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Lifestyles

A Community Service Publication

A fashion display featuring a rack of colorful dresses (yellow, orange, red, and pink) hanging on a metal stand. To the left is a black chair with a zebra-print cushion and backrest. The background shows a serene lake at sunset with palm trees and mountains in the distance.

Valley-Based Eco-Chic Celebrates 35 Years as Arizona's #1 Luxury Resale Leader

Special Feature Pages 12 and 13

VOL. XXXVII, No. 9 • September 2026

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Georgie's Cookies Revolutionizing Home Baking with Olive Oil Scratch Cookie Mixes



In just 14 short months in business, Georgie's Cookies, a local, woman-owned home baking brand, has baked and sold more than 10,000 fresh-baked olive oil cookies to dessert lovers across Arizona and beyond. Now, they're bringing those same, well-received treats to an even broader audience with the launch of its signature line of gourmet olive oil scratch cookie mixes.

Founded by Isabella Silver, the business was born out of a renewed love for baking during the pandemic as a tribute to her late grandparents, who instilled in her a deep love for baking from a very young age. While home bakers have long swapped butter for olive oil in cakes, Isabella perfected the concept for

cookies. At the core of each recipe is locally milled olive oil from Queen Creek Olive Mill, along with thoughtfully sourced local ingredients whenever possible. Inspired by old-world baking traditions and made with clean, high-quality ingredients, Georgie's Cookies are rich, unique and unforgettable.

Building on the success of her rotating lineup of fresh-baked specialty cookies, which includes flavors like the Olive Oil Key Lime Pie Cookie, Dot Cookie, and more, Isabella expanded her vision into a signature line of gourmet olive oil scratch cookie mixes.

In what is believed to be a first in the industry, Georgie's Cookies includes the olive oil needed to make the cookies right inside the box, giving everyday bakers everything they need to experience the same olive oil baking concept right in their own kitchen. Crafted for home-baked comfort and indulgence, these premium mixes make achieving irresistibly soft, flavorful cookies effortless. Made locally with natural ingredients, they're perfect for home baking or thoughtful gifting. Current flavors include Chocolate Chunk, Oatmeal, and Chocolate Brownie.

Georgie's Cookies is thrilled to share the magic of olive oil baking with even more dessert lovers. For more information or to order some of these delicious cookies, visit www.georgiescookies.com.



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From the Publisher...



September has arrived, and with it comes one of the most anticipated traditions of the year: football season.

Whether you follow the local high school team on Friday nights, spend Saturdays cheering for your alma mater, or gather with friends and family for Sunday kickoff, football has a way of bringing people together. It gives us a reason to wear our favorite colors, share a meal, invite neighbors over, and celebrate the energy of a new season.

Here in the Biltmore community, fall may not bring changing leaves and crisp mornings quite like other parts of the country, but it does bring its own kind of excitement. The return of football signals cooler evenings ahead, busy patios, backyard watch parties, and a renewed sense of connection throughout our neighborhoods.

At *Biltmore Lifestyles*, we believe community is built in both the big moments and the simple ones: meeting friends for a game, supporting young athletes, discovering a new local restaurant for game day, or enjoying a relaxed evening at home with family. This month's issue celebrates that spirit, with ideas and inspiration to help you make the most of the season ahead.

As schedules fill and routines return, we hope you'll also make time to enjoy the moments that matter, good conversation, friendly competition, and the anticipation that comes with every opening kickoff.

Susan Aavang
Publisher, Biltmore Lifestyles

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Publisher
Editor

Susan Aavang
Julie Nicholson

Brett Young, Carly Pearce and Chayce Beckham Headline Arizona's Desert Sky Music Festival

Country music fans across Arizona are invited to experience one of the state's biggest live music events of the year as Desert Sky Music Festival takes over the West Valley Events Complex in Glendale on Saturday, October 3, 2026. The all-day festival will feature an unforgettable lineup of some of country music's biggest stars, including multi-platinum country superstar Brett Young, Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter Carly Pearce, American Idol winner Chayce Beckham, rising country star Dylan Schneider and Nashville newcomer Ashley Anne.

Produced by Arizona-based Forty8 Live!, a company known for creating some of the Valley's premier live entertainment experiences, Desert Sky Music Festival will deliver more than nine hours of chart-topping country music on a single stage, complemented by local food and beverage vendors, shopping, interactive experiences and both General Admission and VIP ticket options.

Taking place from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., the musical lineup for the day includes:

3:00 p.m.: Ashley Anne

Nashville's most compelling new voice with viral hits "dear dolly," "she ain't Texas" and the EP *Generational Heartbreak*, Ashley Anne also has a cut on Carly Pearce's next album.

4:00 p.m.: Dylan Schneider

With 400+ million streams, two Gold records, and a Top 5 songwriting credit on Dustin Lynch's "Mamma's House," the MusicRow "Next Big Thing" is bringing his debut album *Puzzled* to Desert Sky.

5:00 p.m.: Chayce Beckham

The only American Idol winner to perform his own songs, Chayce Beckham scored his first #1 at country radio with PLATINUM-certified "23." With 536 million global streams and a bluesy, country-rock sound, the California native is one of the genre's most exciting rising voices.

6:00 p.m.: Carly Pearce

GRAMMY Award-winning singer-songwriter Carly Pearce is a Kentucky Music Hall of Fame and Grand Ole Opry member with five Top 5 Country Radio hits. Her 2024 album *hummingbird* features PLATINUM-certified "we don't fight anymore" with Chris Stapleton.

7:00 p.m.: Brett Young

Brett Young has amassed 8.5 billion global streams and seven consecutive No. 1 singles, earning DIAMOND, PLATINUM, and GOLD certifications across his catalog. Rolling Stone calls him "one of Country's most consistent radio stars." His latest album, *2.0*, was named one of Nashville's Best Albums of 2025.

