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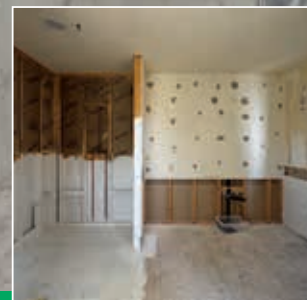
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Noah's Table

Power Team:
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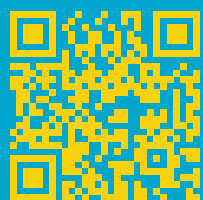
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Noah's Table



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A Note from the GAAR President

BY CHRIS SHAIN TANNER

In the dynamic world of real estate, accurate information is paramount for making informed decisions. Recent reports have highlighted discrepancies in housing market statistics, underscoring the need for reliable data sources. For instance, a claim that 71% of homes in Albuquerque were purchased with cash in October 2024 has been identified as inaccurate. Such misrepresentations can mislead both professionals and clients, emphasizing the importance of consulting trustworthy sources.

The Role of GAAR, NMAR, and NAR in Providing Accurate Data

The Greater Albuquerque Association of REALTORS® (GAAR), the New Mexico Association of REALTORS® (NMAR), and the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) are dedicated to delivering precise and up-to-date market statistics. GAAR, for example, publishes detailed monthly, quarterly, and annual reports, offering insights into local market trends. These reports are invaluable for REALTORS® and clients seeking to understand the Albuquerque housing landscape.

Similarly, NAR provides comprehensive national data, including existing home sales, pending home sales, and housing affordability indices. By leveraging these resources, real estate professionals can offer clients accurate information, fostering trust and informed decision-making.

Welcoming GAAR's New CEO, Ryan Swinney

We are pleased to announce that Ryan Swinney assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer at GAAR in February 2025.

With over two decades of experience in the real estate industry, Ryan has a proven track record of

leadership and a commitment to advancing the profession. His expertise will be instrumental in guiding GAAR's mission to provide accurate data and support to its members.

Encouraging REALTOR® Participation in RPAC and Leadership Roles

We encourage all members, especially top producers, to invest in the REALTORS® Political Action Committee (RPAC) and pursue leadership opportunities. RPAC plays a crucial role in promoting the election of pro-REALTOR® candidates across the United States, ensuring that the interests of real estate professionals are represented in policy decisions.

By involving themselves in leadership, REALTORS® can contribute their experience and expertise to shape the industry's future. Active participation not only aids in personal and professional growth but also strengthens the collective voice of REALTORS® in legislative and regulatory matters.

Conclusion

In an era where misinformation can easily spread, real estate professionals need to rely on accurate and reputable sources. By utilizing the resources provided by GAAR, NMAR, and NAR, and engaging in leadership and advocacy through RPAC, REALTORS® can uphold the profession's integrity and better serve their clients.



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NOAH'S TABLE

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Serving Up Fresh, Flavorful, & Unforgettable Dining Experiences

BY BETH MCCABE
PHOTOS BY PONIC PHOTOGRAPHY

Fresh. Flavorful. Fantastic. If you're looking for food from scratch that will elevate your taste buds to the next level, check out Noah's Table. Noah and Stef Scanland, a husband-and-wife couple, have found the recipe to please people's palates here in New Mexico. They launched their business during COVID-19, much to the delight of locals.

"My wife does all the hard work, and I just cook the food," says Noah. He's a master of his craft, starting from his early days as a child in the kitchen. He learned to cook with trusted and true family recipes from the Scanland family cookbook. Noah soon discovered he had culinary skills in the kitchen.

"I've been getting paid to cook since high school." Noah's mother always wanted to start a catering business, and Noah took that dream and made it a reality. Now Noah's mother is a huge piece of the business, helping with big events when available.

Interestingly, being a chef wasn't Noah's initial plan.

"I wanted to be in law enforcement," he comments, "but this is a better plan."

During the pandemic, when dining out was no longer an option, Noah stepped up to help friends celebrate in style—safely and with outstanding food. His skills quickly caught the attention of Albuquerque locals, and soon Noah's Table was born.



"We focus on the quality of the ingredients. I'd rather serve great food that's approachable and full of flavor than charge for Instagram-worthy plating."

