzleinn.com

Red, White & Brew is offering a free All American Burger to Veterans and active military members on November 11. No purchase necessary.

rwbaz.com

TURKEY DAY

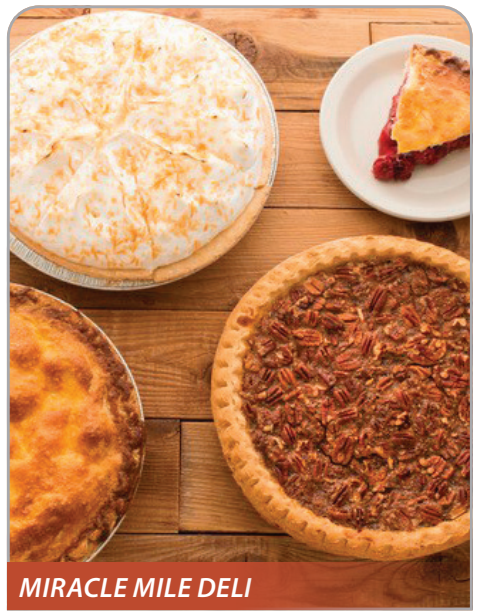
Pre-order your **Pie Snob** pies now! Guests have until November 13 to order for pick up on November 24 and 25 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Flavors include apple crumb, caramel apple, green chile apple crumb, chocolate pecan, pumpkin praline, pumpkin cheesecake and razzleberry double-crust. Prices range from $26-$48.

piesnob.com

Arcadia Meat Market (3950 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix) offers fresh, local, pasture-raised Thanksgiving turkeys starting at $9.50 a pound, along with other items to help fill the holiday dinner table, including house-made sides, charcuterie, cheeses and meats at various price points.

arcadiameatmarket.com


HASH KITCHEN


MIRACLE MILE DELI


ROARING FORK


THE GLADLY

The Gladly (2201 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix) is offering chef-prepared sides for preorder. Options include mashed potatoes, sausage stuffing, turkey gravy, cranberry-walnut sauce, roasted vegetables, the Original Chopped Salad and rosemary-sage focaccia. Each serves four to six people. Orders can be placed through November 23, with pickup November 25.

thegladly.com

Dirtbag's (4801 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix) is keeping the holiday going after dinner, opening from 5 p.m. to close on Thanksgiving for the Bills vs. Chiefs game at 6 p.m. The Bills Backer Bar will have the matchup on the big screens, plus drinks and a full menu of wings, burgers, pizza, chicken nachos, fried zucchini, tots and fries.

dirtbagsphx.com

Sierra Bonita Catering (8522 N. 7th St., Phoenix) is offering complete take-and-reheat meals, desserts and sides that serve up to four. The dinner is $165 and features oven roasted, off the bone turkey with pan gravy, Boursin mashed potatoes, garlic and herb stuffing, wild mushroom green bean casserole with crispy tobacco onions, and citrus-cranberry relish. For dessert, enjoy pumpkin croissant bread pudding with a maple cream cheese sauce and candied pecans for $32. Side dishes only are also available for $100. Orders must be placed by November 18 to be picked up on November 25 between 1:30 and 5:30 p.m.

sierrabonitacateringcompany.com

LON's at the Hermosa Inn (5532 N. Palo Cristi Road, Paradise Valley) will serve a three-course dinner featuring options such as roasted turkey, Chilean seabass, Wagyu short rib and grilled venison. Desserts include pecan pie tart, pumpkin cheesecake and apple cider bread pudding. The meal costs $135 per person and $35 for children ages 4-12. Reservations required. Dinner is served from 12-8 p.m.

azhideawaycollection.com

Celebrate at **J&G Steakhouse** (6000 E. Camelback Road, Scottsdale) with brunch or dinner on November 26. Brunch seatings are available from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and dinner is served from 5 to 9 p.m. Brunch includes a carving station, roasted leek whipped potatoes and cranberry apple stuffing, a chilled seafood and raw bar, sushi and sashimi, breakfast items, pastries and sweets, and more. Brunch starts at $235 for adults, $110 for children ages 5-12 years old. J&G's dinner menu will be available, as well as a special prix fixe option for $80. The first course is a butternut squash soup with oyster mushroom. The main course is a roasted turkey, served with mushroom and chestnut stuffing, mashed potatoes, Brussels sprouts, and cranberry sauce.

