COLLEGE BASTERN ARIZONA COLLEGE

EAC Foundation Premiers "Hank's Place" Podcast

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The EAC Foundation Premiers Alumni-Focused Podcast

Hank's Place

A common refrain among EAC alumni is that there is something special about this community college that you just don't find in other similar institutions. traveling the state on tour, and how their beloved OLEO act, The Wheat and Lunt Korn Set, came to be. Listen in to hear remembrances of special moments associated with the always well attended Fall and Spring Sings and



When pressed on what exactly that something is, most individuals will respond with some variation of the belief that it is the people. It's the people that make EAC special. But that still begs the question:

"WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?"

This is precisely the question the new EAC Foundation podcast, Hank's Place, hopes to answer.

Hosted by the Foundation's director of development and alumni relations, Ryan Rapier (pictured above, right), each episode of Hank's Place will focus on a different aspect of the EAC experience spanning the last 40 years through today.

The premier episode features a conversation with Dr. David Lunt (pictured above, middle), the choral director at EAC from 1980 through 2001, and Lendon "Wheat" Whetten (pictured above, left), the technical director of the EAC Fine Arts Auditorium from 1982 through 2001. Over the course of two episodes, they share recollections of the program's early days, experiences the joys associated with making music in the unique setting provided by EAC.

We often hear from many former students who report that their years at EAC were among the best of their college career. A significant number of those students met their life partners at EA and maintain close friendships with people met here. The purpose of Hank's Place is to enter into those stories, share in the nostalgia, and rekindle those relationships between EAC and its vast host of alumni which now spreads across the country, and the world.

Additional episodes of Hank's Place will feature conversations with 30-year softball coach, Kate McCluskey (pictured below), and current EAC president, Todd Haynie.



Hank's Place will have a season run of eight episodes that appear weekly on gilavalleycentral.net beginning March 15th. Check out the EAC Foundation and Alumni Association Facebook page at facebook.com/ eacalumni.org for more Hank's Place updates.

Max and Clara Bennett Endowment Funds **NEW PRACTICE PIANOS**

Established at the EAC Foundation in 2017, the mission of the Max and Clara Curtis Bennett Endowment is to provide perpetual funds to the music department of Eastern Arizona College. In January 2021, the true value of those funds came to light in the form of four brand new Yamaha P22 pianos. These pianos were purchased to replace four practice pianos that had lasted beyond their useful years.

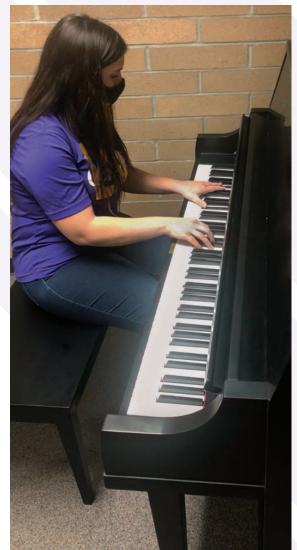
All music majors at EAC are required to pass four semesters of piano. Homework for these courses amounts to little more than a straight diet of practice, practice, and more practice, which is why these new Yamaha pianos are such a blessing to the program. Some of the pianos being replaced had been in commission for over 30 years. Most pianos are not designed to last that long under a consistent load of heavy use. However, the Yamaha P22 is designed for exactly that.

According to Geoff DeSpain, EAC Fine Arts division chair, "These pianos are so well built and have such an incredible touch, along with a gorgeous tone, our students will be able to utilize them for decades to come."

The purchase of instruments like this would not have been possible without funds provided from the Max and Clara Curtis Bennett Endowment. Each piano came at a cost of approximately \$5,500, for a total cost of \$22,000. Finding that amount of money in a normal music department capital budget is just not realistic.

"We appreciate this incredible donation. When deciding how to utilize these funds, we approached the process with the utmost seriousness because we understand how blessed we are to have them," DeSpain said.

"THESE INSTRUMENTS WILL BE SUCH A BLESSING TO OUR STUDENTS FOR A LONG TIME."



MauraShumway, daughterofLaura (Webb)Shumway, '89, and RaymondShumway, '89, practices on a new Yamaha P22.