A White-Glove Culinary Experience

What sets Noah's Table apart? It's fresh, high-quality ingredients and a personalized, on-site cooking experience. Unlike traditional catering companies that deliver pre-made dishes, Noah and Stef ensure every dish is prepared fresh at the event.

"We create custom menus for our clients," says Stef. "Noah loves crafting meals tailored to each event, whether it's smoked meats, Cajun-inspired seafood, or Asian-style dishes." Their mobile kitchen—a custom trailer equipped with grills, smokers, and a griddle—brings the flavor right to the party, offering an authentic "farm-to-table" feel.

From small, intimate gatherings to grand events for hundreds of guests, Noah's Table handles it all. "We want to take the stress out of hosting," Stef adds. "We don't just cook—we handle setup, create beautiful buffet presentations, and take care of all the cleanup."

Mouth-Watering Favorites

Noah's signature dishes include smoked tri-tip—a Southern California specialty—and a Cajun crawfish dip that has become a fan favorite. "Nobody else in Albuquerque does it like this," Noah notes. Whether it's a backyard wedding, a corporate event, or a birthday bash, their homestyle cooking always leaves a lasting impression.

"We focus on the quality of the ingredients," says Noah. "I'd rather serve great food that's approachable and full of flavor than charge for Instagram-worthy plating." This philosophy has earned Noah's Table rave reviews and a spot in Albuquerque's "Top 5 Caterers" for the past two years.

A True Team Effort

While Noah takes charge in the kitchen, Stef works behind the scenes, handling marketing, client communication, and event planning. "It's definitely a team effort," she says. Their seventeen-year-

“Nobody else in Albuquerque does it like this.”



CONTACT US!

For more information, check out msha.ke/noahstable, follow them on Instagram @ [noahs_table505](https://www.instagram.com/noahs_table505), or call (505) 803-8827.

old son is also a big help in the kitchen as a second pair of hands and with setup and clean up. Together, they ensure every event is unforgettable.

Noah's Table has even partnered with local REALTORS® to provide catering for open houses and client appreciation events, using the enticing aroma of freshly cooked food to create a welcoming atmosphere.

When not working, both Stef and Noah are committed to the community. Noah coaches their middle son's Little League team. "I've been coaching for a very long time," he shares. Stef adds, "This last year, he took the 10U team and made it to All-Star. It was the first time that this age group made it there!" She couldn't be prouder of his coaching efforts.

Being entrepreneurs gives them the opportunity for work-life balance as parents to three sons. Stef, whose

background is in human resources, wears many hats. Besides working full-time as an HR manager for a local cybersecurity company, she works part-time with Noah's Table.

When Love Meets Flavor

From intimate dinners for two to gatherings of hundreds, Noah and Stef bring passion, creativity, and a personal touch to every event. They customize every event for their clients. "If you want something different, just let us know," says Stef. They will make it happen.

So, if you're craving fresh, flavorful, and downright fantastic food, Noah's Table is the answer. Whether smoked meats hot off the grill or a customized menu to match your event's theme, Noah and Stef will leave your guests talking about the food long after the party ends. Ready to elevate your next event? Book a call with Noah's Table and let them turn your vision into a flavorful reality!

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BY BETH MCCABE • PHOTOS BY LIZ LOPEZ

When moments mattered, Chad Akenhead answered the call to serve. As a firefighter, he has extinguished blazing fires, responded to medical emergencies, and rescued people in danger. “I showed up on the worst day of their lives,” he comments.

Although he loved helping others, when his family grew, his priorities shifted. “When I was 22, firefighting was fantastic. It was a great job, but it’s a young person’s job,” Chad says. “As I got older, I needed a different work-

life balance. Real estate was more conducive to that.”

After 12 years as a firefighter, Chad switched careers. The demanding schedule—sometimes being away for 96 hours—became harder. He wanted to be home more for his daughter and wife, Dana.

Chad never envisioned himself as a business owner. “Growing up, I thought I’d be a professional baseball player, a cop, a firefighter, or a soldier,” he says. “I never considered being self-employed.” But looking

back, he realizes he’s always a problem solver. “I’ve always had that energy.” He transferred his skillset to real estate.

“Real estate is all a relationship business. The knack I had of creating relationships and providing safety to others is embedded in who I am,” says Chad. Dana, an Army brat, also always enjoyed connecting with people.