jgsteakhousescottsdale.com

Miracle Mile Deli (4433 N. 16th St., Phoenix) is offering Thanksgiving orders for pickup on November 25, with options including a $245 family feast serving six to eight, individual turkey dinners, homemade sides, deli meats and whole pies. Orders must be placed by November 21.

miraclemiledeli.com

Tracy Dempsey Original's (1323 W. University Dr., Tempe) 2026 holiday desserts bring Arizona-inspired flavors to Thanksgiving and Christmas, including chocolate pecan ancho chili bourbon pie, lemon pistachio tiramisu, salted AZ honey pie, prickly pear lime cheesecake, AZ sticky date cake and apple cranberry galette. Desserts serve 8-12, with half-gallon ice cream options also available.

tracydempseyoriginals.com

FOUND:RE Phoenix Hotel and **Match Market & Bar** (1100 N. Central Ave., Phoenix) will serve a scratch-made Thanksgiving dinner on November 26, starting at 4 p.m. The $39 prix-fixe meal includes slow-roasted turkey, cornbread stuffing, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes, candied yams and pecan pie with honey whipped cream. Reservations are recommended.

matchphx.com

On November 26, guests can gather at **Chompie's** (9301 E. Shea Blvd., Scottsdale) for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner featuring sliced oven-roasted turkey breast, stuffing and gravy, cranberry relish, mashed potatoes, candied yams, green beans, rolls, and a slice of pie. The to-go traditional feast ($319+) includes an oven-roasted turkey, sides and two nine-inch pies; Basic to-go dinner ($269+) includes the turkey, stuffing, gravy, cranberry relish, rolls, and pies.

chompies.com

Four Peaks Brewing (1340 E. 8th St., Tempe) is offering a Pumpkin Porter Cheesecake for $20, with bundle options including a growler of Pumpkin Porter for $25 or $28. Preorders are available through Eventbrite. From November 23-25, the 8th Street pub will feature pumpkin beer growler specials. On November 27, Four Peaks will release Sirius Black, its annual barrel-aged Russian imperial stout.

fourpeaks.com

CHoP Steakhouse (2625 W. Queen Creek Road, Chandler) offers a $75, three-course menu with starters like Maine lobster bisque, a classic wedge or spinach and artichoke dip. Entrees include herb-roasted turkey with Wagyu sausage stuffing, a dry-aged 18-ounce prime ribeye or filet mignon with Maine lobster. Save room for honeycrisp apple cobbler with Woodford Whiskey caramel or dark chocolate lava cake.

chopchandler.com

Belmont Kitchen & Cocktails (8876 E. Pinnacle Peak Road, Scottsdale) will serve a three-course dinner on November 26 from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Chef Fidencio Alatriste's prix-fixe menu features a choice of roasted turkey or prime rib, traditional sides and seasonal dessert. The meal costs $115 per adult and $75 for children 12 and under.

belmontkitchenandcocktails.com

Hash Kitchen (4315 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix) is serving Thanksgiving-inspired specials at all six locations through December, including turkey-and-stuffing waffles, turkey hash, pumpkin pancakes and seasonal pumpkin spice drinks. The restaurant will also be open Thanksgiving Day from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

hashkitchen.com

WHAT'S NEW?

Smiling Moose Sandwich Grill (2765 N. Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale) is now open. The Colorado-born menu inclues sandwiches, wraps, salads, soups, burgers and cookies. Known for made-to-order meals and laid-back hospitality, the restaurant also offers online ordering, delivery, catering and customizable options, including its signature Original Mo sandwich.

smilingmoosedeli.com



Cowboy Seafood, a new restaurant from restaurateur Christopher Collins and Common Ground Culinary, opened in early October at Park Central (3121 N. 3rd Ave., Phoenix). The 5,000-square-foot restaurant combines Southern barbecue and coastal seafood with items like smoked brisket, ribs, oysters, sushi, seafood platters and cocktails.

cowboyseafoodaz.com

Turkey Day the vegan way

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

November is one of my favorite months to cook. The weather is beautiful, Thanksgiving is coming, and everyone is thinking about food. The month also starts with World Vegan Day on November 1. You don't have to be vegan to get something out of it.