INAUGURAL EAC FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENTS

- October 30, 2021 at Mt. Graham Golf Club in Thatcher, Ariz.
- April 30, 2022 at the Arizona Biltmore Golf Club in Phoenix, Ariz.

Tourneys wil use a four-person team scramble format. All funds raised will support the EAC Foundation Emergency Student Fund. For more information or to register, contact Ryan Rapier at ryan.rapier@eac.edu or (928) 428-8295.

Recurring Donations THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Grace Haller, a freshman, loves attending EAC. She is doing so with the assistance of the EAC Alumni Association Scholarship, offered through the EAC Foundation. The Alumni Association Scholarship is made possible thanks to a number of individual donations that, on their own, might seem insignificant. However, as Grace prepares to finish her second semester at EAC, it might be best to let her describe why each of these unique donations is proving invaluable.

"I'm Grace Haller. I am studying generals at EAC, and plan to major in Elementary Education. EAC has been a great experience. The classes and faculty are phenomenal. Not only have I gained more knowledge, but the classes have stretched and improved me as an individual. The teachers are more than great to help outside of the classroom during their hours/appointments. They office definitely care about the success of each student, and I am grateful for their help. The counselors and other staff have been amazing in helping me get the best possible education, as well. Additionally, I have met awesome people, who are now friends,

"I love EAC and I am grateful for a positive environment that gives me confidence that I am receiving a great education."

It is our hope that as you read about Grace's experience you will be reminded of your own. Because we at the Foundation know that EAC is a unique and special place, we also hope that you would take this opportunity to consider establishing a recurring donation to help more students build memorable experiences of their own.

A recurring gift is a donation that is attached to your debit or credit card and is collected each month much like a Netflix or Disney+ subscription. The amount you give each month is your choice. There are no minimum or maximum amounts required. Furthermore, as a donor you will be recognized in future editions of this publication for the semi-annual sum of your donations. And lastly, you will help future Monsters create the same exciting and enduring memories that live in the hearts of EAC Alumni the world over.

To establish a recurring gift with the EAC Foundation, please visit our website at www.eacalumni.org/donate and select the option that requires you to enter the amount you wish to donate. Then, under Additional Information, select Recurring Gift and the date each month you would like your donation to be collected.



have confidence that I will

#MonsterScholarBecauseOfYou

EASTERN

receive my education

THE BENEFITS OF ESTABLISHING A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY THROUGH THE EAC FOUNDATION

- Donors can contribute cash or property to the Foundation, which then invests each gift and sends donors a fixed annuity payment for life. Income may be paid to one or two beneficiaries (annuitants).
- If you itemize on your tax returns, you may be able to claim an income tax donation.
- Gift annuities can be a good vehicle for making relatively small gifts with fixed payments that won't change as interest rates and stock prices fluctuate.

For more information on the benefits of establishing a charitable gift annuity through the EAC Foundation, contact your financial advisor or call the Foundation at 928-428-8295.

This information has been provided by **Tyson M. Richins**, AAMS, CRPC, with Edward Jones Investments. *Mr. Richins, '03*, is an alumnus of EAC and is a director on the EAC Foundation Board of Directors.

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EAC Foundation Donors

The Foundation appreciates the individuals and organizations listed below for helping us to continue making a difference in the lives of more than 100 students each year. The following donations were received between July 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020. Thank You!

Donors of \$100,000 or More Caris Charitable Trust

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MONSTERAlumnotes

MARLEN "DEE" WILKINS, '00

The road to conducting on a grand stage in New York City has been longer, and filled with more twists and turns, than Dee might have expected when he accepted an offer from Manhattan Concert Productions to conduct a performance at Carnegie Hall scheduled for 2020.

Due to the worldwide pandemic, both that offer and a subsequent offer had to be rescinded as COVID-19 restrictions forced

the closing of Carnegie Hall for a majority of 2020 and the entirety of 2021. However, a third offer has been extended to conduct a performance at the Lincoln Center, currently scheduled for April 2022, and all current trends suggest the third time will be a charm.

