



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community

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Med marijuana site faces tough battle

By Teri Carnicelli

It's down to the wire for a proposed medical marijuana facility at 16th Street and Glendale Avenue, as the applicants face a final decision by Phoenix's Board of Adjustment on March 1.

The business, Mitchell Song 64 Alpha, LLC, has filed a request for two zoning variances and a use permit for the proposed site, which currently is operating as Animal Dermatology, PC, located to the east of the Chevron gas station.

Mitchell Song, DVM, has owned and operated the clinic at 1616 E. Glendale Ave. since April 2003 and is part of the new partnership. The 1,618-square-foot building was constructed in 1964.

Song explained, "I know firsthand the benefit that medical marijuana has for patients. My 87-year-old father had a problem with pain and anorexia, which was helped by the addition of medical mari-

please see BATTLE on page 6



Paul Mangan with the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department (left) and Aric Mei, a partner in the proposed Farm at Los Olivos, discuss the project with neighbor Patricia Hawkins during an open house about the project held at the Devonshire Senior Center on Jan. 11 (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

'Urban farm' planned for Los Olivos Park

By Teri Carnicelli

A few short years from now, a large swath of grass at Los Olivos Park could be covered with cultivated rows of corn or wheat, large planter boxes growing a variety of edible herbs and vegetables, and a small restaurant and art & education center.

This is the vision of Aric Mei and his business partner, Matt Moore, who are hoping the Phoenix Parks Board will get the ball rolling on this ambitious project by approving the proposal at the board's Feb. 22 meeting.

"The Farm at Los Olivos is a new proposal that we are working on with the city of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department. The vision is to create a new farm, education, and food experience," explains Mei, who is co-owner of The Parlor restaurant in Central Phoenix. Mei is no stranger to urban gardening, as there is a small garden that lines the entryway to The Parlor. They use the vegetables and fresh herbs grown in the garden for the eatery's specialty dishes.

The Farm At Los Olivos (<http://losolivospark.com>) is envisioned as a 2-acre working organic farm that will include a market, produce stand and full-service dining.

"This groundbreaking project will help the City of Phoenix Parks Department take a big step towards its mission statement to 'build healthy communities

through parks, programs, and partnerships,'" Mei points out.

The restaurant or "concessions" component is important because it is the revenue-generating portion of the plan, which will help pay what essentially will be a long-term lease on the park land. A portion of the income generated through the eatery will go back to the Parks department, specifically earmarked for Los Olivos Park, located at 2802 E. Devonshire Ave.

Some amenities at the 28-acre park, such as the 9-hole Frisbee Golf Course, will not be eliminated but may be reconfigured. The 4.5-acre urban farm will be located at the north and west end of the park, to take advantage of the access off 28th Street and existing

please see URBAN FARM on page 4

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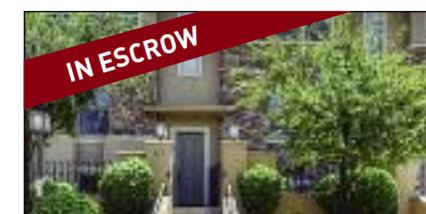
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COMMUNITY

Fun, educational travel abroad trips

As years fly by, friendships often dwindle. That's why Sue Barenholtz of Phoenix started creating businesses 10 years ago to help women make new friends.

Along the way, she noticed two poignant facts: a lot of women want to travel but don't; and women who travel together forge the strongest friendships. That's what spurred her newest venture, Boomer Women Travel.

"Many women love to travel but they never have anyone to go with or they hate the idea of planning a trip," said Barenholtz, whose travel club designs and plans "girlfriend trips of a lifetime" for small groups.