Eating this way is good for your health, the environment, and the animals. More plants mean more fiber, more antioxidants, and less saturated fat, and that adds up to more energy, better sleep, and a strong heart. If you've been curious about plant-based cooking, this is a good month to try a few recipes.

Sheet pan pasta with balsamic is one of my go-to meals on a busy night. The veggies get sweet and caramelize in the oven, and a little balsamic pulls it all together. "Jennifer Garner's BIG salad" has sweet roasted veggies, tangy balsamic, creamy feta, and lots of crunch from the cashews and pistachios. It's hearty enough for dinner and makes a great Thanksgiving side. Peanut Butter Pie is rich and loaded with creamy goodness. This one will blow you away, and nobody will guess it's dairy-free.

Jennifer Garner BIG salad *Serves 4-6*



- 1 head cauliflower cut into florets
- 2 cups broccoli florets
- 2-3 cups sweet potato cubed
- 1 cup green beans chopped
- Avocado oil spray
- Salt, pepper and garlic granules to taste
- 3 cups arugula
- 1 cup cooked black lentils
- ¼ cup chopped cashews
- ¼ cup pistachios
- ¼ cup fresh dill
- 1 cup dairy-free feta cheese

Dressing

- ½ cup olive oil
- 3 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
- Juice of ½ lemon
- 1 tbsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp. pink salt
- ½ tsp. black pepper

1. ***Preheat oven to 400 F.***
2. ***Lay out the sweet potato, cauliflower, green beans, and broccoli on a sheet pan. Spray with avocado oil and shake on salt, pepper, and garlic granules. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes.***
3. ***Whisk together the dressing ingredients.***
4. ***Let the veggies cool for at least 10 minutes.***
5. ***Add the arugula to a large bowl, then the cooled veggies, lentils, dill, cashews, pistachios, and feta.***
6. ***Add the dressing and toss. Serve immediately. If serving later, keep the components separate and toss right before serving.***

Sheet pan pasta with balsamic *Serves 2*



- 1 bunch asparagus chopped into 1-inch pieces
- 1 red pepper sliced
- 16 ounces mushrooms quartered
- ½ red onion chopped
- 1 can chickpeas drained (optional)
- Avocado oil spray
- Salt pepper and garlic granules to taste
- 8 oz. pasta
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
- 1 tsp. oregano
- 1 tsp. pink salt

1. ***Preheat oven to 400 F.***
2. ***Spread the veggies on a sheet pan, spray with avocado oil, and sprinkle on salt, pepper, and garlic granules. If adding chickpeas, add them here. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes.***
3. ***Cook the pasta, drain, and put in a large bowl. Add the cooked veggies, olive oil, balsamic vinegar, oregano, and pink salt. Toss and serve.***

Peanut butter pie *Serves 10*



- 1½ cups vegan graham cracker crumbs
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 6 tbsp. dairy-free butter melted
- 8 oz. dairy-free cream cheese softened
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- ⅛ tsp. salt
- 8 oz. dairy-free coconut whipped cream

1. ***Preheat oven to 350 F.***
2. ***In a medium bowl, combine the graham cracker crumbs, brown sugar, and melted butter. Mix with a hand mixer until the texture resembles wet sand.***
3. ***Press the mixture firmly into the bottom and up the sides of a 9-inch pie dish.***
4. ***Bake for 10 minutes, then cool for 30 minutes.***
5. ***In a large mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese until smooth. Add peanut butter, powdered sugar, vanilla, and salt. Beat until fully combined and creamy.***
6. ***Fold in the whipped cream until the filling is smooth and fluffy.***
7. ***Spoon the filling into the crust and spread it evenly. Refrigerate for at least four hours or until firm.***
8. ***Decorate with additional whipped cream, chocolate syrup, or crushed peanuts if desired. Slice and serve.***

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DISTRICT 6 UPDATE

What's brewing in District 6 this November



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

As we head into the cooler months – hopefully – there's plenty happening across District 6 and throughout Phoenix. From new transportation options to improvements that will help our city grow, I'm excited to share a few updates and opportunities to stay connected. Here's what's happening this month and how you can get involved.