“Since I was a child, I loved meeting new people, learning about their lives, and traveling. Real estate

lets me combine that with helping others find a place to call home,” she says. With a background in Montessori teaching and a degree in psychology, she brings a unique perspective to real estate. “I used to be painfully shy, but real estate forced me out of my bubble. It’s about asking the right questions and understanding what people really need.”

Building a Business Together

Chad got his real estate license in 2017 after buying and selling homes of his own. “I didn’t know anything about

the process, but we had a great broker who made a big impression on me,” he says. Initially, he worked in real estate on his days off from the fire department. “I never thought I’d leave public safety,” he admits. But after losing money his first year in real estate, he reconsidered. “I told myself, ‘If I make this much money for three consecutive years, I’ll leave the fire department.’”

That’s when Dana stepped in. “Chad needed help, and with two young daughters, a traditional 9-to-5 job wasn’t an option,” she says. By working together, they found a balance—one of them was always home with the kids. “Sometimes our kids even join us when showing homes,” Dana laughs.

Adapting to a new career came with challenges. “Real estate isn’t as easy as it looks,” Chad says. Dana also had to find her place in the business. “At first, I wanted to do everything, but Chad likes things done a certain way,” she jokes. Over time, they learned to complement each other’s strengths—Chad as the negotiator and logistics expert, Dana as the connector and relationship builder.

For Chad, real estate offered something the fire department couldn’t—control over his own time. “In public safety, you get paid no matter what. In real estate, you eat what you kill.” That’s the biggest motivator to succeed.