"If you're coming by yourself, you can room alone or we can help match you with a roommate," she said. "By the first night, you'll have a room full of new girlfriends, and before you know it, you'll be laughing and sharing



A group of women on the inaugural Boomer Women Travel trip to Italy, held in 2012, pick grapes at a vineyard in Tuscany (photo courtesy of Sue Barenholtz).

stories about lifelong travel memories." Barenholtz focuses on catering to women over 40. She emphasizes sisterhood with lots of activities geared towards women's interests, making

friends worldwide, and meeting up with sister charities in other countries.

The club's next trip is to Italy in May; the \$300 deposit is due by Feb. 15. Barenholtz will guide the group

along the Amalfi Coast, take them on a daylong culinary cooking tour, a private cruise to the isle of Capri, and a tour of Pompeii.

Women do not have to be members to travel with the club. Benefits of membership, which is \$35 a year, include a \$50 discount on each trip, advance trip notification, discounts on travel wear, and other discounts featured on the club website. For more information, visit www.wildboomerwomen.com or contact Barenholtz at 602-677-1953 or e-mail her at sue@wildboomerwomen.com.

With an internationally recognized culture, Mexico remains one of the strongest and most enticing tourist destinations for Americans. Just ask North Central resident Virginia Ramos Foster, Ph.D., who is leading her annual Spanish Study Program in Cuernavaca, Mexico this summer.

It is the 30th anniversary of the program, which takes place June 15-30

please see TRAVEL on page 4

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Congratulations to Chris Goodfarb, January's winner of six adult tickets to the Arizona Renaissance Festival, a \$150 value!

Visit our website at www.northcentralnews.net to enter for your chance to win this month's prize,

A \$100 Gift Certificate for Woody's Macayo!

Deadline to enter is Feb. 20, 2018.

The winner will be announced in our March issue.

One name will be drawn from all submissions and awarded the prize indicated. Entry is limited to one per person.

Winners will be notified by phone or email by a representative of *North Central News*. Winners agree to have their name and likeness published in the *North Central News*. All prizes are final - no substitutions allowed; prizes have no cash value. Visit www.northcentralnews.net for contest rules and additional details.

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COMMUNITY

URBAN FARM *continued from page 1*

parking there.

At an open house on Jan. 11 at the adjacent Devonshire Senior Center, more than 20 students from the nearby Camelback Montessori High School came to learn about the project, which will be just a few blocks away from the school when completed.

Ulises Aragon, who teaches Honors Chemistry and Biology at the school, said his students are "out in the community" on a regular basis and the Farm at Los Olivos would provide another opportunity for an outdoor classroom learning experience. "It would provide nature, culture and social connections that can be made for our students, at only a 12-minute walk away."

Patricia Hawkins, who sometimes brings her grandchildren to the park, calls it a "win-win," noting it will improve the amenities at the park overall while providing a dedicated source of income to the park. The educational aspect of teaching people of all ages about growing their own food, even in the middle of a large city, also appealed to her. "We need something like this in this urban world," she said.

The Phoenix Parks Board is tentatively scheduled to vote on the proposed Farm at Los Olivos at its meeting set for 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22 in the City Council Chambers, 200 W. Jefferson St. To confirm this item is on the agenda, visit www.phoenix.gov, select "Other Public Meeting Notices" under City Business, and find the post-

ed agenda 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

If approved, it then goes through the city's normal process to execute a public/private partnership, such as plan review, design approval, etc. The partners anticipate 9-12 months before any kind of groundbreaking, and likely at least 2 years before an official opening.

Send your comments about this proposal, to be shared with the Phoenix Parks Board in advance of its meeting, to Nellie Ramon, Management Assistant I, Parks and Recreation Department, at nellie.ramon@phoenix.gov.

TRAVEL *continued from page 3*

and is open to all students and members of the Phoenix Metro community. Students study at the Universidad Internacional Center of Multicultural Studies, where they are totally immersed in the study of Spanish language and culture. Students are not only taught by Mexican university professors, they also live with pre-screened Mexican families in a safe community. Other classes include music, art, dance and literature.

Families with children are welcome on the trip, which also attracts Phoenix-area business people, doctors, educators and other professionals each year.