Making development easier

The City of Phoenix Planning and Development Department is working to improve the customer experience by simplifying processes, clarifying requirements, modernizing technology and reducing unnecessary delays.

These phased improvements aim to make project reviews faster and more predictable while strengthening customer support. Residents can explore updates, track progress and share feedback through the new Process Improvements Hub at phoenix.gov/processimprovements.

Introducing PHXLink



PHXLink offers a new, flexible way to connect with existing City of Phoenix public transit routes. The on-demand microtransit service will operate daily from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in select zones, with trips costing $2. Riders can book through a mobile app or by phone.

56th Street improvements

The City's Street Transportation Department is moving forward with improvements along 56th Street between Thomas Road and Camelback Road. Full construction is anticipated to begin in fall 2026, following utility relocations. The project is expected to take approximately two years, with completion anticipated in late 2028. These improvements will provide important safety and infrastructure benefits along this corridor.

Join me for coffee



I encourage District 6 residents to join me at an upcoming Coffee Chat. These informal gatherings are an opportunity to share concerns, ask questions and discuss issues affecting our community.

Our next Coffee Chat is November 6 at Sumida Park, 1817 E. Gardenia Ave., from 7 to 9 a.m. The following gathering will be December 4 at Fire Station 74, 15800 S. 19th Ave., also from 7 to 9 a.m. I look forward to connecting with you and hearing what matters most to our community.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Kevin

30 YEARS AGO



It's almost turkey time!

The Kleinz family, of Arcadia, in their kitchen, eagerly anticipating their Thanksgiving feast: Kelly, Molly, Will and parents Susan and Bill Kleinz.

Happy Thanksgiving to our readers!

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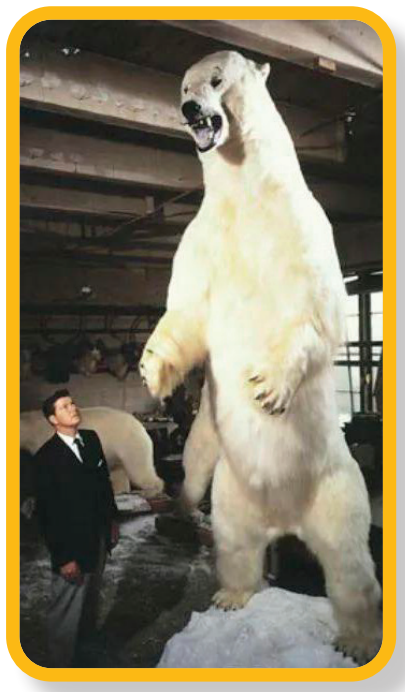
DID YOU KNOW? POLAR BEARS

HOW HEAVY?

2200+LBS

The heaviest polar bear ever reliably recorded weighed 2,209 pounds. The male was found in northwestern Alaska in 1960 and measured 11 feet, 1 inch tall on its hind legs, making it one of the largest polar bears ever documented.

For comparison, large male polar bears these days typically weigh between 770 and 1,500 pounds, while females generally weigh 330 to 660 pounds. Today's changing environment and declining sea ice make another bear reaching that extreme size less likely.



HOW OLD?

41 YEARS



The oldest known polar bear was Debby, a female who lived at the Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg, Canada. She was born in the Russian Arctic around 1966, arrived at the zoo as an orphan when she was about a year old, and lived there for the rest of her life. Guinness World Records recognized her as the oldest polar bear when she reached 41, and she died in November 2008 at 41 years and 333 days old.

In the wild, they typically live around 15-18 years, although a few have reached their early 30s; the oldest known wild polar bear was 32 years old. Captive bears can live considerably longer with consistent food, care and protection.

HOW MANY?

12K

Wild adult polar bears have huge energy needs, typically requiring about 4.4 pounds of pure fat per day – roughly 12,000 calories. Their main food source is seals, particularly calorie-rich blubber. When a hunt is successful, a polar bear can consume as much as 100 pounds of seal blubber in a single meal. Daily calorie intake can vary widely, from around 10,000 to 20,000 calories, and may exceed 40,000 calories.