Tickets to the Desert Sky Music Festival are on sale now with general admission starting at \$72.39/person, general admission + pit pass at \$108/person, VIP at \$208/person and a VIP suite (10 person experience) at \$2,688 total.

To purchase tickets or for more information, please visit www.forty8live.com/desert-sky-music-festival or call (602) 276-2499. ♦



Brett Young



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Pro Football Hall of Famer Larry Fitzgerald Jr. Partners with Bell Bank To Provide Students with a Back-to-School Shopping Spree

Thanks to the generosity of Bell Bank and Bell Champion and Pro Football Hall of Famer Larry Fitzgerald Jr., a group of local students are now well-prepared for the start of their school year.

Recently, Fitzgerald hosted 50 students from Child Crisis Arizona for a Back-to-School event. Each student received a \$100 shopping spree at Going, Going, Gone, a backpack filled with school supplies and two \$2 bills from Bell Bank: one to keep and one to pay forward.

During the event, Fitzgerald, who played for the Arizona Cardinals for 17 seasons, enjoyed shopping for needed supplies with the students, all while encouraging them to work hard and enjoy the year ahead.



Dick's Sporting Goods and Going, Going, Gone also donated \$5,000 to Child Crisis Arizona. The nonprofit provides emergency shelter, foster care, adoption, counseling, early education and parenting support to help protect children from abuse and neglect and strengthen families.

"I know this is a really important time; the kids are wrapping up the summertime and are starting to think about fall and going back to school," Fitzgerald said. "I want them to be able to go back to school with basketballs and shoes and football cleats and the things that they need to go and play the sports that they want to play and be enthusiastic about the upcoming school year."

As Kyle Kennedy, Bell Bank's Phoenix president and Arizona banking director noted, Fitzgerald's foundation in partnership with Bell Bank, along with events like the recent back-to-

school shopping spree, have made a tangible and positive impact on youth.

"At Bell Bank, we are devoted to giving back to the community, and our partnership with Larry is one of our most impactful, as well as one of our favorite ways to help local students," Kennedy said. "We are also incredibly grateful to everyone who made donations to Child Crisis Arizona, as well as for Larry's generous support."

For more information about Bell Bank or Bell's commitment to charitable endeavors please visit www.bellbank.com.



SELECT FRIDAYS

SOUNDCHECK

LIVE MUSIC SERIES

PhxArt



SOUNDCHECK, a Live Music Series, Returns to Phoenix Art Museum for Second Season

SOUNDCHECK is back at Phoenix Art Museum. This fall, for one Friday each month, Phoenix Art Museum turns into a live-music venue for unplugged, can't-miss performances from popular local and regional acts. The monthly performances run from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and are made possible thanks to the generosity of presenting sponsor Men's Arts Council, with additional support from the Angela and Leonard Singer Endowment for the Performing Arts. The SOUNDCHECK season kicks off with Meat Puppets on September 25th, followed by MRCH on October 30th. Tickets are now live on www.phxart.org.

"We are very excited to bring back SOUNDCHECK during the 2026-2027 season at Phoenix Art Museum," said Jeremy Mikolajczak, the Sybil Harrington Director and CEO of Phoenix Art Museum. "This increasingly popular program gives visitors a new way to experience the Museum, with live musical performances that range from rock n' roll and punk rock, to indie and contemporary pop. We are grateful to Men's Arts Council and the Angela and Leonard Singer Endowment for the Performing Arts for their ongoing support of this program and their commitment to bringing even more people together through art, music and

shared experiences."

Launched in 2025, SOUNDCHECK is a monthly live-music experience at Phoenix Art Museum. Last year's lineup included musical guests 76th Street, The Sunflower King, The Phoenix Symphony and many more.

This year's lineup kicks off on Friday, September 25, 2026, with Arizona Hall of Fame recipients Meat Puppets. Formed in Phoenix in the early 1980s, Meat Puppets turned punk's creative freedom loose on country, psychedelia and Southwestern desert weirdness, making landmark albums like Meat Puppets II and Up on the Sun before Kurt Cobain brought brothers Curt



and Cris Kirkwood onstage for Nirvana's MTV Unplugged and introduced them to a generation. More than 40 years later, the founding trio is back together, joined by keyboardist Ron Stabinsky and guitarist Elmo Kirkwood. As drummer Derrick Bostrom puts it, "This doesn't feel like an oldies act. It feels like the culmination."

The second band in this year's schedule is MRCH, on stage Friday, October 30th, 2026. Indie electronic duo MRCH makes moody music you can dance to. Their songs have been featured in TV shows like The Twilight Zone, Search Party, The Vampire Diaries, The Sex Lives of College Girls, and more. As well as the upcoming film Capsized, the duo has carved out a niche cinematic presence. MRCH toured independently, supporting bands including Cannons, CHVRCHES, Foster the People, Bad Suns and others.

"SOUNDCHECK brings together some of the best of what makes Phoenix so special, from incredible music and art to meaningful opportunities to connect as a community," said Sentari Minor, board president of Men's Arts Council. "As we kick off a new season, we're excited to continue our partnership with Phoenix Art Museum and bring this event back for another year. It's a celebration of local talent, creativity and community, and we look forward to welcoming everyone for another unforgettable experience."

SOUNDCHECK is included with regular-priced museum admission, giving visitors access to Phoenix Art Museum galleries in addition to live musical performances. Additional bands in the 2026 SOUNDCHECK lineup will be announced later this fall.