This invitation has been over 20 years in the making. Following his graduation from EAC, Dee and his wife, Leisel (Skinner) Wilkins, '99, moved to Flagstaff, where he graduated Cum Laude from Northern Arizona University with his Bachelor of Arts in Choral Music Education in 2002. In 2009, he completed his Master of Arts degree in Music Education, also from Northern Arizona University. During his time in Thatcher and Flagstaff, Dee worked



with a number of church choirs as the choral director and was invited to oversee musical development for the 24th of July Celebration Pageant that is still presented annually in Pima as part of the Gila Valley 24th of July festivities.

In 2011, Dee completed his Doctor of Arts degree in Choral Conducting with secondary emphasis in music education from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colo.

Professionally, Dee served as the Choir Director at Safford High School and Middle School from 2003 to 2008 and at Chino Valley High School from 2012 to 2016. From 2016 to 2020, Dee served as the Director of Vocal Activities and as an Associate Professor at Oklahoma Panhandle State University, in Goodwell, Okla. He also served in a number of conducting roles during his time at the University of Northern Colorado.

Dee and Leisel are the proud parents of 10 children and currently reside in Show Low, Ariz.



JACK WILSON, '48

Jack enjoys looking back at his experience at Gila Junior College. Playing on the football and basketball teams brought long, uncomfortable trips by school bus to St. George. Utah: Grand Junction, Colo.; El Paso, Texas: and locales across Ariz. He remembers sometimes being given a dollar bill for some of the travel meals. He was also the president and janitor of the dorm. He also sold and helped develop the sports programs distributed at the football and basketball games. Jack transferred to the

University of Arizona and then

Northern Arizona University. His first job was with Pima County (Ariz.) with the juvenile department where he handled all juvenile traffic tickets for Superior Court Judge Mercer Johnson.

He started teaching at Patagonia High School where he taught social studies and coached football, basketball, and track. During that time, he lived in Lochiel, Ariz., some 30 miles south of Patagonia. He drove the school bus back and forth for additional compensation. Later in his career he worked in other counties as a school administrator.

Jack and his wife Patricia have enjoyed their retirement in Green Valley.

TANJA (MAXWELL) ROMNEY, '92

For Tanja, the idea to run a marathon on every continent came as a result of her sister's passing from cancer in 2014.

"She was my gym buddy and best friend and without her there to push me, I needed motivation to go and work out and find the will to keep living with her gone."

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Within a few months, a Facebook ad for The Great Wall Marathon appeared on her timeline and an idea was born. "I decided running a

marathon on every continent would be the challenge I could use to motivate myself. I told my husband, [Davis Romney, '92], about my plan and he decided he wanted to join me." Since running The Great Wall

Marathon in May of 2015, Tanja and Davis have completed marathons in New Zealand, North America, and Europe. Of note, their European experience was a marathon in Athens, Greece, that follows the original route for which the 26.2 mile distance received its name. Africa was added to the list in 2020, but due to COVID-19, those plans have been temporarily postponed.

While all of their travels have been memorable, their initial experience in China stands out for several reasons. With the Great Wall's multitude of stairs and with temperatures exceeding 90 degrees, the marathon itself was the most challenging they have ever competed in. However, the relationships they established have been some of the most lasting.

"We traveled with a tour group and spent two weeks visiting Beijing, Xian, and Shanghai," Tanja shared. "The Chinese people were so excited to see Americans that they would frequently ask to take pictures with us. Our tour guide, Forrest (a name he had adopted from his favorite American movie, Forrest Gump), had never been a tour guide for a running group before and found the idea a bit crazy. However, several of us from our group stayed in touch with him and eventually ended up pitching in to fly him over to run a 5k with us in Wyoming."

Currently, Tanja has completed twelve marathons while Davis has completed five. Both are looking forward to getting back out and adding to those totals when the COVID-19 restrictions lift. The Romneys reside in Gilbert, where Davis is a respected M.D., specializing in radiation oncology.



MICHAEL BROWN, '18

After his graduation from Eastern Arizona College, Michael Brown was recruited to play **Division I football** for the West Virginia University Mountaineers. Upon his arrival in Morgantown, W. Va., **Michael** quickly earned a starting position on the

offensive line, primarily playing right guard.

Over the course of his career at WVU, the Mountaineers successfully completed three consecutive winning seasons, culminating with a win at the 2021 Liberty Bowl over the Black Knights of the United States Military Academy.