Zoo-kept polar bears generally eat much less, with daily food amounts ranging from about 2 to 24 pounds, depending on the individual, season and dietary plan. Their meals may include meat, fish and specialized food, with feeding schedules adjusted to support their health and provide enrichment.

HOW FAST?

25 MPH

Polar bears can reach speeds of about 25 mph when sprinting after prey or responding to a threat, but they can only maintain that pace for a short distance because their massive bodies and thick fur cause them to overheat quickly. Younger, leaner bears are more likely to reach top speed, while very large males rarely do.



Most of the time, polar bears travel at a much more manageable 3–4 mph, conserving energy as they move across sea ice and search for prey. They're also capable swimmers, reaching speeds of about 6 mph in the water as they travel between ice floes or pursue aquatic prey.

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DID YOU KNOW? POLAR BEARS

Their fur is transparent and hollow, appearing white by reflecting light.

They are classified as marine mammals.

They can swim over 60 miles without resting.

Polar Bear Week runs from November 1-7, 2026, and coincides with the polar bear migration in Churchill, Manitoba, as they await sea ice formation.

They rely almost entirely on seals for food.

They can smell seals from up to 20 miles away.

They have a thick blubber layer that's up to 11.5 centimeters for insulation.

They have one of the lowest reproduction rates among mammals.

Cubs stay with their mothers for about 2.5 years.

Polar bear cubs are born blind, hairless, and weigh only about one pound.

They can close their nostrils underwater.

They endure long fasting periods, sometimes months.

They evolved from brown bears around 500,000 years ago.

The oldest polar bear fossil – that's 130,000 years old – is a well-preserved jaw from Svalbard, Norway.

Commander C.J. Phipps, a Royal Navy officer, explorer, and politician, came up with the name polar bear in 1774.

They do not hibernate.

Their skin is naturally black to absorb heat.

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SAY WHAT?

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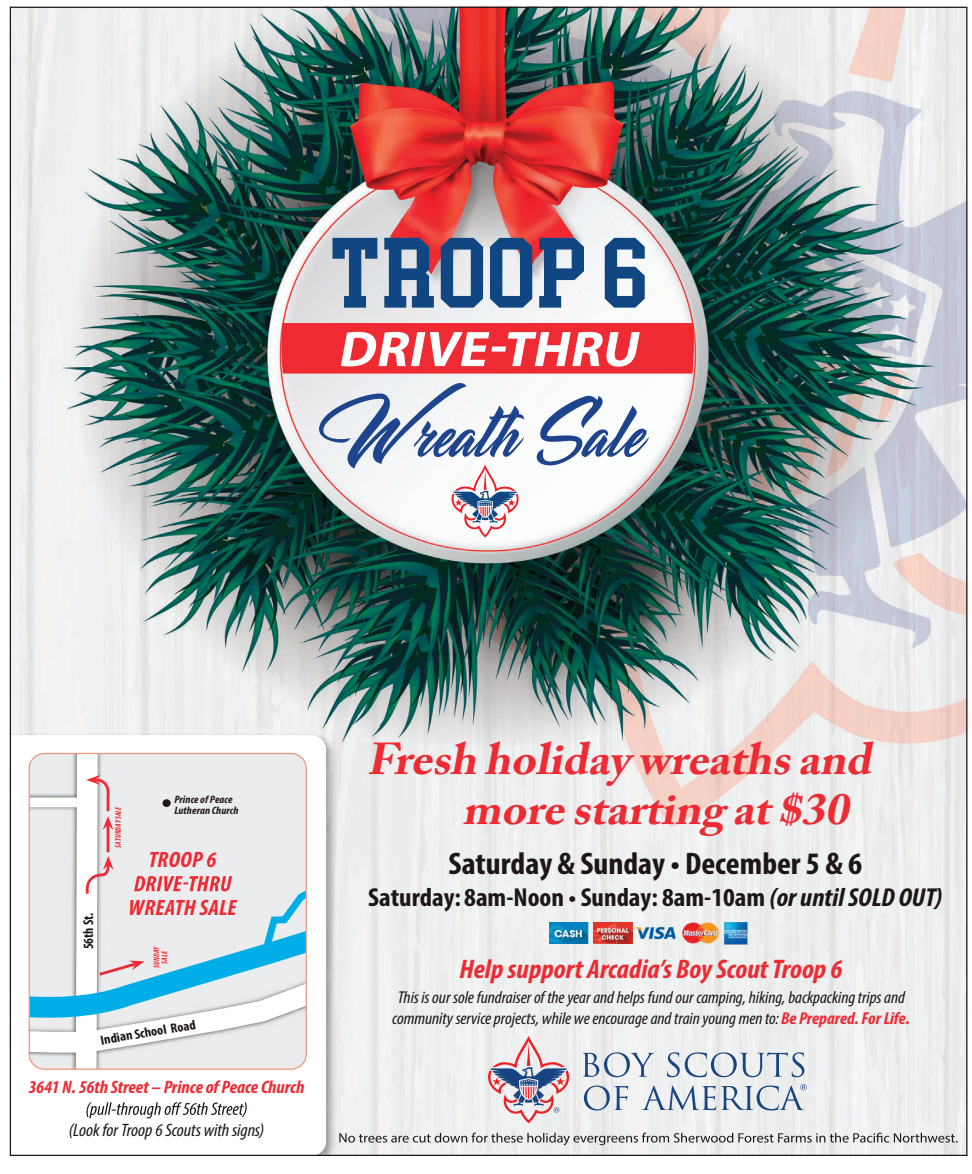
Polar bears are divided into 19 subpopulations across the Arctic, with an estimated 22,000-31,000 bears still around today. Because they live across an enormous, remote area, exact population counts are difficult.