About Men's Arts Council

The Men's Arts Council (MAC) of Phoenix Art Museum, founded in 1967, is a 501c3, non-profit organization that supports the Museum's programs and activities through its unique events such as the Copperstate 1000 and the Copperstate Overland, a vintage off-road rally. The Men's Arts Council's efforts enable the organization to make annual contributions to Phoenix Art Museum's operating budget and financially sponsor exhibitions. For more information about the Men's Art Council, please visit www.men-sartscouncil.com.



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Childhood Cancer Awareness Month With Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children

Cancer remains the leading cause of death by disease among children, with thousands diagnosed each year. While September raises national awareness, the Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children (ACFC) does this work 365 days a year right in our backyard.

Every day, ACFC works to ensure that no family ever has to navigate a pediatric cancer diagnosis alone, providing timely, practical and emotional support throughout every stage of the journey.

Over the past several months, ACFC has strengthened its mission, introducing new initiatives and supporting even more local families:

- In May, ACFC brought two licensed counselors onsite at its facility for the first time to provide ongoing mental health support not only for pediatric cancer warriors, but also for their siblings and parents.
- In June, they hosted a Warrior Wednesday Summer Camp every week at their facility, giving kids a space to play safely with themed games, crafts, and more.
- In July, ACFC marked its biggest back-to-school season to date, equipping more local families than ever before. During its annual Back-to-School Supply Pick-Up Event, ACFC provided donated school supplies to a record-breaking 225+ local children.

These summer milestones are just a snapshot of a much larger wave of year-round care. Looking back at the organization's comprehensive impact from 2025, ACFC supported 477 families overall, enrolling 112 new families, and delivered a variety of services aimed at alleviating stress and hardship for families. Through financial assistance, food support, counseling, tutoring and therapeutic programs, ACFC stood alongside families during some of their most challenging times.

2025 impact highlights include:

- 649 families received financial assistance, including 339 direct financial grants and 310 gift cards distributed at family events



- 9,140 meals provided through pantry bags and in-person meal services, totaling \$78,300 in food support
- 180 families participated in Sunshine Visits, along with 100 K-9 therapy visits
- 200 counseling sessions and 310 hours of tutoring provided to pediatric patients
- 18 families received end-of-life support
- 1,700 individuals attended family events hosted by the organization

Volunteer support played a vital role in the organization's success. In 2025, 415 volunteers contributed 2,161.19 hours of service.

Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children is committed to continuing its support for the community and addressing the needs of Arizona families facing pediatric cancer. For more information about ACFC and their programs, please visit www.azcancerfoundation.org or follow them on Instagram @azcancerfoundation. ❖



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School Is Back In Session

Kids Eat Free All Month Long at Federal Pizza

To help Valley parents catch their breath and navigate busy weeknight routines, Federal Pizza, the beloved Upward Projects neighborhood hangout known for its mid-century modern design, wood-fired goodness, and curated lineup of craft wine and beer, is launching a month-long sanity-saver for families.

For the entire month of September, kids eat free every Monday through Thursday at both Federal Pizza locations: the iconic Al Beadle-designed Uptown Central Phoenix restaurant and the newly opened location at PV in North Phoenix. The offer is valid from open to close, for dine-in only with the purchase of a pizza or pasta. Guests must show an email, social media post (@federalpizza), or flyer to redeem. While parents unwind over signature wood-fired pizzas, house-made pastas, fresh big salads, and craft beverages, kids can enjoy their own mini meals on the house. Designed to satisfy both adventurous young foodies and comfort-food purists, the Kids Eat Free menu features:

- Mini Cheese Pizza
- Mini Pepperoni Pizza
- Sketti + Meatball
- Crispy Polenta + Marinara
- Mr. Plain Buttered Noodles

Federal Pizza serves wood-fired pizza, wine and beer for dine-in or to-go in Central Phoenix and Paradise Valley. Open Monday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., Friday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to midnight, and from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Sundays. Visit www.federalpizza.com for more details or follow along on social media @federalpizza.

Federal Pizza - Central Phoenix

5210 N Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85012

Federal Pizza - Paradise Valley

12636 N Tatum Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85032



Every Day Is Happy Hour

Blanco Cocina + Cantina Launches First-Ever Daily Program

For the first time, popular Fox Restaurant Concepts brand Blanco Cocina + Cantina is offering happy hour seven days a week through its most thoughtfully curated program yet, inviting guests to gather, linger and mix and match favorites.

Known for its lively energy and inventive take on Sonoran-style Mexican cuisine, Blanco's refreshed happy hour is an elevated yet approachable experience that fits seamlessly into any schedule. Whether unwinding after work, catching up with friends or easing into the week ahead, guests can enjoy a menu of exclusive bites and handcrafted beverages that showcase more of what Blanco has to offer.

Available daily, Monday through Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from open to 2:00 p.m., guests can enjoy happy hour-exclusive menu items, including:

- **Skewers (\$8-\$9)** including Chicken Pastor Skewers with achiote marinade, chile glaze, roasted pineapple pico and salsa verde and Chile Lime Shrimp Skewers with citrus glaze, roasted poblano, pickled onion and chipotle salsa
- **Crispy Quesadilla Chips (\$8)** with jack cheese, creamy jalapeño salsa and citrus salsa
- **Tuna Tostadas (\$12)** with sweet guajillo chile sauce, avocado cream, citrus and cilantro
- **À la carte tacos (\$6 each)** including Traditional Carnitas with orange, salsa verde, onion, jalapeño, cilantro and crema fresca; Chicken Pastor with caramelized pineapple, salsa verde, green onion and jalapeño; and Ground Beef with shredded lettuce, tomato, sour cream and yellow cheese.