Students fly on their own to Mexico City and then take a bus to Cuernavaca. Costs vary. For more information, contact Foster at vrfvrf@gmail.com or 602-549-4327.

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Every day, more and more people fall victims to identity theft.

With so much personal information readily available both online and offline, it's easier than ever.

Have you ever considered that your mailbox may be frequently visited by people other than your mailman?

Identity thieves looking for valuable personal information regularly check unlocked mailboxes to steal your bank and utility bills.

They'll grab hold of anything that'll give them access to your personal data. So if you've been missing some of your mail lately, it's time to investigate into the matter.

The best way to prevent this is to get a security locking mailbox. They're a little more expensive than regular mailboxes, but you get a peace of mind and mail safety. So read on to discover why you should invest in locking mailboxes and how to find the right one for you.

Preventing Identity Theft

Identity theft is considered one of the fastest-growing crimes in the USA. In fact, over 9.9 million Americans have been victims of ID thefts, and have suffered huge financial losses.

A lot of these crimes take place online, when people enter sensitive personal information on various websites. Offline, thieves go around neighborhoods and vandalize residential mailboxes to steal the mail.

At first, you may not notice some of your mail is missing. But if your utility bills stop coming in or you stop receiving packages, you should start to worry.

Getting a locking mailbox is a perfect solution to this problem. Not only will you have complete control over your mail, but you'll also deter the thieves. Picking the locks on these mailboxes is very hard. Most potential thieves will give up before they even try.

But not all locking mailboxes are made equal. Below, you'll discover how to choose the best one for your type of mail.

How to Pick the Right Locking Mailbox for You

Before you buy a new mailbox, consider the type and size of the mail you receive. For example, if you mainly receive envelopes or magazines, you'll need a standard-sized mailbox.

If you receive packages or lots of mail, you may need a more spacious mailbox. Look for one that can hold several days' or weeks' worth of mail.

Although you're the only person who'll have the keys to your mailbox, the mailman will still be able to deliver your mail through the incoming mail slot. This is why locking mailboxes are safer than regular ones.

Whatever model you choose, make sure it complies with the USPS mailbox regulations.

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More and more people are choosing to install locking mailboxes in lieu of unlocked ones.

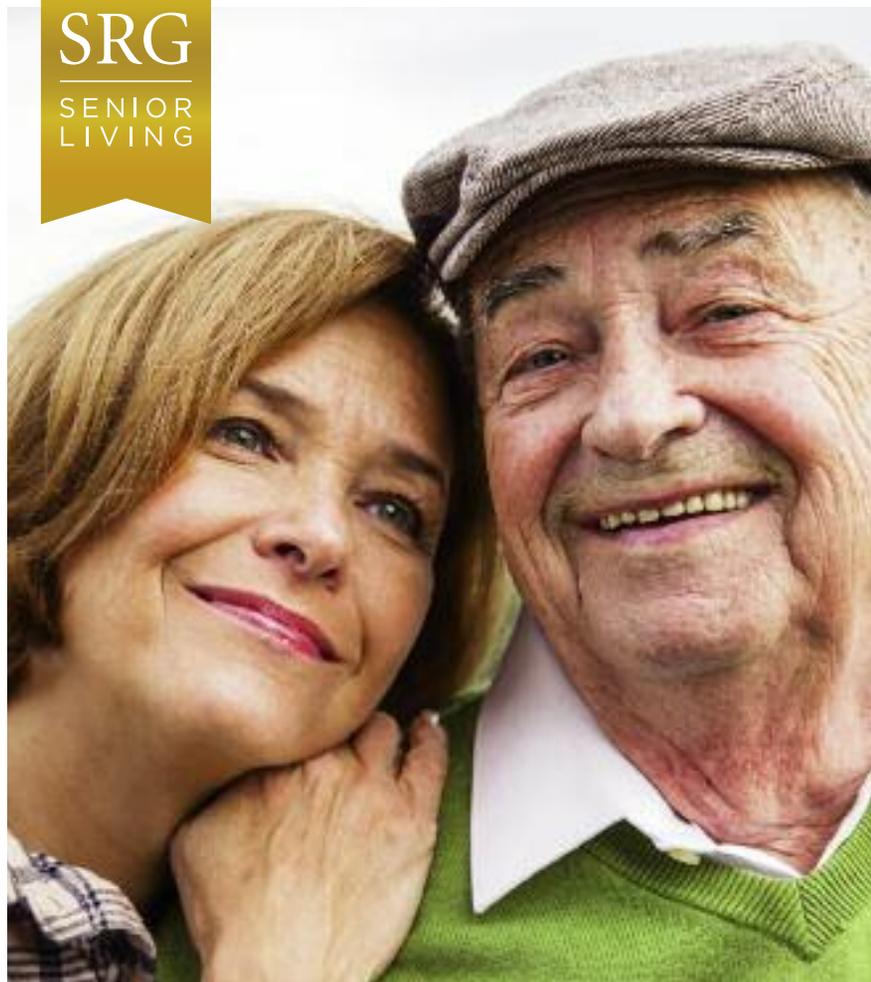
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COMMUNITY

