

SEPTEMBER 2025

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NEIGHBORS



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Young Entrepreneurs & Soccer Standouts:

**CONNOR O'BRIEN
& LUKE SMITH**



An exclusive magazine
serving the residents of
Trossachs, Montaine and
Aldarra Communities

Meet
Connor O'Brien
& Luke Smith



Kendall Lamb



Patricia Feigle



Pooja Anoop

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Feedback/Ideas/Submissions:

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Go to www.bestversionmedia.com and click

"Submit Content." You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to: elaucius@bestversionmedia.com

HOA Submission Information

Are you on the association board for your subdivision?

Contact us for information on how you can submit articles, updates, reminders, events and more to the residents. We create customized homeowners association sections at no cost to the HOA or the residents.

Content Submission Deadlines:

| CONTENT DUE | EDITION | CONTENT DUE | EDITION |
|-------------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| January 8 | March | July 8 | September |
| February 8 | April | August 8 | October |
| March 8 | May | September 8 | November |
| April 8 | June | October 8 | December |
| May 8 | July | November 8 | January |
| June 8 | August | December 8 | February |

As summer fades into the golden days of September, I'm excited to share another inspiring story from right here in our community. This month, we're featuring Connor O'Brien and Luke Smith—two young men who prove that ambition, teamwork, and heart can make a real impact. Between balancing college soccer schedules and running their growing business, 360 Home Services, they've built something that not only serves homeowners but also strengthens the connections that make our neighborhoods feel like home. Their story is one of hustle, creativity, and a genuine love for the people they serve—you won't want to miss it.

September also brings that "fresh start" feeling—whether it's kids heading back to school, routines falling back into place, or new projects getting underway. Inside this issue, you'll find ideas and updates to help you make the most of the season, from home maintenance tips to community happenings.

As always, I'm grateful for the opportunity to share these stories and celebrate the incredible people who make our community so special. If you know a neighbor with a unique story to tell, please reach out—I'd love to feature them in an upcoming issue.

Here's to a month of fresh energy, neighborly connections, and stories that remind us why we love where we live.



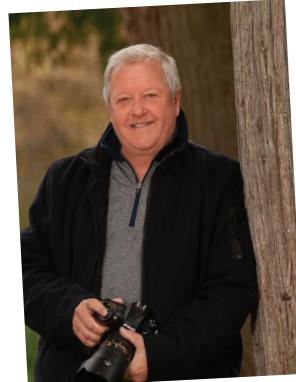
Warmly,

Erica Laucius, MBA

Content Coordinator

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*Thank You,
Bruce Hudson*



A huge thank you to Bruce Hudson of Bruce Hudson Photography for being our photographer for the past 5 years! Your amazing cover photos have made our magazines look incredible, and we're so grateful for all the creativity and care you've brought to every issue.

We'll miss you, but we're also excited to see what your next adventure brings. Thanks for everything, Bruce!

Cheers,

Kendall and Erica

Young Entrepreneurs & Soccer Standouts: Meet Connor O'Brien and Luke Smith

By Erica Laucius, MBA Photos by Pooja Anoop Photography



At an age when many college students are still deciding what they want to do after graduation, Connor O'Brien and Luke Smith are already juggling two demanding roles: dedicated student-athletes and co-founders of a growing local business. Between their time on the soccer field and managing 360 Home Services, these two young men have proven that commitment, drive, and community spirit can take you far.

The spark for 360 Home Services came in January 2025, when Connor and Luke noticed a problem many homeowners face—having to coordinate multiple companies for basic home maintenance. “We wanted to be a one-stop-shop for all their needs,” says Connor. From their college dorm rooms, they built the business over Zoom, creating service packages that combine essential tasks like pressure washing, gutter cleaning, roof cleaning, and yard care, all in a single visit. Their mission is simple: make homeownership easier, more affordable, and less stressful.

By July, the business had already taken off when an unexpected opportunity to serve the community came along. During the

Republic Services trash strike, they rented a 20-foot U-Haul and began hauling away trash for neighbors. What started as a quick favor turned into a large-scale effort with hundreds of pickups. “It felt like we were the ice cream truck,” Luke recalls with a laugh. “People would come running out asking if we had room for ‘just one more bag.’” They worked long days, cracking jokes, listening to music, and drinking more coffee than they probably should, determined to help their neighbors while keeping the work fun.