Beverage highlights include:

- **Muy Frío**, mini frozen cocktails are available for \$6 each, or guests can choose three margaritas and palomas for \$14.
- **Small Margarita Pitchers (\$20)** available in classic, jalapeño prickly pear and passion fruit and Spanish vanilla.
- **Sangria (\$7)** is available in two vibrant



variations: Blanco with passion fruit, Spanish vanilla, mango, lemon and E&J Brandy and Roja Roja with prickly pear, strawberry and house orange liqueur.

- **\$5 drafts and bottles**
- **50% off all wine**

Blanco Cocina + Cantina has six Valley locations across Peoria, Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe, plus a location in Tucson. For more information on Blanco Cocina + Cantina and to view the full menu, please visit the website at www.BlancoCocinaCantina.com. ❖



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Valley-Based Eco-Chic Celebrates 35 Years As Arizona's Luxury Resale Leader

For 35 years, Phoenix-based Eco-Chic has been proving that great style deserves a second life.

What began in 1991 as a single My Sister's Closet boutique founded by two sisters has grown into one of the Southwest's most recognized luxury resale companies, encompassing My Sister's Closet, My Sister's Attic and Well Suited. Today, the brands serve shoppers and consignors throughout Arizona and California while continuing to build on an idea that was ahead of its time: luxury, value and sustainability can go hand in hand.

For Valley shoppers, My Sister's Closet has also become a familiar presence in some of the area's finest shopping destinations, including a location at Biltmore Fashion Park. Surrounded by luxury retailers, restaurants and longtime Valley favorites, the Biltmore store brings the company's curated approach to designer resale to the heart of one of Phoenix's most established shopping districts. Other locations throughout the Valley have similarly positioned My Sister's

Closet in premier shopping centers convenient to customers who appreciate designer fashion and the thrill of discovering something exceptional.

As Eco-Chic celebrates its 35th anniversary, the company is also entering a new chapter. Drew Dorman has recently stepped into the role of CEO, leading the organization as it looks toward continued growth in Arizona and, eventually, new markets across the country.

"For 35 years, our customers and consignors have shown us that great style, quality and value deserve a second life," Dorman said. "We're incredibly grateful for the loyal community that has grown with My Sister's Closet, My Sister's Attic and Well Suited, and we're excited about what comes next. We see tremendous opportunity to bring our stores to new communities throughout Arizona and, ultimately, across the country, while staying true to the experience and values that have made these brands so special."

That experience dates back to the company's earliest days, when the founders saw an opportunity to reinvent what consignment shopping could look like. At the time, resale stores were often crowded, dark and difficult to shop. They envisioned something entirely different: bright, welcoming stores filled with carefully selected merchandise and a convenient selling experience with no appointments required.

Customers responded, and the concept quickly grew.

My Sister's Closet became a destination for designer women's fashion, handbags, jewelry, shoes and accessories, with labels ranging from Chanel and Louis Vuitton to Gucci, Hermès, Prada, Saint Laurent and Dior. Well Suited extended the concept into men's fashion, while My Sister's Attic took resale beyond the closet and into the home with furniture, artwork, lighting, décor and one-of-a-kind pieces.

Together, the three brands have helped make resale a lifestyle.

That philosophy is especially relevant heading into fall, when

changing wardrobes, home refreshes and holiday entertaining provide opportunities to both consign and shop. Instead of allowing quality clothing, accessories, furniture and décor to sit unused in closets and storage rooms, consignors can give those pieces another life—and potentially turn them into extra income.

For shoppers, fall brings some of the company's most anticipated seasonal traditions.

The Fall Reveal begins September 12th at My Sister's Closet and Well Suited, with all My Sister's Closet stores and Well Suited stores opening early at 8:00 a.m. Shoppers will have the opportunity to discover newly arrived designer and better-label fashion for the season without the traditional retail price tag.

My Sister's Closet and Well Suited is now accepting fall clothing and accessories for The Fall Reveal, but they also accept items year-round. So, bring your items in today.

My Sister's Attic will kick off the season with its Labor Day Sale, offering 20% off at all Attic stores from Saturday through Monday of Labor Day weekend. The three-day event gives shoppers an opportunity to refresh their homes ahead of fall and holiday entertaining while enjoying additional savings. From statement furniture and artwork to lighting, décor and entertaining pieces, My Sister's Attic provides an ever-changing selection and an alternative to purchasing everything new.

Bring in your furniture pieces to My Sister's Attic stores now and throughout the year and update your home decor.

Customers can also watch for Eco-Chic's End-of-Season Sale by joining the company's email list for sale announcements, early access and upcoming promotions.

The seasonal events underscore a larger shift that Eco-Chic began embracing decades before "circular fashion" and sustainable shopping became part of the mainstream conversation. For 35 years, the company has kept quality fashion, furniture and home décor in circulation longer, creating value on both sides of the consignment experience.

Millions of items have found new homes along the way.

But the company's longevity is about more than merchandise. Eco-Chic credits its community of loyal shoppers and consignors for allowing the brands to evolve and expand





my sister's attic



my sister's closet



well suited



while maintaining the personal experience that helped build the business.

Now, as Dorman takes the helm, Eco-Chic sees its 35th anniversary as both a celebration of where it has been and a launching point for what comes next. The company is exploring opportunities to bring its brands to additional Arizona communities, with longer-term ambitions to expand into markets nationwide.

Even as it grows, the foundation remains much the same as it was in 1991: make it easy to sell exceptional pieces, make resale exciting to shop and give quality items the opportunity to be loved again.

For customers who want an inside look at new arrivals, seasonal reveals, special events and upcoming sales, Eco-Chic encourages shoppers to follow My Sister's Closet, My Sister's Attic and Well Suited on social media and join the company's email list.