Of the 19 populations, about four are clearly declining, four are stable and two may be increasing, while the rest don't have enough data to determine their trends. The Western Hudson Bay population, one of the best studied, has fallen from more than 1,200 bears in the late 1980s to roughly 600 today.

As of May 2026, The International Union for Conservation of Nature classifies polar bears as vulnerable, not endangered. The organization estimates that the global population could decline by more than 30 percent by 2050 under current climate conditions.

The biggest threat is the loss of sea ice, which polar bears rely on to hunt for seals. As the ice season gets shorter, bears spend more time fasting on land, making it harder for females to build the body reserves needed to successfully produce and raise cubs.





Gratitude for autumn leaves and purple ribbons



Thyme in My Kitchen

BY SHERRY KLUSMAN

thyme.in.my.kitchen

November has a way of forcing us indoors. The porch lights are flicking on by 5 p.m., lawnmowers have officially been swapped for leaf blowers, and that sharp, familiar autumn wind is rattling our windowpanes. It is the season where neighborhoods collectively retreat inside, turning on ovens to heat up kitchens and lighting candles to pretend we don't mind the darkness. Thankfulness becomes grounded in small, ordinary moments: the steam rising from a hot mug of coffee, the sound of laughter in a cozy kitchen, or the comfort of sharing a meal. The crisp air, the early sunsets, and the bare trees are an invitation to slow down and look inward.

With the chill, there's a magical time in the late afternoon when the kitchen windows are cracked open just an inch or two to let the warm air out. Suddenly, our street becomes a map of home cooking. Stepping outside, the aroma gives away exactly what the neighborhood is up to: the slow-simmering scent of warm spices, toasted nuts, and caramelized aromatics inviting everyone into the seasonal shift.

Gratitude is very much like that kitchen aroma; it is an immersive experience that changes the entire environment it fills. It can't be contained. It slips through the cracks of our lives, spreading outward from a single thought to fill a whole room. An aroma has the power to instantly make a cold, dark November evening feel safe and warm; in the exact same way, gratitude shifts our internal landscape, wrapping ordinary realities in a sense of comfort and belonging. It requires no grand announcement. It lives quietly in the air, felt through the kind neighbor who grabs your trash can on a windy Tuesday, the mail carrier who treats each package with care, or the wave you exchange through a windshield while waiting at an intersection.

Cooking is my favorite way to show appreciation for the people around me, even if my execution lacks professional grace. My father and grandparents, who immigrated from Denmark, brought a deep love for tradition into my life. Their culinary heritage beautifully intertwined with my German grandmother's comforting cooking and my grandfather's Scottish taste buds.