While 360 Home Services is growing quickly, Connor and Luke both have another passion that has shaped their lives—soccer. Connor, a Pacific Lutheran University student majoring in Finance with a minor in Data Science, plays college soccer and rarely misses a chance to watch the Seattle Sounders or Crystal Palace FC. Luke, a Marketing major with a minor in Entrepreneurship at Linfield University, grew up playing soccer in Sammamish and comes from a multigenerational soccer family—his dad and even his grandfather still play. Soccer has taken them to fields all over the region, and their love for the sport has built resilience, teamwork, and leadership skills they now carry into business. “The dedication and discipline you



learn on the field transfers directly to running a company," says Luke.

Both young men have deep roots in the Pacific Northwest. Connor grew up in Renton's Kennydale neighborhood, while Luke has lived near Beaver Lake since 2011. Luke's family originally moved from Washington to Texas for work, then returned 16 years later with three kids in tow. He still cherishes childhood memories of mountain biking at Duthie Hill, running around the lake, and training at local soccer fields. Before launching 360 Home Services, Luke also gained valuable experience working at Orangetheory Fitness and Arena Sports, experiences that helped build his customer service skills and work ethic.

Connor's family includes his sister Meghan, who has hundreds of volunteer hours at the Sammamish Animal Sanctuary and is heading to the University of Washington to study environmental science, and his mom Julie, a school social worker in Bellevue. His family loves to travel, with favorite destinations including Modlips on the Washington coast, Hawai'i, and most recently, a memorable trip to

Disney World. Luke is a proud uncle to two nieces and two nephews, and when he's not working or training, he enjoys weightlifting, attending Eastridge Church, and learning about business.

Their households are lively, especially with Connor's two rescue dogs, Toby and Buck, and two cats, Charlie and Luka. Toby, a hound mix

continued on next page

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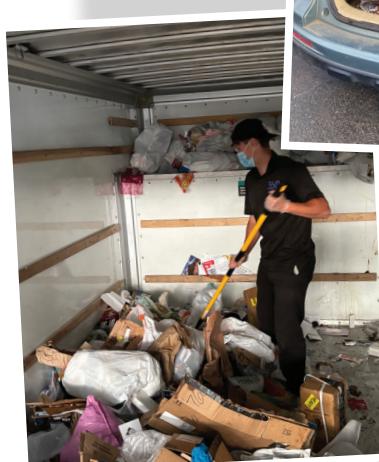


with over a dozen breeds detected, is known for opening toilet lids and avoiding eye contact, while Buck came from the streets of Mexico, lived in a Texas barn, and now enjoys life in the Pacific Northwest.

Ask either of them what keeps them going through 10–14-hour workdays and college sports schedules, and they'll tell you it's a mix of hard work, humor, and gratitude. "It's a good day to be a great day," is Connor's family motto, and Luke echoes the sentiment: "If we've knocked on your door, talked with

you, or earned your business, thank you for being part of the 360 story."

As student-athletes and entrepreneurs, Connor and Luke are building something that goes beyond their own careers. Their goal is to continue expanding 360 Home Services, offering nearly every home maintenance service a homeowner could need while staying grounded in the relationships they've formed along the way. Whether on the soccer field or at a client's doorstep, Connor O'Brien and Luke Smith are proving that success comes from hustle, heart, and a genuine connection to the people you serve.



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who has a story to share?*

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of our upcoming issues! Contact us at
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WORD SEARCH:

Deciduous Trees

*make for beautiful
fall foliage*

By Bettina Zidek-Roa Answer key on page 14



WHITE OAK
AMERICAN CHESTNUT
YELLOW BIRCH
RED MAPLE
TULIP POPLAR
PAPER BIRCH
SUGAR MAPLE
RED OAK
AMERICAN BEECH

SILVER MAPLE
PIN OAK
GRAY BIRCH
BLACK CHERRY
STRIPED MAPLE
BLACK WALNUT
AMERICAN HORNBEAM
SHAGBARK HICKORY
EASTERN REDBUD



Welcome Pooja Anoop, Our New Photographer

By Kendall Stuckey-Lamb

We are thrilled to welcome Pooja Anoop to the *Plateau Neighbors* family as our new photographer! Pooja is the creative force behind Pooja Anoop Photography, a studio specializing in personal branding, headshots, and portraits. With a passion for helping business owners—especially female entrepreneurs—she crafts professional and authentic imagery that inspires confidence and connection.

