Self-starters in Arizona business

Allison DeVane knew she wanted to start her own business, but she hadn't settled on an idea. Then her dad asked her, 'If you were given a million dollars to do something what would it be?' The answer came easy: make coffee. But she wanted it to be different. So because she loves tea, also, DeVane decided to combine the two. In 2015, she launched Teaspressa. "When I first started, I would literally wake up every morning at 7 and make phone calls to publications and brands I wanted to work with," DeVane says. "I just wanted to see if people wanted to be part of it." The idea picked up steam online and at an Arcadia shop, but it really took off after she appeared on the television show "Shark Tank." She didn't walk away with a deal but Teaspressa went national. DeVane is one of 25 Arizona entrepreneurs being honored by azcentral's Who's Next, a recognition program for under-40 up-and-comers in a different profession each month. Previous lists have celebrated emerging leaders in the fields of non-profits, culinary, health/fitness, design and more. Nominations are being accepted through June 4 at whosnext.azcentral.com for mixologists, distillers and others who fall into the "drink" category. Here is Who's Next: Entrepreneurs, 25 up-and-comers shaping the business world in Arizona.

Chase Albright
Founder/owner, C + D Industry
30 years old
Connect: cplusindustry.com
An entrepreneur in the fields of design and fabrication, Albright and his company have created products featured in "Phoenix Home &Garden" magazine and the DIY television channel. Albright also works with youth to teach the trades of welding, woodworking and metal fabrication.

Loren Aragon
Owner/designer, ACONAV
37 years old
Connect: aconav.com
Aragon is the founder of ACONAV, a Native American-owned and -operated couture fashion brand based in Phoenix. The brand celebrates the strength and empowerment of women and draws inspiration from Aragon's indigenous background. He made his Phoenix Fashion Week debut in 2017.

Justin Bayless
President/CEO, Bayless Integrated Healthcare
33 years old
Connect: baylesshealthcare.com/
Bayless has been cultivating his passion for health and well-being since he was 9 years old, when he began accompanying his father to work on a regular basis. He's now taken over that company, founded in 1982. Bayless has helped the company incorporate both primary care and behavioral health under one roof, and has expanded the company, with their fifth location opening in Mesa last summer. He was also recognized in 2013 as one of The Arizona Republic's 35 Entrepreneurs Under Age 35.

Jon Boles
Founder/CEO, Modus Apparel and Avintiv Media
29 years old
Connect: avintivmedia.com
In nearly a decade of entrepreneurship, Boles has scaled several of his own companies. His agency Avintiv Media focuses on growing luxury brands through consulting and Web design and includes clients such as Scottsdale Ferrari and Maserati.

Desiree Byrne
Owner/event production executive, Street Market LLC
33 years old
Connect: azstreetmarket.com/
Byrne founded Street Market, a company that produces events across the Valley. Their first event, Front Porch Pickins Vintage & Handmade Market, originally held in 2013 with 5,000 people in attendance, recently launched nationally. Byrne’s company also runs two of Peoria’s largest events.

Beth Cochran
Founder/CEO, Wired PR Group
35 years old
Connect: wiredprgroup.com
Cochran is the co-founder and CEO of Wired PR, a strategic communications firm based in Phoenix that specializes in PR and content marketing for technology and growth-focused companies. And she’s making her mark on the business community in more ways than one. She is also the founder of SuccessLab, a resource for Valley entrepreneurs, and an active member of the Phoenix Chapter of Entrepreneurs Organization.

Allison DeVane
Founder, Teaspressa
26 years old
Connect: teaspressa.com
DeVane founded Teaspressa, a pioneer in gourmet tea preparation, handcrafting the first and only hybrid beverage that combines the best of both coffee and tea. She developed Teaspressa’s tea concentration technology, which is used to create their signature blends. The company was featured on the “Shark Tank” television show in 2016 and selected for the Tory Burch Foundation’s Business Fellow Program. Based in Scottsdale, Teaspressa is sold online and hopes to expand its cafes throughout the U.S.

Josh Elizetxe
Managing Principal, Foresold
25 years old
Connect: LinkedIn
Elizetxe is an internet advertising veteran and serial entrepreneur working in the software, e-commerce, and advertising technology industries. More than 100 million people have interacted with websites and brands owned by his company. Elizetxe also serves on the board of the Phoenix Coding Academy and the Fleischer Scholars Program.

Justin Gray
Founder/CEO, LeadMD
39 years old
Connect: leadmd.com/
For eight years, Gray has served as CEO and founder of LeadMD, a leading marketing automation agency delivering results to more than 3,000 clients, out of Scottsdale. Gray’s most recent endeavor, Six Bricks, is a recruiting startup built to leverage the wealth of best practices that LeadMD has created in order to educate, certify and connect today’s marketers with employers looking for talent.

Angelina Greer
President, NThreeQ Media
35 years old
Connect: nthreeq.com/
Greer founded her business NThreeQ Media more than a decade ago. The company helps clients with the marketing and branding of their businesses.

Dustin Johnson
Founder, Huxton
36 years old
Connect: huxtonusa.com
Johnson launched Huxton with the mission to modernize cannabis. The company's product and cultivation process was developed to simplify the buying process and give the consumer more control over their cannabis experience. Huxton hand curates its own soil, nutrients, and organic pesticides, along with its sustainable irrigation and grow methodologies, to create its experience-based flower and artisan strains.