During his Division I football career, Michael has received several significant accolades including: Second Team All-Big 12 Conference Offensive Lineman, All-American Mentioned Big 12 OL, Academic All-Big 12, and Most Improved Offensive Player for WVU Football. Michael continues to train and was invited to compete earlier this year in the Grid Iron Bowl, held in Dallas, Texas, and also the Hula Bowl, held in Hawaii. Both of these events are designed to showcase the talents of exceptional college football players and are attended by a number of NFL scouts from across the league.

Michael credits his Eastern Arizona College football experience as a determining factor in his motivation and determination to compete in the NFL.

ALUMNOTES



LAURA (CARILLO) DORRELL, '02

Laura credits the Christian values her parents instilled in her from a young age as the trailhead for her life's direction. Besides teaching her the importance of faith, prayer, and the Bible, they also imparted to her the drive to care for others and to always show kindness. Those values are what lead Laura to first seek out a career in healthcare following her initial years at EAC in 1992-1994, and drove her to return for her nursing degree, which she completed in 2002.

Laura appreciated her first two years at Eastern Arizona College because she was able to attend on scholarship and it provided her first experience living away from home. She also came to appreciate the smaller class sizes and individual attention she received at EAC once she realized how easy it could be to get lost in the crowd at a larger university.

Having already attained her bachelor's degree in cellular and molecular biology and general biology at the University of Arizona in 1997, Laura continued on after nursing school and received her master's degree at the University of Arizona College of Nursing, majoring in clinical systems leadership. Looking back, she credits her choice to return to EAC and to become a nurse as the best career decision she ever made.

Beyond her educational degrees, Laura has been accepted as a Flinn-Brown Civic Leadership Academy Fellow and has served as the Eastern Arizona Health Education Center (EAHEC) chairperson. The Mission of EAHEC is to enhance access to quality healthcare, mainly primary and preventive care, by improving healthcare professionals' supply and distribution through academic-community partnerships in rural and urban, medically underserved areas. They encourage students to go into the health professions, which is essential in rural areas. Laura has also served on the United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties board

and the South Eastern Community Unique Services (SEACUS) board. In 2018, she was appointed to fill an unfinished term on the Arizona State Medical Board and has been nominated to fill her own seat beginning later this year.

Laura is also very civically driven. In 2016, she was elected to serve on the Clifton Town Council and currently serves as the vice mayor. This opportunity to serve in local government has been very rewarding as she has learned all that goes into getting things accomplished and having them run smoothly at a municipal level.

Recently, Laura was named chief nursing officer at Gila Health Resources in Morenci. She, along with Teri Andazola and Verinoca Babb, '92, were instrumental in the creation of the **Community Health Assistance Program** (CHAP), a nonprofit established in 2017 that helps patients who are unable to meet the monetary commitments of their medications or their prescribed healthcare visits. They also raise money to provide durable medical equipment to individuals who are unable to afford it on their own. Due to their tireless fundraising efforts, the CHAP organization has thus far never had to turn anyone away who has come to them in need.



Send your information to: Alumnotes - EAC Alumni Association 615 N. Stadium Ave. Thatcher, AZ 85552 or by e-mail at: *alumni@eac.edu*

A. BRUCE MAGYAR, '55, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Bruce received his bachelor's degree in biology/chemistry from Roanoke College, Salem, Va., in 1958. He received his executive fellow degree from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa. Following the completion of his education, Bruce worked for the Upjohn Company selling pharmaceuticals for 32 years in the areas of hospital sales, government sales and general sales. He became the general manager in the western division over 13 states and 63 cities, then became general manager in the southern division over 12 states and 150 cities. In 1983 he became regional manager of northern California and Hawaii over 16 cities. From 1985-1988 he was the director of field operations and over 30 states and 208 cities. From 1988-1990 he was the executive director of government and industry affairs responsible for all lobbying activity for Upjohn.

From 1990-2005 he was on the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary as a chief commercial fishing vessel examiner. He received a commendation for his role as senior commercial fishing vessel safety examiner during the events of September 11, 2001, and the following months. Bruce has been heavily involved in every community he has lived in from being on citizen advisory councils to being a hospital ambassador. In Nov. 2020 he was appointed to the Alaska Boating Safety Advisory Council. In Dec. 2020 Bruce was appointed to the State Board of Registration for Architects, Engineer and Land Surveyors.