After 35 years, resale may be more relevant than ever—and Eco-Chic is positioning itself for its next chapter. Visit www.mysisterscloset.com, www.wellsuited.com or www.mysistersattic.com for more information.





The Board Of Visitors Announces 2027 Flower Girls

The Board of Visitors (BOV) is pleased to announce that 46 high school seniors have accepted invitations to be honored as 2027 Flower Girls. These exceptional young women will participate in events throughout the school year that raise funds for Phoenix-area nonprofits serving the healthcare needs of women, children, and the elderly.

Flower Girl events include The Board of Visitors 73rd Annual Fashion Show Luncheon on December 12, 2026, and The Board of Visitors 112th Annual Charity Ball on April 10, 2027. Both events will be held at the JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn Resort & Spa.

The 2027 Flower Girls are: Gabrielle Bangert, Charlotte Beabeau, Olivia Blanchard, Rose Blue, Mia Calihan, Dahlia Cheney, Kiran Cherukuri, Paige Cusolle, Mila Detmer, Ella Dolan, Emma Easton, Fallon Fig, Lucy Gottfurcht, Grace Graf, Kate Hedley, Delila Iles, Maija Kaprosy, Luciana Labahn, Madison Lane, Sofia Levine-Bosch, London Maas, Ava Mansoor, Catalina Marcus, Piper Mercer, Claire Meyers, Avery Moore, Olivia Perry, Hazel Petersen, Sydney Pompay, Peyton Ranly, Gabriella Russo, Lillian Schmitt, Erin Seoane, Mia Steinmetz, Riley Tezanos, Alexandra Tumialan, Sloane Udvare, Jordan Ulrich, Mary Vanderwey, Liliana Vartughian, Santana Vasquez, Sylvia Vercellino, Lily Vranic, Allison Weddell, Kate Williams, Riley Zerbib.

Five communities across the Valley are represented in this year's Flower Girl class: Arcadia, Biltmore, Central Phoenix, Paradise Valley and Scottsdale. ❖

First row from left: Sofia Levine-Bosch, Lucy Gottfurcht, Paige Cusolle, Gabrielle Bangert, Piper Mercer

Second row: Avery Moore, Catalina Marcus, Olivia Hedley, Fallon Fig

Third row: Soledad Tumialan, Delila Iles, Rose Blue, Gracie Graf

Fourth row: Ella Dolan, Maija Kaprosy, Jordan Ulrich, Lilli Schmitt

Fifth row: Sloane Udvare, Riley Zerbib, Gabby Russo, Santana Vasquez

Sixth row: Claire Meyers, Peyton Ranly, Sydney Pompay, Erin Seoane

Seventh row: Olivia Blanchard, Hazel Petersen, Mary Vanderwey, Mila Detmer, Dahlia Cheney

Eighth row: Lucy Labahn, Allison Weddell, London Maas, Emma Easton, Riley Tezanos

Ninth row: Mia Calihan, Lily Vranic, Sylvia Vercellino, Mia Steinmetz

Back row: Kate Williams, Ava Mansoor, Olivia Perry, Madison Lane, Charlotte Beabeau, Lili Vartughian



Biltmore Flower Girls From Left: Dahlia Cheney, Sylvia Vercellino, Sloane Udvare



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Labor Day Weekend Celebrations at W Scottsdale and The REMI

If you're looking for something to do this Labor Day weekend, W Scottsdale and The REMI have plenty of stylish options to help you make the most of the holiday. From rooftop cocktails and poolside lounging to elevated dining and lively nightlife, both destinations offer a fun way to celebrate the long weekend without leaving Scottsdale.

The REMI, Scottsdale, Autograph Collection - Above All at Allegra
September 4–7, 2026 | 10 a.m.–2 a.m.

The REMI, Scottsdale will host Above All at Allegra, a day-to-night Labor Day celebration at Allegra Rooftop Pool & Bar, Scottsdale's tallest rooftop pool. The 12th-floor rooftop will feature panoramic city views, live DJs, craft cocktails, poolside festivities, and Moroccan-inspired décor. Daytime passes start at \$50, with tables and private cabanas available for reservation. Hotel guests receive complimentary access to the Labor Day festivities.

W Scottsdale - Anchored at Cottontail Lounge
September 4–7, 2026 | Daytime + evening events

W Scottsdale is celebrating Labor Day weekend with "Anchored," a nautical-inspired poolside experience at Arizona's only chilled pool. The WET Deck will feature DJ-driven entertainment, handcrafted cocktails, VIP bottle service, and a full weekend of themed experiences inspired by Cottontail Lounge's coastal-chic vibe, including Permission to Board on Friday, White Heat on Saturday, Anchor Down on Sunday, and On Deck on Labor Day Monday.

Guests can also participate in the Labor Day Passport Challenge for a chance to win a two-night stay at W Scottsdale, an Aescape massage at AWAY Spa, and a hosted table at Cottontail Lounge. Day passes are available Friday through Sunday, starting at \$50, with VIP tables, cabanas, and additional experiences available. ❖





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~ Real Estate Update ~

Fall Trends In Phoenix Housing

By Debbie Frazelle, Coldwell Banker Realty



If you're looking at Fall 2026 in Phoenix, the big story is that the market is becoming more buyer-friendly, but not collapsing.