Casey Jones
President, Primo Pup Vet Health
31 years old
Connect: primopup.com
A graduate of ASU's W.P. Carey School of Business, Jones is driven to break down inefficiencies in a broad range of industries, from high-tech startups to the service industry. Motivated by the love he had for his Goldendoodle puppy Cabo, Jones started Primo Pup Vet Health. The company now has nearly 30 products from first aid to eye and ear care to specialty health-care products.

Brittany Maroney
President, Cheers Marketing
35 years old
Connect: Facebook
After several years in senior marketing roles in hospitality, media, e-commerce and retail, Maroney launched her own full-service public relations agency, Cheers Marketing, in 2015. The company works with clients in the Phoenix area on brand building.

Steven Moak Jr.
CEO, True AfterCare
38 years old
Connect: trueaftercare.com/
Moak is the creator of True AfterCare, a recovery app designed in Arizona that connects people with personalized coaching and technology-assisted care. The program meets people where they're at in recovery and helps to develop a personalized plan of success to prevent relapse and help people continue along in their journey.

Dana Narayanappa
Intuitive Business Coach
36 years old
Connect: danakalin.com
An online coach, Narayanappa's main focus is helping women set up location-free businesses online. She does this by coaching women in mindset work, wealth consciousness and business development.

Richard Nesbitt
Founder/accessibility consultant, Accessibilibuddy
30 years old
Connect: accessibilibuddy.com
Nesbitt's company aims to make the Web inclusive for everyone, with the idea that everyone can contribute something; they just have to be invited to the table.

David Paul
Partner, Canal Partners
32 years old
Connect: canalpartners.com
Driven by his inherent love for entrepreneurship, Paul is committed to helping the Arizona startup scene prosper. As a partner at Canal Partners, a local venture capital firm, he leads the charge on sourcing new deals and identifying profitable new investment opportunities.

Sarah Rhodes
Founder and Home Designer, Paro Home
34 years old
Connect: Instagram
Rhodes is the new founder of a home design and renovation company, Paro Home. From her nominator: "Her unique style, along with her love for historic character makes for highly coveted homes. Sarah loves Phoenix and is constantly scouring the downtown neighborhoods for the next hidden gem."

Merle Riepe
President, SOLVE
38 years old
Connect: solve.hr
In co-founding SOLVE, Riepe saw an opportunity to help companies increase profitability based on proven psychological and leadership methods. As president, he develops client relationships and leads a team of psychologists to accelerate SOLVE’s impact in the Valley and beyond.

Chris Ronzio
Founder, Trainual
32 years old
Connect: Instagram
According to his nominator, "Chris' mission has always been to help others, and his business record is a testament to that." He started his first business at age 14. His third and most recent endeavor, Trainual, is an online platform for business owners and employees to document what they do, such as training new employees, in simple step-by-step processes.

Jenny Stradling
CEO, Eminent SEO
37 years old
Connect: eminentseo.com
Stradling co-founded Eminent SEO in 2009 as a three-person team. Since then, the company has grown to more than 20 employees, moving into a larger office space in Mesa, and has evolved from SEO-specific services to offering comprehensive digital marketing solutions.

Daniel Stringer
Founder/CEO, Let Hope Rise
31 years old
Connect: LinkedIn
In addition to other startup businesses, Stringer founded the non-profit Let Hope Rise in 2012 to raise awareness and funding for safe houses to shelter victims of sex trafficking. Stringer and his wife helped raise thousands of dollars, donated to organizations like the Phoenix Dream Center and the Starbright Foundation. Daniel also coaches entrepreneurs.

Ro Vanaki
Co-founder, Pursuit Health
22 years old
Connect: LinkedIn
Vanaki is the VP of Business Strategy at Influence Logic, a blockchain marketing and consulting firm, and is the co-founder of a software company called Pursuit Health, which helps personal trainers and gyms save time and generate more revenue. The company was recently named one of the hottest up-and-coming startups in the Southwest by Phoenix Business Journal.

Jessie Whitfield
Founder, MISGIF
32 years old
Connect: themisgif.com
A graduate of ASU’s Barrett Honors College, Whitfield is the founder of MISGIF, a unique twist on your traditional photo booth company, as she describes it. Rather than just providing a fun activity at events, the company uses photos to help brands develop creative strategies to achieve their marketing goals, such as increasing social media reach, online engagement and brand loyalty. They’ve worked with clients including Yelp and Lululemon, as well as non-profits like the Phoenix Children’s Museum and the Desert Botanical Garden.

Amanda Yantos
Owner/blogger, Dog Mom Days LLC
29 years old
Connect: Blog
Yantos is the owner of Dog Mom Days LLC, a popular pet blog in the Valley. Founded in 2013, the company inspires pet parents to live modern, meaningful lives. Yantos’ blog has been featured in several local news outlets such as “Valley Lifestyles” magazine and the East Valley Tribune. Amanda, who is involved in animal rescue in the greater Phoenix area, also speaks at conferences on how to grow your own blogging business.

Editor’s note: Five entrepreneurs’ photos were not available as of print. Not pictured: Chase Albright, Josh Elizetxe, Angelina Greer, Dustin Johnson and Sarah Rhodes.

DETAILS

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