Even though my parents divorced early in their marriage, the culmination of food traditions endured, serving as a steadfast bridge between all sides of my family. Despite the distance after the split, I was the lucky one who got to fly back to Bakersfield, California each year to visit my grandparents. As the lone child navigating life between these lineages, I often felt like the solitary keeper of three worlds. I grew up listening to the contrasting stories told by each side, vivid tales of coastal Danish seafaring folklore, German fairytale forests, and Scottish tartan kilts.

Tucked away in my grandparents' home, I was thoroughly absorbed by tradition, soaking in a culture that felt entirely foreign and entirely my own. I remember that world through my grandmother's love of African violets blooming on the windowsills and the intricate, hand-embroidered linens that adorned every tabletop. It was in her home, surrounded by these treasures, that my lifelong love of Royal Copenhagen porcelain figurines



and plates took root. I marveled at the delicate, hand-painted blue-and-white artistry that seemed to capture the quiet soul of Denmark in miniature.

Back home in Phoenix, my mom tried her very best to keep some of these food traditions alive, ensuring the connection to my father's heritage didn't fade away. At the heart of our holiday feasts for Thanksgiving and Christmas was this shared appreciation for the warm flavors of Northern Europe, where recipes from all heritages still lovingly met on a single table.

The preparation for these feasts began early. I vividly recall watching my grandmother polish the sterling silver tableware weeks before Thanksgiving, enduring the pain of her rheumatoid arthritis to ensure every piece shone flawlessly. Her hands moved with meticulous care, refusing to let her aching joints steal away the beauty of her contribution. While candles were a familiar winter comfort, at Thanksgiving the magic they cast over the room filled my young heart with an overwhelming sense of wonder.

When the holidays arrived, the atmosphere was defined by the elegance of that glistening silverware laid carefully across the white chrysanthemum tablecloth and the soft flicker of candles that cast a sentimental, timeless glow over the gathering. How was it possible that the food somehow tasted better when eaten from those beautifully polished utensils? It was as if the silver itself carried the weight of her devotion and the love of the generations before us.

That same sense of reverent preparation filled everyday life, grounding me even in the simplest of tasks. The kitchen was always filled with a quiet, companionable warmth when my mom stood by the counter, grating a head of red cabbage to make rødkål, the traditional Danish dish passed down through our family ancestry.

Because I was rarely allowed to help with food preparation as a child, being invited to pull up a chair felt like a sacred privilege. I sat nearby, completely captivated, watching the motion of her hands and the steady shower of deep purple ribbons falling into the largest of four Pyrex opal ware primary bowls – first produced in 1945 at a cost of $2.49.

This cruciferous vegetable becomes a chameleon when it's raised in the garden. With acidic soil it grows deep red or purple. In alkaline soil, the leaves turn bluer. In the kitchen, when acid is added, it changes color through a chemical mechanism that beautifully mirrors the transformation of autumn foliage, as both processes rely on a group of natural plant pigments called anthocyanins. Slicing it is a satisfying, highly hypnotic experience. The incredible visual contrast of the cross section reveals an intricate maze of purple ribbons growing outward in spirals, separated by stark white veins that dance under your knife blade. Each ribbon introduces depth and texture, striking a balance between an earthy, peppery crunch and an underlying sweetness.

Standing at the kitchen counter today, memories overtake me the instant a splash of vinegar is introduced, a step crucial for balancing the sweet and sour flavors of my heritage. I'm pulled straight back to the magic of that youthful counter, to the exact moment my mom invited me to step into her world. Right before my eyes, the color shifts as the liquid hits the pot, transforming the dull purple ribbons into a bright, fiery red. The sharp, warm aroma filling the kitchen instantly brings me back to that formative moment.

Looking back along the trail of my own life, I can finally see where the map began. My love for the serenity of nature, the changing seasons, and the comfort of autumn rituals were all quietly planted during those early years at home. Even the delicate blue of my grandmother's porcelain mirrors the wide blue skies I hike under today. I am no longer a passive observer of three separate worlds, but the proud keeper of their stories, weaving my gratitude into both the falling autumn leaves and the bright purple ribbons under my knife.