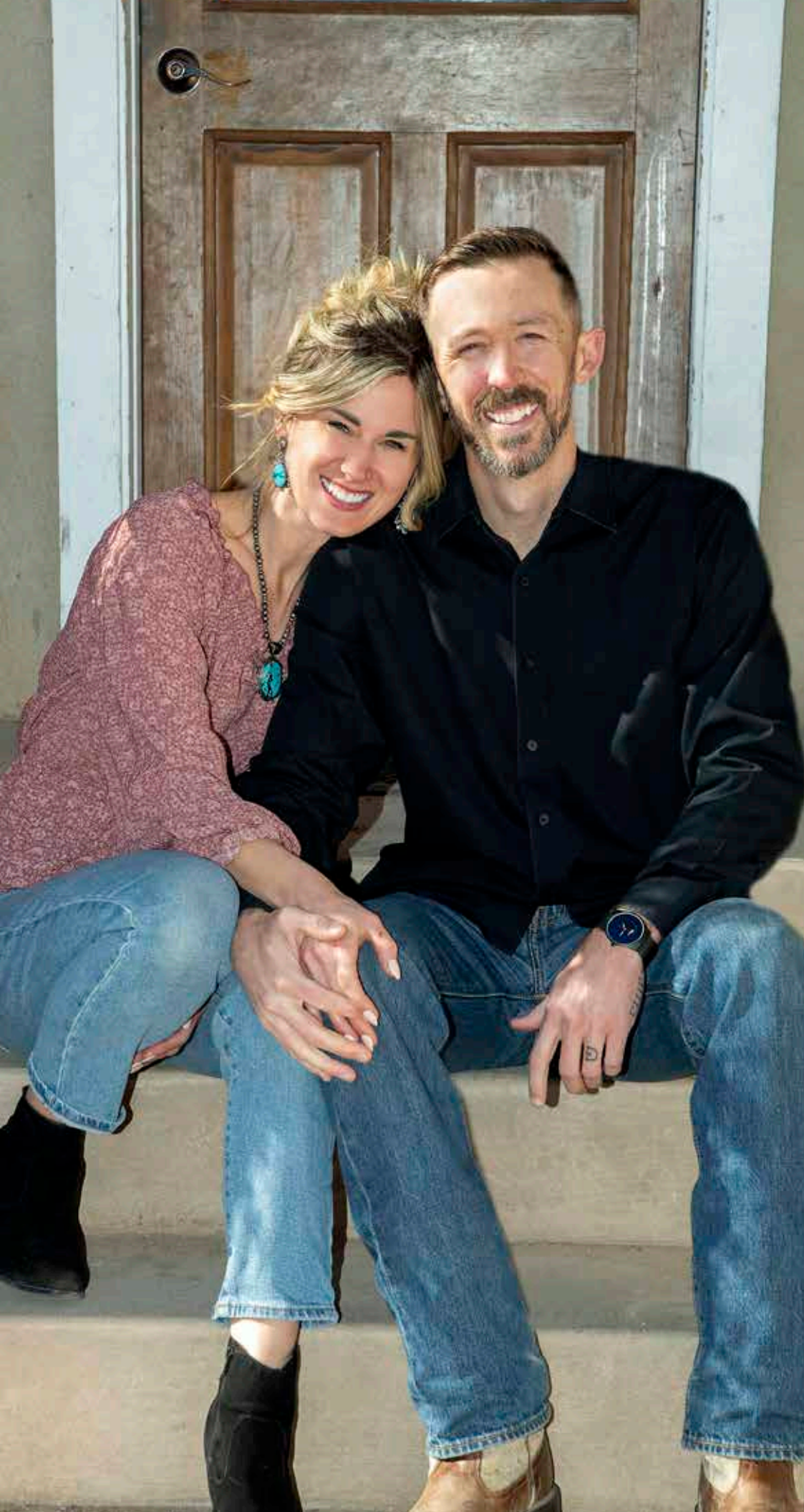
Personal Pastimes

Success, for the Akenheads, is about family, freedom, and being present. “I want to be home, to see my kids every day, and to be there for them,” Chad says. “I just

“

Real estate is all a relationship business. The knack I had of creating relationships and providing safety to others is embedded in who I am.”





want my kids to love me.” He and Dana are blessed with two daughters, Darcy (7) and Ellie (6).

When they’re not working, Chad enjoys the outdoors—fly fishing, hunting, and metal detecting. “That’s how I proposed to Dana,” he shares. “I buried a ring on a beach in Galveston and had to steer her in the right direction to dig it up.”

Recently, Chad rekindled an old hobby—breeding reptiles. “I’ve always loved reptiles,” he says. “It’s something I do for fun.” Darcy, a firecracker, loves working with Chad with the reptiles and getting her hands dirty. Ellie, however, would prefer makeup, dresses, and fashion.

One fun fact about the Akenheads is that they own an ice cream truck, which they use in the summertime. “We love going to events and meeting new people,” smiles Dana. She and Chad also like being a part of cornhole clubs.

Final Thoughts

Chad and Dana are a dynamic duo, making a name for themselves in local real estate. “We are built as entrepreneurs,” says Dana. She jokes, “It took me 30 years to figure that out.” Now she and Chad are thriving, living their best lives helping others. They can’t imagine doing anything else!

“
We are built as entrepreneurs.
It took me 30 years to figure that out.”

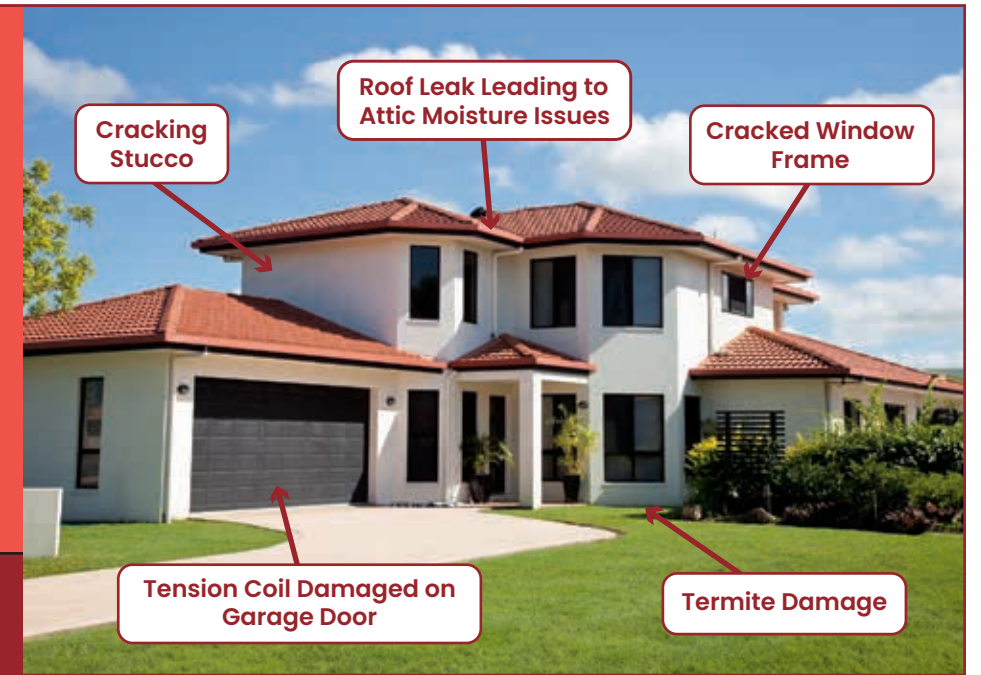
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“Being nice is in the moment; being kind is who you are.”