BATTLE *continued from page 1*

juana to his life. It took the pain away and enhanced his appetite. It was a much better alternative than opiate drugs.

“I also have seen the benefit in animals,” he added. “By applying CBD oil, this has helped many animals with chronic pain from arthritis and cancer. Medical marijuana is safe and beneficial drug for people and animals.”

According to city zoning regulations, a medical marijuana dispensary needs to be 500 feet away from residentially zoned property. This proposed location would be 114 feet from a residential boundary line, so a variance is required.

Medical marijuana dispensaries also are required to be at least 1,320 feet of a place of worship. The closest place of worship is 461 feet away, therefore, another variance also is needed.

In addition, a use permit is required to place this type of facility in a C-2 zoning district.

A hearing before the city's Zoning Administrator was held Dec. 14, at which time Zoning Adjustment Hearing Officer Ray Jacobs denied the requests. The applicants filed an appeal to the Board of Adjustment, which will be the final arbiter in the application process.

Song pointed out that, “There are many in this area who are medical marijuana card holders with qualifying conditions who currently are not being served. We see the site as a very good location with direct access to an arterial road.”

The closest medical marijuana dispensary is just over 3 miles away—Swell Pharmacy, at 1040 E. Camelback Road, which is not convenient for those living near the proposed site without their own transportation, who must rely on public transit.

“We are encouraged by the number of local residents who see this as a positive service for the community,” Song said.

One of the city's conditions for granting a variance is that it is necessary in order for the owner or applicant to enjoy “reasonable and substantial property rights.” The city further clarifies this to mean that without the variance, the property cannot be reasonably used.

Jim Carney, who drafted a letter of opposition and also spoke against the application at the Dec. 14 hearing, argued that since the property currently is being used as an animal clinic, it could

easily be used as some other kind of commercial business that doesn't require a variance or use permit but would be allowed by right under the C-2 zoning.

The applicants contend that from the site there is “no direct access to any residential community.” But Carney points out that the adjacent Grand Canal is not an adequate buffer between the proposed dispensary site and the wider community. “Rather, it is more of a highway providing another point of ingress and egress, with unrestricted access to a broader area than would otherwise be available from a similarly situated property because of underpasses at Glendale and 16th Street.”

Security is typically a major concern for those living near a medical marijuana facility, as these types of business usually operate with cash-only transactions. Song explained that the facility would have 24-hour video security, plus on-site security guards during hours of operation.

“We look forward to bringing the community a safe and secure operation with limited operating hours and enhanced security,” he said.