Bruce has very fond memories of EAC. He was a young man from New Jersey who heard of this little junior college in Arizona. He and his brother, **Sarg**, '55 came to Thatcher, Ariz., to learn and have a lot of fun making memories.

JERRY SLIGHTOM, '70

Jerry is presently living in Portage, Mich. He graduated from Carlinville Community High School in Carlinville, Ill., in 1965 and joined the U.S. Navy. Jerry's active duty was from May 31, 1965 to Sept. 5, 1968, during which time he received training in special weapons (nuclear weapons), first at Great Lake Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, III., and then at Sandia Base, Albuquerque, N.M. Jerry was stationed in the Navy Unit at Clarksville Base, Fort Campbell, Tenn., and then stationed aboard the USS Yorktown (which is now a Naval Museum located at Patriots' Point. Charleston, S.C). During 1968, Jerry served in the Weapons Division aboard the USS Yorktown (CVS-10), as the ship was deployed off the coasts of North Korea and then North Vietnam.

Jerry heard about Eastern

Arizona College from a shipmate, **Troy Megason, '66**, who highly recommended attending there when he was discharged.

With the help of the GI Bill, Jerry attended Eastern for two years and then transferred to the University of Arizona where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry in 1972. After graduating, Jerry returned to III. where

he attended Southern Illinois University. Carbondale, III., and completed a Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 1975. He enjoyed research, and following graduation did postdoctoral research in the lab of Nobel laureate Dr. Oliver Smithies, Department of Genetics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis. While doing research in Dr. Smithies' lab, Dr. Slightom was the first to isolate a structural plant gene (seed storage protein gene, phaseolin) and as a result, was the first to determine that plant genes contain intervening sequences (introns). In addition, Dr. Slightom isolated some of the first human genes, including the two closely linked fetal globin genes which led to the discovery of the fetal globin gene conversion mechanism.

In 1981, Jerry joined one of the first plant biotechnology companies, Agrigenetics Advance Research, Madison, Wis., where he was co-inventor on a patent covering the use of Agrobacterium tumefaciens for the transfer of foreign genes into plants. In 1985, Jerry was invited to join The Upjohn Company, Kalamazoo, Mich., where he spent 18 years doing molecular biology research. While at Upjohn, Dr. Slightom established a plant antiviral program which resulted in the development of six commercial products. Most notably, Dr. Slightom was a co-developer of a virus resistant papaya cultivar. This invention saved the entire papava industry in the state of Hawaii. and Dr. Slightom was awarded (co-recipient) the 2002 Alexander von Humboldt Award, In

addition, Dr. Slightom was a co-director of the University of Michigan DNA Sequencing Core within Dr. Francis Collins NIH Human Genome Center (1990-1994) and he was also an adjunct professor in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Wayne State University, Medical School, Detroit, Mich., from 1985 to 2010.

After The Upjohn Company was subjected to multiple drug company mergers, Dr. Slightom and Dr. Ake Elhammer, in 2003, formed AureoGen Biosciences, Inc., in Kalamazoo, Mich. AureoGen's therapeutic focus is on antibiotics and the company's mission is to utilize state-of-the-art chemistry and genetic engineering methodologies to generate novel drug candidates from existing cyclic peptide templates. Many successful drugs are natural products or derivatives of natural products. In contrast to synthetic compounds, natural products are not generated by chemical synthesis but instead isolated from microorganisms, such as bacteria and fungi. The cyclic peptides constitute an important group of natural product compounds. Drugs such as vancomycin, daptomycin, caspofungin, cyclosporin, and bleomycin all belong to this group and their successes in the clinic demonstrate that cyclic peptides can be antibacterials and antifundals, as well as immunosuppressive and even cancer drugs. To date. Dr. Slightom's research has resulted in 181 published reviewed manuscripts and book chapters and 16 awarded U.S. Patents and numerous foreign patents. Dr. Slightom is a member of the Navy Nuclear Weapons Association and life member of the USS Yorktown Association.

ROMAN SALAZAR, '64, MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

Roman came to EAC from Bisbee High School with a group of friends. He enjoyed the many experiences of college life, which inspired him to continue his education. One memory he recalled was a single-day, 50-mile "Kennedy Hike" that 20-30 of the students made. They walked from Thatcher Campus to Geronimo, Ariz., and back to campus.