THE ART OF *Balance*

BY BETH MCCABE
PHOTOS BY LIZ LOPEZ



Jenny Thai

Keller Williams

“My why is definitely my family,” smiles REALTOR® Jenny Thai. “I love them so much. My family has made me who I am today with their love and support.” Her two children, Kingston (14) and Brooklyn (11), drive her passion for real estate.

A Strong Foundation

Born in California, Jenny moved to her current hometown when she was just two years old and has lived there ever since. Growing up in a close-knit family, she describes her childhood as safe and full of love. Her parents owned a small Chinese restaurant, and her grandmother had 15 children, ensuring she was always surrounded by family.

However, life changed dramatically when her father passed away at the age of 33. Jenny was only five years old. “My mom became a single mother and didn’t know how to deal with the heartache,” she shares. Despite the loss, Jenny was raised with strong family values, which made Jenny the strong and courageous woman she is today.

Finding Her Passion

Jenny didn’t always know she wanted to be in real estate. Her career path took several turns before she found her calling. She started working at a fine jewelry store at 17, staying there for four years. She then spent a decade at Verizon, where she held multiple roles, including assistant manager, recruiter, and account

executive. Later, she became an office manager for a dental office.

The turning point came when a friend took her children to their after-school activities. “She did it for one day, and I broke down,” Jenny recalls. “I wanted to do that myself and have that flexibility.” That realization led her to quit her job, take a year off, and reevaluate her life.

Jenny had always been interested in flipping homes, inspired by her cousin. When she mentioned this to him, he encouraged her to take it a step further. “He said, ‘Do one better—get your license so you won’t have to pay anyone,’” she recalls. That was the push she needed. This go-getter completed her real estate coursework online and earned her license in just a month.

Overcoming Challenges

As a perfectionist, Jenny had to learn to rely on others in real estate. “You have to work with a lot of different people,” she explains. “You depend on them, and they depend on you. Learning to let go and accept that I can’t control everything has been a challenge.”



She also wishes she had known earlier about the opportunities real estate could offer beyond just selling homes. Jenny discovered real estate isn't just a career; it's a path to financial independence. "I played it safe for years, living in my first house for 16 years. I didn't realize all the possibilities that real estate could open for me."

Life Beyond Real Estate

Outside of work, Jenny cherishes spending time with her family. Her personal goal is to be present for her children. "I want to make it to every sports event," she says. "I'm the crazy mom recording every game," she laughs. "I'm their biggest cheerleader." She also strives to be a good role model, teaching them the importance of kindness. "Being nice is in the moment; being kind is who you are," she emphasizes.

Their gatherings often include games, from poker to games like Left, Right, Center. You can also find Jenny and

her family rooting for the Lobos. "We like supporting the local college basketball team," she smiles. She also loves to shop, especially for home decor. "My favorite store is HomeGoods," she smiles.

Her passion for real estate extends beyond sales—she enjoys buying, renovating, and selling homes. "I love making a home my own and then potentially selling it for a profit," she says. More importantly, she loves educating others on how they can use real estate as a tool for financial freedom.

A REALTOR® Who Cares

At the core of her work, Jenny truly cares about her clients. "I know buying a home is a deeply personal and significant moment in people's lives," she says. "I feel genuinely blessed when clients choose to include me in that process."

“ You have to work with a lot of different people. You depend on them, and they depend on you. Learning to let go and accept that I can't control everything has been a challenge.”

Balancing work and family can be demanding, but Jenny sees it as a worthwhile sacrifice. "There are nights when I work until 1 a.m.," she admits, "but the sacrifices have great rewards."

With her drive, dedication, and heart for helping others, Jenny Thai continues to excel in real estate, making a difference in the lives of her clients while always prioritizing the ones who matter most—her family. This devoted mother wouldn't have it any other way.