The Board of Adjustment will consider the applicant's appeal at its regular meeting scheduled for 12 p.m. Thursday, March 1 in the City Council Chambers, 200 W. Jefferson St. To confirm this item is on the agenda, visit www.phoenix.gov, select “Other Public Meeting Notices” under City Business, and find the posted agenda 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

To comment on this appeal, send remarks to zoning@phoenix.gov. Make sure to include ZA-538-17 and the Board of Adjustment hearing date of March 1, 2018.

Pop-Up Book Club: 'Wrinkle in Time'

A beloved children's book and Newbery Medal Winner is getting the Hollywood treatment with a blockbuster movie. Changing Hands Bookstore—Phoenix, 300 W. Camelback Road, hosts a special book club to celebrate and discuss “A Wrinkle in Time” before the film's March 9 release.

Join First Draft Book Club moderator Barbara VanDenburgh for a conversation about the book at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20.

Books will be available for purchase at the store. No RSVP required.

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Real Estate Corner
Bobby Lieb
Your North Central and Biltmore residential real estate specialist

Our piece of heaven in North Central



Note: I have been doing these articles now every month for the past 7 years and I really enjoy the positive feedback that I get from the North Central readers.

This month I asked a North Central resident, Daniel Valenzuela, who is also a Phoenix City Councilman, to write an article why he and his wife, Wendy, chose this area to raise their family. ~ Bobby Lieb

Anyone who has been through the process of searching for a new home rarely finds it to be an easy undertaking. There is a fine balance of the most home for the least cost along with that all-important consideration that is the root of every real estate decision – location.

My wife, Wendy, and I recently completed such a task, made far easier because I have the good fortune of being intimately familiar with one of our city's great strengths – our neighborhoods. We are now delighted to call North Central Phoenix home.

As a member of the Phoenix City Council, one of my most enjoyable responsibilities is to work with neighborhood leaders who typically have no shortage of energy in their commitment to preserving and strengthening our communities.

So even before calling North Central home, we were well aware that one of its real assets are its countless neighborhood activists

who deserve much of the credit for what the neighborhood is today.

Phoenix, now the nation's fifth largest city, is on the move. Unprecedented downtown construction. Expanding transit options. New businesses. It's easy to measure these bricks-and-mortar advancements. But a truly vibrant city is one that consists of a rich and diverse fabric of safe and desirable neighborhoods.

In our neighborhood, everyone seems to know each other. We spend lots of time out front chatting with neighbors as our children play. Our children continue to attend the acclaimed Madison School District. Several parks are within walking distance, contributing to a level of tranquility that seems almost out of place in the heart of a bustling city.

All of our family needs, from groceries to healthcare, can be met with just a drive of a few minutes.

Simply put, North Central is a little piece of heaven.

I am further reminded of that every day now, simply by coming home.

Daniel Valenzuela
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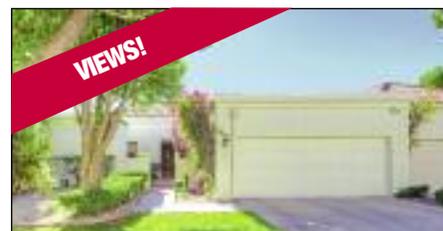
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Outdoor festivals, events in Phoenix

The Valley of the Sun's beautiful winter weather brings a bevy of outdoor events each year, highlighting different cultures from around the globe, as well as tempting the taste buds of local foodies and beer aficionados. Check out what's coming up:

Motoring Thru Time & Heritage Festival

The free event, which takes place 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3 at Heritage & Science Park, 6th St. & Monroe, will feature more than 100 classic and antique cars, trucks, travel trailers, motorcycles and more. There also will be cultural crafts and demonstrations, live music from Territorial Brass, food trucks, and lawn games for adults and children. The park is within walking distance of light rail stations. For more information, call 602-262-5070 or visit www.heritagesquarePHX.org.

Arizona Strong Beer Festival

The festival takes place 1-5 p.m. Feb. 10 at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School Road. Festivalgoers will receive a commemorative 4-ounce tasting glass and 40 tasting tickets for the price of admission (starting at \$60). There also will be food trucks on hand and live music. Designated drivers pay only \$10. For more information, visit <http://arizonabeerweek.com>.