Phoenix housing trends to watch this fall

- More negotiating power for buyers. Phoenix has seen significant price reductions, with Realtor.com reporting a median list price around \$490K in June, down 5.9% year over year. Nearly 29% of listings had a price reduction.
- Inventory is improving. Phoenix REALTORS® currently reports roughly 22,000 homes in inventory, with an average of 79 days on market and a median residential sales price around \$487,000.
- Homes are taking longer to sell. Metro-level data shows about 51 days on market, up roughly 11 days from a year earlier.
- Mortgage rates remain the wild card. Rates are around 6.7%, which continues to constrain affordability and keeps some would-be sellers from moving. Nationally, July existing-home sales fell 1.7%, with higher rates cited as a major factor.
- Well-priced homes should still move. Phoenix isn't an across-the-board distressed market. Desirable homes that are updated, appropriately priced, and in strong locations can still attract buyers; over-priced homes are much more likely to sit and require reductions.
- Fall may bring better opportunities. As the summer heat fades, buyer activity typically improves, but sellers who haven't moved their homes may become increasingly motivated. That can create opportunities for buyers willing to negotiate on price, closing costs, repairs, or rate buydowns.

What I'd expect September–November

Buyers: Probably the best negotiating environment Phoenix has offered in several years. I'd focus less on getting a huge headline price reduction and more on the total deal, seller concessions, repairs and mortgage-rate buydowns.

Sellers: Pricing correctly from the beginning will matter enormously. The days of testing the market with an aspirational price are much riskier.

Luxury / move-up market: This could behave differently from the entry-level market, particularly in areas such as Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, Arcadia and North Scottsdale.

If you're thinking about selling a Phoenix-area home this fall, I can also break down the best month to list, likely pricing strategy, and what buyers will be looking for in Fall 2026. Give me a call, text me, or email me. Debbie Frazelle 602-399-8540, Debbie@DebbieFrazelle.com. ❖

Statistics from July 15th to August 14th, 2026

Homes for Sale	36	Homes Sold/Closed	7
Home Sales Pending	6	Rentals Furnished	7
Rentals Unfurnished	3		

For Sale

Biltmore Villa	1	\$1,250,000
Cloister	3	\$315,000-\$380,000
Colony	4	\$1,000,000-\$1,950,000
Courts	3	\$595,000-\$799,900
Fairway Lodge	1	\$1,450,000
Greens	4	\$1,690,000-\$2,695,000
Hillside Villas	2	\$2,195,000-\$2,750,000
Meridian	6	\$324,900-\$520,000
Square	2	\$1,329,000-\$1,549,000
Shores	2	\$1,325,000-\$1,350,000
Taliverde	2	\$1,899,000-\$2,795,000
Terraces	6	\$274,000-\$440,000

Pending Sales

Biltmore Hotel Villas Condo	1	Cloisters	2
Fairway	1	Hillside Villas	2
Estates	1		

Closed Sales

Courts	1	Hillside Villas	1
Meridian	1	Taliverde	1
Terrace	1	Two Biltmore Estates	1
Village on the Lakes	1		



Spence-Chapin Expands Arizona Presence Meeting Maternal, Adoption and Family Support Services

Spence-Chapin Services to Families and Children is expanding its presence in Arizona with offices in Phoenix and Tucson, increasing access to adoption services and lifelong support for birth and expectant parents, adoptive families and children. Through its Arizona offices, the nonprofit is committed to building meaningful partnerships with local organizations while helping families navigate every stage of the adoption journey.

For more than 115 years, Spence-Chapin has helped children find loving, permanent families and today provides adoption and family support services throughout the United States and internationally.

Since establishing its Arizona operations, Spence-Chapin has built partnerships with hospitals, behavioral health providers and family-serving organizations across the state while already helping local families navigate counseling, adoption planning and placement services, including facilitating its first Arizona adoption placements.

A hallmark of Spence-Chapin's approach is its commitment to removing barriers through a transparent flat-fee adoption model, which helps families better understand and plan for adoption costs, along with guidance before, during and after placement.

The organization provides comprehensive domestic adoption services, including its longstanding nationwide Special Needs Adoption Program, the only program of its kind in the country, which supports expectant parents who receive an unanticipated diagnosis or experience a complication during pregnancy or after birth. The program connects infants and children who have a wide range of medical and developmental needs, including those resulting from prenatal substance exposure, with permanent, loving families while waiving all professional placement fees. Since the program's inception in 1995, Spence-Chapin has placed over 550 medically fragile children with their forever families.

Spence-Chapin provides free, confidential and nonjudgmental counseling for new and expectant parents, regardless of circumstance or immigration status. The organization connects women experiencing unplanned pregnancies and crisis situations to housing, healthcare, legal and community resources and provides financial assistance for pregnancy-related expenses as permitted by state law. They also offer temporary newborn respite care through its Interim Care Program, which provides short-term care for infants while birth parents maintain their parental rights, allowing them additional time to consider their options. The organization also provides domestic and international home study and comprehensive post-placement services.

Beyond its domestic adoption programs, Spence-Chapin's global impact extends through its International Adoption Programs, which connect children from South Africa, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica and the Eastern Caribbean with loving families across the United States. The organization's humanitarian initiatives also include the Granny Program, which benefits more than 500 children living in orphanages in Colombia, South Africa and Ghana each year. The program trains and matches "Grannies," caregivers from local communities, with children in institutional care to provide consistent one-on-one nurturing and support, helping them reach developmental milestones, and thrive.

For more information about Spence-Chapin's Arizona services, visit www.spence-chapin.org/arizona or call (480) 207-5050. ❖

Porta Via Announces First Out-Of-State Restaurant At Scottsdale Fashion Square

Beloved California Restaurant to Open Its Fifth Location in Early 2027

Porta Via, the beloved family of Southern California restaurants known for its seasonal California cuisine, warm hospitality and neighborhood atmosphere, recently announced plans to open its first restaurant outside California in early 2027 at Scottsdale Fashion Square, one of the nation's premier luxury shopping and lifestyle destinations.