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MELLA MORRISON

BY BETH MCCABE
PHOTOS BY PONIC PHOTOGRAPHY

*Red Apple
Realty, LLC*

Life is getting sweeter for Mella Morrison, one sip at a time!

A wine enthusiast, she and her husband, Jack, love to sip reds and whites on their back patio. It's also where they can reflect on their new brokerage, Red Apple Realty, LLC, which they launched in December 2024.

Mella and her transaction coordinator, Jamie Jones, are taking the real estate world by storm. Mella's husband, affectionately known as Mr. Mella, provides background assistance, and he's the one who cleverly designed the eye-catching logo.

Military Roots

A self-described "proud military kid," Mella's early years included adapting to new places and meeting new people. Little did she know that this would be invaluable to her future in real estate.

"Moving around so much meant I had to learn how to make friends quickly—I guess you could say I've been networking since kindergarten! I was also always the tallest girl in the room, which made me easy

"If someone had told me I'd spend my days meeting amazing people, exploring unique homes, and finding creative solutions to all kinds of challenges, I would've swapped careers in a heartbeat."



“If I can wrap up each day feeling like I’ve made a difference and had a little fun, I’m calling it a win!”



to spot in every class photo and pretty much ensured I’d never have a chance at hide-and-seek,” she laughs.

Other than the constant moving, Mella describes her childhood as pretty normal. With strong, supportive parents and a close-knit family, their vacations usually involved camping, fishing, or packing up for their next move. “Those experiences gave me a sense of humor about life and taught me how to roll with whatever comes my way,” she points out.

Real estate wasn’t part of the plan. “When I was younger, I always pictured myself as a wife and mom—it was my ultimate dream job. But beyond that, my career aspirations were a bit of a winding road. Believe it or not, I originally majored in math with the idea that I would become a high school math teacher,” she jokes. Life had more in store for this go-getter.

Modeling and More Opportunity knocks. Mella was offered an opportunity to press “pause” on college

and move to New York, where she modeled and worked as a concierge at a hotel. Mella raves, “It was a GREAT adventure!” There was only one drawback. “I really missed New Mexico—and let’s just say modeling and my love of great food were not exactly compatible. So I came back and finished college, switching my major to business at Anderson School of Management at the University of New Mexico.”

Living in New York left an impression on her, especially

about staying open to opportunities. One of those opportunities was being a Jazzercise instructor. Little did she know that it would be life-changing.

“Honestly, real estate was never on my radar until I met Kurstin Johnson. At the time, I was a Jazzercise instructor (back when neon spandex was practically a uniform), and Kurstin was one of my clients. She was starting her company, Vista Encantada Realtors, and asked if I’d be interested in helping her. One thing led

to another, and by 2001, I had my real estate license,” smiles Mella.

With her new career, she discovered her untapped talent for designing and implementing business systems—streamlining processes, creating efficient workflows, and setting up structures that ensure everything runs smoothly. “Those skills became invaluable in building the foundation of my company. It’s funny to think that my journey into real estate started in

a Jazzercise class, but life has a way of surprising you in the best ways.”

Loving Real Estate

Mella only has one regret. “I wish I’d known how much I was going to love real estate,” she laughs. “I would’ve jumped in sooner! If someone had told me I’d spend my days meeting amazing people, exploring unique homes, and finding creative solutions to all kinds of challenges, I would’ve swapped careers in a heartbeat.”

This top producer didn’t know she’d become an expert at assembling furniture for staging and tracking down missing keys, but it’s all part of the adventure. “Helping people find their dream homes has turned out to be one of the best decisions I’ve ever made.”

Travel, Food and Wine

To relax, Mella and Jack love traveling. “Nothing beats exploring new places and realizing we’ve been butchering the pronunciation of ‘bruschetta,’” she laughs. “Let’s not forget food and

wine—Jack and I are always on the lookout for new restaurants, trying recipes that don’t end in disaster and savoring the perfect bottle of wine.”

Mella is living her best life. She laughs at her own jokes, finds joy in the little stuff, and makes time for adventures. “If I can wrap up each day feeling like I’ve made a difference and had a little fun, I’m calling it a win!” Who would have guessed that a Jazzercise class held the door to her dreams?

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