Arizona Renaissance Festival

The annual faire runs 10 a.m.-6 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday, from Feb. 10-April 1. Enjoy 13 stages of live entertainment, food and drink, and

more than 200 artisan shops. Mingle with over 2,000 costumed characters, eat a giant roasted turkey leg; take part in games of chance and skill; cheer on your favorite knight during the daily jousting tournament. The festival takes place at 12601 E. US Highway 60 in Gold Canyon. Advanced discount tickets available online \$25/adults and \$15/kids ages 5-12. Adult tickets purchased at the Festival Box Office are \$1 more. Discounts coupons for opening weekend (BOGO), and free child's admission with adult ticket (beginning Feb. 24), can be found at Wendy's, Hall of Frames, and CobbleStone Auto Spa. No pets; free parking. Visit <http://arizona.renfestinfo.com>.

Chinese Week Culture & Cuisine Festival

This year's celebration honoring the Year of the Dog takes place Feb. 16-18 in the east end of Margaret T. Hance Park, 1202 N. 3rd St. Admission is free. The 28th-annual festival features live entertainment including the dragon and lion dances, martial arts demonstrations, folk and traditional dances, musical performances, mahjong booth, children's pavilion, Chinese culture and history booth, photo exhibit and art gallery, delicious Chinese food and a beer garden. Admission is free. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For a full schedule of events and activities, visit <http://phoenixchineseweek.org> or call 480-650-2610.

Chinese New Year of the Dog Festival

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more, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17 at the North Mountain Visitor Center, 12950 N. 7th St. There will be more than 50 vendor booths, martial arts demonstrations, a Shaman healer, raffle prizes, and more. There also will be a Kids Zone. General admission is \$10 or \$68 for VIP, which includes guaranteed seating at the indoor speaker presentations, a goody bag and more. Children ages 12 and younger admitted for free, general admission only.

Matsuri: A Festival of Japan

This event highlights Japanese culture with entertainment, authentic crafts, food and fine arts. It takes place Feb. 24-25 at Heritage & Science Park, 115 N. 6th St. Visitors will enjoy martial arts demos, Taiko drums, Bonsai displays, entertainment on four stages, and audience participation in traditional Japanese folk dances. There also will be arts and crafts, games, and children's activities. The Asahi Beer Garden will serve Asahi beer and Hiro sakes, including the popular fruit-infused sake. Admission to the festival is free. Festival



One of the more popular shows at the Arizona Renaissance Festival is the juggling, acrobatic and comedy troupe, London Broil, whose jokes make you groan even as their juggling and acrobatic work make you gasp (photo courtesy of Arizona Renaissance Festival).

hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. The beer garden opens at 11 a.m. Call 602-262-5029 or www.azmatsuri.org for additional details.

McDowell Mountain Music Festival

This 15th-annual eclectic music festival, set for 3-11 p.m. March 2-4 on

the east side of Margaret T. Hance Park, 1200 N. 1st St., features a unique mixture of musical acts including bluegrass, reggae, jazz and rock, as well as local band representation. There also will be food trucks, a Kid's Zone, vendor marketplace and beer garden, as well as live art demonstration. Tickets range from \$62 for a single day (fees

included) and \$107 for a three-day pass, to \$567 for a three-day, VIP pass. Proceeds benefit local nonprofits. For more information, call 602-343-0453 or visit www.mmmf.net.

Melrose Street Fair

The 2018 Melrose on 7th Avenue Street Fair is a one-day event set for 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, March 3, that spans over a half-mile in the heart of Phoenix's Melrose District, from Indian School Road north to approximately Campbell Avenue. It is a unique, local-focused, free event to the public, featuring over 200 local and independent artisans, food from local food vendors, live music, a craft beer/margarita garden, and the ever-popular Chester's Classic Car Show. Hosted by the Seventh Avenue Merchants Association. For more information, visit www.m7streetfair.com.