The Scottsdale restaurant marks the fifth location for Porta Via, joining Beverly Hills, Calabasas, Pacific Palisades and Palm Desert. Since opening as a four-table neighborhood bistro and deli counter on Canon Drive in Beverly Hills in 1994, the company has expanded thoughtfully, selecting each new location based on one guiding principle: creating restaurants that become part of the communities they serve.

"Porta Via Scottsdale represents an exciting new chapter for our company," said founder and owner Peter Garland. "We've always grown thoughtfully rather than quickly. Every location we've opened has been chosen because we believed it could become a true neighborhood restaurant. Scottsdale has been on our radar for many years. It's a welcoming, generous and dynamic community with an appreciation for exceptional hospitality, great food and an active lifestyle, all qualities that align naturally with the Porta Via brand. We couldn't imagine a better place for our first restaurant outside California."

Located near the Grand Luxe Valet entrance to Scottsdale Fashion Square's West Luxury Wing in the former Zinque space, the approximately 6,300-square-foot restaurant will feature a spacious dining room, an inviting bar and outdoor patio seating. While each Porta Via location reflects the character of its surrounding community, the Scottsdale restaurant will embrace the warmth and colors of the desert Southwest while remaining true to the clean, timeless California aesthetic that defines the brand.

Porta Via will serve lunch and dinner daily, along with its popular weekend brunch. Guests can expect many of the restaurant's signature dishes alongside seasonal features, an approachable wine list, handcrafted cocktails, premium coffee service and the warm hospitality that has defined the company for more than three decades. More than serving exceptional food, Porta Via has built its reputation on creating neighborhood restaurants where guests feel welcomed, recognized and at home. That philosophy continues to guide every new location.

The Scottsdale announcement comes during one of the most meaningful periods in the company's history. Following the devastating Southern California fires, Porta Via is preparing to reopen its Pacific Palisades restaurant this month while also completing its new flagship Beverly Hills location, scheduled to open this fall.

"After an extraordinarily challenging year, reopening our Pacific Palisades restaurant, preparing to welcome guests to our new flagship Beverly Hills location, and now announcing Scottsdale makes this one of the most meaningful moments in our company's history," Garland said. "At Porta Via, we've always believed restaurants are about more than great food, they're about making people feel at home. That's exactly what we hope to bring to Scottsdale."

Scottsdale Fashion Square also welcomed the announcement. "We continue to refine the culinary offering at Scottsdale Fashion Square to create elevated and engaging experiences for shoppers," said Cameron Done, Vice President of Leasing for owner-operator Macerich. "We're thrilled to introduce the first-to-market Porta Via concept to guests who are sure to embrace the inviting, neighborly dining spaces and a menu that features premium organic ingredients served in world-class style." ❖



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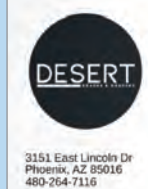
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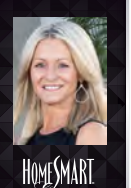


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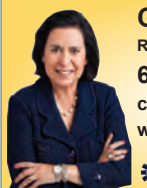
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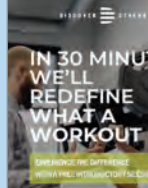
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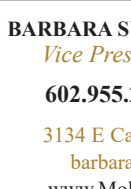
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Loewe Opens New Store at Scottsdale Fashion Square

LOEWE announces the opening of its new store in Scottsdale. Set against the desert light of the Sonoran landscape, the store presents a full offer of men's and women's ready-to-wear, bags, small leather goods, shoes, eyewear, belts, hats and caps, and home scents, introducing the full LOEWE collections to this growing hub of contemporary luxury in the American Southwest.

Conceived within the CASA LOEWE concept, the store takes design cues from the Arizona terrain. Handcrafted ceramic tiles in green, light brown, and blue tones mark out different areas of the interior, while recalling desert sands, skies, and vegetation. Rugs by textile graphic artist and designer John Allen, who has a long-standing engagement with the House, pick up on a similar palette with vivid landscape designs in shades of yellow, green, ochre, and blue.

Cultural dialogue has long shaped LOEWE's approach to retail space, and at LOEWE Scottsdale, the House's products are placed in dialogue with pieces of art, craft, and design. British artist Anthea Hamilton opens the sequence with *Spiral Staircase* (2016/2023), a large-scale mixed-media sculpture that takes a familiar travelling object and twists it into something playful and elusive, caught between function and invention. Further into the store space, Indian painter Mahesh Baliga's *London Zoo* (2022) holds a stiller register: a scene rendered in casein on board, poised somewhere between memory and observation, with the soft, unresolved quality of a half-remembered dream. Nearby, a graphite and coloured pencil study by American ceramicist Ken Price, *Study for Vases* (1975), captures the artist mid-thought, a working sketch that reveals, in a few economical lines, the wit and precision that defined his approach to form. The sequence closes with South African artist Hylton Nel's *Made in Calitzdorp* (2024), a set of six glazed ceramic works featuring cats, rendered with the warmth and light-handed humour that runs through Nel's practice.

Furniture throughout the space is curated with the same care: an Utrecht armchair by Gerrit Thomas Rietveld, born of the European De Stijl movement; Martini tables, newly produced in black iron and named after the drink they once accompanied in 1950s Spain; and a Nakashima Mira chair, named for George Nakashima's daughter and carrying forward his lifelong dialogue between natural material and considered form. A leather Puffer bench, handcrafted in Spain, brings a further layer of warmth and comfort to the room, set alongside wooden surfaces and a variety of marbles.

Together, these elements shape a LOEWE environment attuned to its setting – warm, tactile and precise – where art, craft and design converge. ❖



Photos by Kevin Brost



Stockton (L) and Steven (R) Schultz

Biltmore Financial Team Recognized Top 250 Private Wealth Management Teams

UBS recently announced that The Schultz Group in Phoenix has been named to the *Barron's* Top 250 Private Wealth Management Teams list for 2026, marking the second year that the team has been the only Phoenix-based team on the list.