Since starting her business in 2019, Pooja has quickly become a beloved member of our community. Alongside her thriving photography business, she founded She Shines, an empowering online community for women entrepreneurs. Pooja is deeply committed to giving back, volunteering locally and capturing the vibrant spirit of our area at numerous community events.

When she's not behind the camera, Pooja enjoys exploring the beautiful Pacific Northwest with her husband and their puppy, Jake—whether hiking, camping, paddle boarding, or riding motorcycles with friends.

We look forward to sharing the unique perspectives Pooja brings and seeing our community through her inspired lens!



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SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 6th

Snoqualmie International Community Block Party

Time: 11am-5pm

Location: Center Blvd, Snoqualmie

For More Information: <https://www.facebook.com/snoqualmievalleyblockparty/>

Join for a vibrant celebration of culture, community, and free family fun at the Snoqualmie International Community Block Party 2025! This dynamic event will feature global flavors, traditional dance and music performances, cultural displays, artisan vendors, and hands-on activities for all ages. Whether you're tasting delicious international cuisines, shopping for handmade crafts, or joining in the lively rhythms of multicultural entertainment, there's something for everyone to experience and enjoy.

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate the rich cultural tapestry of our community, support local businesses, and create joyful memories with friends and neighbors.

Saturday, September 6th -

Sunday, September 7th

Brickcon

Time: 9am - 4pm

Location: Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue

For More Information & Tickets: <https://brickcon.org>

Join for an incredible weekend of LEGO® creativity and fun. BrickCon offers a unique opportunity to see amazing LEGO® creations built by talented builders from around the world.

Saturday, September 13th

Seattle Modern Home Tour

Time: 10am - 4pm

Location: Various locations around Seattle

For More Information & Tickets: <https://mads.media/2025-seattle-modern-home-tour/>

The Seattle Modern Home Tour is inviting you back INSIDE the coolest modern homes - LIVE AND IN PERSON. Tour the homes, get inspired, and meet the architects and designers by getting up-close and in-person with the spaces that showcase their extraordinary visions of modern design today. The first Tour homes will be announced soon, so get ready to join for the latest iteration in over a decade of visiting Seattle's most interesting residential living spaces!

Wednesday, September 17th

Sammamish Farmer's Market - Last Day

Time: 3:00 - 7:00pm

Location: Sammamish Commons

For More Information: <https://www.sammamishfarmersmarket.org>

Wednesday, September 17th

Train - Live in Concert @ Chateau Ste. Michelle

Time: 7:00pm (Gates open approximately 2 hours prior to showtime)

Location: Chateau Ste. Michelle, Woodinville

For More Information & Tickets: <https://www.ste-michelle.com/chateau-ste-michelle/csm-events/events/train/5637727349.p>

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Top Home Maintenance Tips for a Smooth Fall Season

By Erica Laucius, MBA

September brings cooler mornings, earlier sunsets, and the first signs of falling leaves. It's the perfect time to prepare your home for the season ahead so you can avoid costly repairs and keep things running smoothly. Here are a few essential tasks to tackle before autumn arrives in full force.



1. Clear Gutters and Downspouts

Early fall rains can clog gutters quickly with leaves and pine needles, which are plentiful in our area. Cleaning your gutters now prevents water from overflowing and damaging your roof, siding, or

foundation. Don't forget to check downspouts to make sure they're directing water away from your home.

2. Inspect and Seal Windows and Doors

September is a great time to check for drafts. Run your hand around window frames and door edges—if you feel cool air, add weatherstripping or caulk as needed. This small step improves comfort, lowers heating costs, and keeps damp air out during the rainy months.