After graduating, Roman continued his education with a

Bachelor of Science in business education at Northern Arizona University in 1968. He then received a Master of Science in business education at Utah State University in 1969.

Mr. Salazar's first teaching experience was at Ceres High School, in Calif. He then taught at Cochise College for three years, and was the director of a consortium for bilingual secretarial education. He spent the remainder of his 52-year education career at Modesto Junior College where he served 13 years as dean of the Business Division.

Roman retired last year, but stays active as a gentleman rancher and running an almond orchard. He and his wife have two children. He enjoys running to stay active. One memorable run was a marathon two years ago in Rome with his children.



IN MEMORIAM

Gloria A Wood, '97 – November 12, 2019 Eugene Bingham, '48 – July 1, 2020 Francis J. Schofield, '77 – July 5, 2020 Gloria Ybarra Robertson, '13 – July 9, 2020 Reubin H. Matthews, '62 - July 10, 2020 Flossie Bluth Robinson, '35 - July 10, 2020 Kenneth Kempton, '54 – July 13, 2020 Maxene Richins Jones, '50 - July 13, 2020 Ginger Lee Wellbrook, '91 – July 26, 2020 Matthew C. Dunn, '53 – July 26, 2020 Karen Cheney Parker, '57 – July 27, 2020 Jessie Marie Formica, '44 – July 28, 2020 Encarnacion Radonich, '87 – July 29, 2020 R. Grant Howard, '52 – July 30, 2020 Leslie Hathaway, '90 – July 31, 2020 David Luzania, '80 - July 31, 2020 Wayne E. Nelson, '72 - July 31, 2020 LeRoy O. DeWitt, '58 – August 1, 2020 Lawrence "Larry" Blaskey, '81 - August 3, 2020 Robin C. Smith, '68 – August 3, 2020 Kenneth D. York, '67 – August 6, 2020 Fred G. Burrell, '52 – August 9, 2020 Lavell A. Walker, '46 - August 10, 2020 Darrell B. Densmore, '64 - August 11, 2020 Marissa Kramer, '14 – August 12, 2020 Jaime Maldonado Sr., '76 – August 13, 2020 Thomas W. Biggs,'41 - August 14, 2020 Michael R. Squire, '59 - August 20, 2020 Molli Reidhead Haught, '84 – August 25, 2020 Russell K. McBride, '73 – August 26, 2020 Merilyn Brown Dewey, '92 - August 27, 2020 Nicholas J. Arevalo, '10 – September 1, 2020 E. Charles Richardson, '68 – September 3, 2020 Edna Charlene Harris, '91 – September 8, 2020 Elmer Lamson, '03 – September 10, 2020 JoAnn Marie Thompson, '82 – September 10, 2020 Paul Kindelay, '08 – September 16, 2020 Robert "Bob" Johnson, '73 - September 21, 2020 James I. Grider, '77 – September 25, 2020 Lorenz H. Pechuli, '92 – September 28, 2020 Denise Hawkins, '03 - September 29, 2020 Alfonzo C. Tuttle, '17 – September 30, 2020 Manuel R. Montez, '73 – October 2, 2020 Karen Sue Hale, '89 - October 3, 2020 Juanita Jean Malone, '87 – October 5, 2020 Lisa Dawn Taylor, '96 - October 5, 2020 SaraLyn Wesley Hooke, '86 – October 6, 2020 C. Scott Callison, '91 – October 6, 2020 John L. Richardson, '70 – October 7, 2020 Bobby Joe Wood, '73 – October 7, 2020 Richard K. Foote, '49 – October 8, 2020

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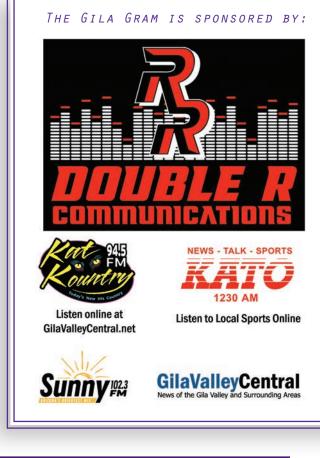
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