DANISH RED CABBAGE (RØDKÅL)

- 1 red cabbage
- ¼ cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 cup pomegranate juice
- 2-3 tbsp. sugar
- 1-2 tbsp. butter
- ¼ tsp. clove
- ½ tsp. kosher salt
- Pepper to taste

Directions

1. Remove the outer leaves and discard.
2. Cut in half from pole to pole.
3. Remove the triangular-shaped core and thinly shred
4. Add to a large Dutch oven.
5. In a separate saucepan, add the juice, sugar, clove and balsamic vinegar.
6. Simmer for several minutes until the sugar has melted then add the butter.
7. Pour mixture over cabbage and gently stir to combine.
8. Add salt and pepper.
9. Reduce heat, cover and let simmer for roughly 30 minutes.

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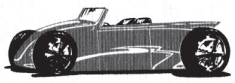
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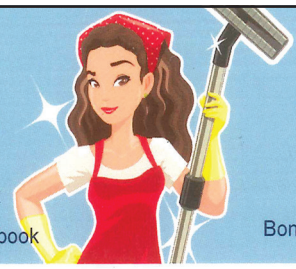
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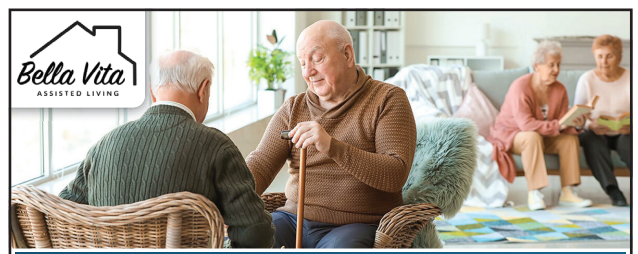
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*see more on page 4.

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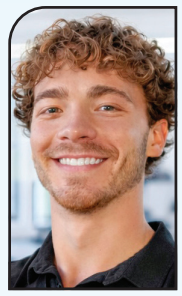
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Titan Times

VOL. 4 NO. 1 — NOVEMBER 2026

From the students of Arcadia High School

#StayRowdy

By Tatum Klock

It's Friday night, the football field lights are beaming, and a rowdy Chaos Corner is revved up and ready to root for our Titans. Arcadia's student section, aptly named Chaos Corner, prides itself on having the best school spirit in the Valley.

As the regular football season comes to an end, we want to recognize one recent addition to this corner that has only added fuel to the fire: resident DJ Adam Blais – who is also featured in this edition of Arcadia News, on page 22.

Now, on top of jumping up-and-down and cheering for our Titans when they get a touchdown, students can also jump up-and-down to their favorite songs being blasted through the speakers surrounding them.



Whether it's cranking "Mr. Brightside" for everyone in the stands to sing along to or creating his own mixes that are perfect for getting the fans hyped, Blais's music makes the game atmosphere even more electric.

DJing the football games is a great way to boost school spirit, and to boost his career, so make sure to follow @adamblaisdj on Instagram and TikTok.

If you haven't already made it to a varsity game this year, don't miss out on the fun located at the front of the student section, marked by the DJ stand and color-changing lights that make the games even more unforgettable.

ARCADIA'S FALL THEATER

With the arrival of fall comes the seasonal school play. This year Arcadia Theater is splitting their show into three one-act performances: Luna, a heartwarming tale of friendship, Jack in the Box, a horror starring four teenage girls and their haunted jack-in-the-box, and Just Add Zombies, the story of how a high school theater troupe's production of Romeo and Juliet turned into a zombie-fest.

The cast list for the shows has just recently been announced, and students are thrilled to begin rehearsals and put on a beautiful show later this month! Congratulations to everyone who was cast, and be sure to check out the shows November 12, 13, and 14. Find the ticket link on Arcadia Theater's Instagram or buy your tickets at the door.

– Lola Lunsway

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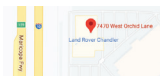
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5 Beds | 5 Baths | 6,7226 Sqft | 1.09 Acres



5710 E Camelback Road, Phoenix $2,495,000
5 Beds | 6 Baths | 4,592 Sqft | .79 Acres



3402 E Sells Dr, Phoenix $1,129,000
Mid-century Modern | 2200 Sqft

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