3. Service Your Heating System

Even if you're not ready to turn on the heat yet, schedule a tune-up now. A professional inspection ensures your furnace or heat pump runs efficiently when you need it most. This is especially important in our region, where sudden cold snaps can catch you off guard.

4. Trim Trees and Shrubs

Heavy fall storms can break branches, especially on older trees. Prune away dead limbs and cut back branches that hang over your roof or driveway. This reduces the risk of storm damage and keeps your yard tidy.

5. Protect Outdoor Water Sources

It's too early to shut off your outdoor faucets entirely, but you can prepare by inspecting hoses and hose bibs for leaks. Make a note to disconnect hoses before the first freeze—usually in late October or early November here in Sammamish.

6. Check Roof and Flashing

With more rain on the way, September is the perfect time to spot any missing shingles, damaged flashing, or signs of wear. Addressing roof issues now can prevent leaks during our wetter months.

7. Test Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Fall means more time indoors—and more use of fireplaces, heaters, and cooking appliances. Press the test button on all detectors and replace batteries if needed to ensure your family's safety.



8. Refresh Landscaping Beds

Add mulch to garden beds to help insulate plant roots and retain moisture as temperatures drop. Fall is also the best time to plant certain shrubs and bulbs, giving them a head start for spring.

By taking care of these tasks in September, you can head into fall knowing your home is ready for the weather changes ahead. A little proactive maintenance now will keep your home comfortable, efficient, and protected all season long.

Chief Instructor, Robert Blatt

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| ADDRESS | BEDS | BATHS | SQ FT | LOT | LIST PRICE | SOLD PRICE |
|-------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|-------------|
| 2260 269th Ct SE | 4 | 2.5 | 3,770 | 0.263 | \$2,598,000 | Active |
| 1104 268th Wy SE | 4 | 3.25 | 3,410 | 0.285 | \$2,099,900 | Active |
| 27114 SE 13th St | 4 | 2.5 | 3,080 | 0.165 | \$1,782,500 | Active |
| 824 272nd Pl SE | 4 | 2.75 | 2,925 | 0.143 | \$1,725,000 | Active |
| 26934 SE 22nd Wy | 3 | 2 | 2,450 | 0.222 | \$1,588,000 | Pending |
| 1014 274th Wy | 5 | 2.5 | 3,050 | 0.161 | \$1,725,000 | Pending |
| 26817 SE 9th Wy | 4 | 3 | 3,789 | 0.239 | \$2,398,000 | Pending |
| 27312 SE 10th Ct | 4 | 2.75 | 2,810 | 0.131 | \$1,699,500 | Pending |
| 1799 271st Ave SE | 4 | 3.5 | 3,430 | 0.156 | \$1,925,000 | Pending |
| 1003 272nd Pl SE | 4 | 2.75 | 3,075 | 0.152 | \$1,795,000 | \$1,675,000 |
| 27240 SE 13th Pl | 5 | 3.5 | 3,186 | 0.182 | \$1,788,000 | \$1,735,000 |
| 27309 SE 10th Ct | 4 | 2.75 | 3,240 | 0.13 | \$1,850,000 | \$1,650,000 |
| 27406 SE 8th Pl | 4 | 2.5 | 2,770 | 0.121 | \$1,588,000 | \$1,540,000 |
| 26624 SE 15th St | 5 | 3 | 3,963 | 0.287 | \$2,499,999 | \$2,500,000 |
| 2216 271st Ct SE | 5 | 2.75 | 3 | 0.257 | \$1,900,000 | \$1,850,000 |

Recent Sales in Aldarra & Montaine

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|------|-------|-------|-------------|-------------|
| 27541 SE 31st St Pl | 4 | 2.5 | 3,780 | 0.233 | \$1,925,000 | Active |
| 2420 278th Ct SE | 5 | 3.75 | 4,440 | 0.356 | \$2,175,000 | Pending |
| 2848 278th Ave SE | 4 | 3.5 | 3,660 | 0.206 | \$1,835,000 | Pending |
| 2947 275th Ave SE | 4 | 3.25 | 3,280 | 0.194 | \$1,875,000 | Pending |
| 27240 SE 13th Pl | 5 | 3.5 | 3,186 | 0.182 | \$1,788,000 | \$1,735,000 |

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