"Congratulations to The Schultz Group for once again being recognized on the *Barron's* Top 250 Private Wealth Management Teams list. Steve, Stockton and their team are committed to building lasting relationships with high-net-worth individuals and families to help them navigate an increasingly complex financial landscape and achieve their financial goals," said UBS Market Executive Justin Frame.

With over \$3 billion in assets under management and 45 years of experience, The Schultz Group includes father/son wealth advisors Steven L. Schultz and Stockton M. Schultz, and financial advisor Justin M. Low. Steven Schultz, a financial advisor since 1981 and a portfolio manager since 2000, leads the team, working closely with clients on funding, charitable giving strategies, and long-term wealth planning to guide them through important financial decisions beyond investing.

Steven is FINRA-registered and holds Series 7 and 63 securities licenses and life insurance and annuities licenses. In 2026, he was also recognized in *Barron's* Top 1,500 Financial Advisors; *Forbes* America's Top Wealth Advisors; and *Forbes* Best-in-State Wealth Advisors.

Stockton Schultz has 15+ years of wealth management experience and holds the UBS Athletes and Entertainers Consultant designation. In 2026, he was also recognized on the *Forbes* Best-in-State Wealth Advisors list and *Barron's* Top 1,500 Financial Advisors.

Justin Low has been devoted to providing exceptional value to clients since 2008. In 2026, he was also included in the *Forbes* Best-in-State Wealth Advisors list.

The Schultz Group also includes Team Business Manager Merica Chmait; Senior Wealth Strategy Associates Kristine Forster, Nathan Laidig, Mia McConnell, and Lovella McKim; Client Associates Callie Jones, Sarah Dommin, Matt Moscatello, and Abigail Coe; and Team Events Specialist Samantha Maxwell.

The Schultz Group was also named to the *Forbes* Best-in-State Wealth Management Teams list in 2026.

The 2026 Top 250 Private Wealth Management Teams annual ranking spotlight the nation's best wealth managers and raise standards in the industry. Teams are ranked on a variety of factors, including size and shape, regulatory records and credentials of members, and resources they have at their disposal to serve their client bases.

UBS is a leading and truly global wealth manager and the leading universal bank in Switzerland. It also provides diversified asset management solutions and focused investment banking capabilities. UBS manages 7.3 trillion dollars of invested assets as per the second quarter 2026. ❖

The New Luxury: Why Longevity and Peptides Are Replacing Quick Fixes

By: Holly Mueller

If you spend any time talking skincare and wellness in the Valley, you've likely noticed a shift in how we approach aesthetics. People are moving away from temporary quick fixes and investing in holistic health, focusing on treatments that support the body's natural repair and renewal processes. At the center of this evolution are peptides and regenerative treatments. As a Cosmetic Nurse and Founder of Med 44 Arcadia, I see this shift every day, and this movement drives my practice. My approach is centered on improving skin quality, collagen production, inflammation, and overall tissue health from the inside out.

The Peptide Boom: What Are They, and Why Does Everyone Want Them?

Lately, it seems like everyone is talking about peptides, and for good reason. Despite the hype, there are still misconceptions, and many people still don't know exactly what they are.

Simply put, peptides are short chains of amino acids that act as signaling molecules in the body. They essentially "tell" cells how to behave. There is a wide range of peptides, each supporting different functions including stimulating collagen production, supporting tissue repair, reducing inflammation, improving skin quality and more.

I always stress to my patients how important it is to use peptides intentionally. Because they've gotten so trendy, people are increasingly buying them online, but peptides are not a one-size-fits-all. Every treatment should be customized based on a patient's individual goals, whether that's skin health, recovery, or overall wellness. There should always be a thoughtful discussion beforehand to ensure they're right for you.

At Med 44, we focus on peptides that support both aesthetic outcomes and internal wellness, tailored to each patient's unique profile. Some of the most commonly used peptides we see include:

- *Sermorelin* – Supports the body's natural growth hormone signaling, helping with recovery, sleep, energy, and body composition
- *Tesamorelin* – Often used for patients focused on abdominal fat reduction and metabolic support
- *Glow Blend (GHK-Cu, BPC-157, TB-500)* – A customized regenerative blend designed to support collagen production, improve skin texture, accelerate healing, and enhance overall radiance

The Power of Regenerative Aesthetics

Alongside peptides, regenerative treatments are redefining how we approach aesthetics. These treatments are designed to stimulate the body's natural healing response. Instead of covering up a concern, we're improving how the tissue actually functions and regenerates. For example, treatments like microneedling create controlled micro-injuries that trigger collagen remodeling. Others incorporate growth factors or polynucleotides to enhance repair, improve elasticity, increase hydration.

What to Know Before You Begin

Education is a huge part of what we do at Med 44, and we want patients to feel confident and informed. We always encourage patients to ask questions like: What is the treatment designed to improve? How many sessions are recommended? What is the downtime?

The ideal candidate for these treatments is someone looking for a more natural, long-term approach to skin, aging, or overall wellness, whether they're experiencing early signs of aging, poor skin quality, dullness, dehydration, acne scarring, inflammation, or changes in energy. We evaluate each patient individually to make sure they're a good fit and that the treatment aligns with their goals.

The Future of Aesthetics

People today want to invest in the health of their skin and their bodies, not just quick fixes. While social media has definitely helped bring awareness to these treatments, the real reason they continue to grow is because the results align with what patients actually want: longevity, prevention, and subtle, beautiful outcomes.

For more information or to schedule an appointment to create your own personalized treatment plan, visit www.med44arcadia.com. ❖

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