For your local advertising needs, visit North Central News at www.northcentralnews.net or call 602-277-2742

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Workshop held for budding writers

David Corbett knows a thing or two about sketchy characters who skirt the law or ignore it. He should, he worked for many years as a private investigator for a firm that handled high profile work that included the Lincoln Saving & Loan Case and the first Michael Jackson child molestation case.

Now he's coming to Phoenix to talk about characters. That is, how to build effective ones that can fill a novel. Since Corbett sidled out of investigation and slipped into writing, he's penned what's become a classic book on writing, "The Art of Character." He's also a contributing editor for *Writers Digest* and his non-fiction has appeared in "Narrative" magazine and *The New York Times*.

Desert Sleuths, the Valley chapter of the national Sisters in Crime organization of mystery writers, along with Phoenix College, is bringing Corbett to town on Saturday, March 3. His topic, "Building Unforgettable Stories From Compelling Characters," will run from 9:30 to 3:30 at Phoenix College, 1202 W. Thomas Road. Lunch and snacks are included. The fee is \$75. For more information, visit www.desertsleuths.com.

Artist-led workshops at the Hermosa Inn

The Hermosa Inn announces a new partnership with the Scottsdale Artists' School, featuring artist-led workshops. The class fee of \$75 includes all supplies, a mimosa and pastries. Workshops are held from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

On Saturday, Feb. 17, participants will transform LON's Hideaway Patio into a colorful trompe-l'oeil panorama as part of "3D Chalk Art Painting." The workshop students will use pastels on pavement while creating their own one-of-a-kind vibrant and dramatic painting as they are introduced to the magic of the long-time art form that originated in 16th Century Italy. Every artist also will complete his or her own masterpiece on wood as a keepsake.

Then on Saturday, April 21, participants will join contemporary southwest artist Joseph Wolves Kill in this printmaking workshop: Linocut Landscape. This workshop welcomes all ranges of talents, from novices to amateur printmakers, and everyone will take home multiple prints.

With class size limited to just 20, advance registration is required and can be made by calling 602-955-8614.

Free weekend at Phoenix Art Museum

Visit the Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Ave., Feb. 10-11 for a whirlwind of great art and hands-on activities. Through the generosity of Discount Tire, the museum offers free general admission on the second weekend of each month, with family-friendly activities, scavenger hunts, live performances, story time, free tours, and more.

Each free weekend features an opportunity to learn about and make art with a featured local Valley artist, from muralists to dancers and more. In addition, Ikebana of Arizona returns to the museum Feb. 9-11. See a selection of beautiful flower arrangements, representing several schools of ikebana and a range of styles dating from the 15th century to the present, on display in the Art of Asia galleries.

Free and open to the public, hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 12-5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, visit www.phxart.org.

Girl Scout Cookies on sale thru March 4

For six weeks each year, Girl Scouts in Arizona participate in the largest girl-led business: the Girl Scout Cookie Program. Through March 4, more than 13,000 girls in central and northern Arizona will be walking around neighborhoods and boothing in front of local stores learning entrepreneurial skills while selling delicious cookies.

The Girl Scout S'mores cookie, introduced last year, combines two iconic Girl Scout traditions—the S'more and Girl Scout Cookies—into one tasty treat. S'mores are a crunchy graham sandwich cookie with a chocolate and marshmallowy filling.

Thin Mints, Samoas, Tagalongs, Trefoils, Do-si-dos and Savannah Smiles, traditional favorites, also return. For the third year in a row, some girls will be selling a limited quantity of gluten-free Toffee-tastics.

Girl Scout Cookies are \$5 per box, except for Toffee-tastics and Girl Scout S'mores, which are \$6 per box. To find a cookie booth near you, visit www.girlscoutcookies.org and put in your ZIP code.

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6729 E. Camino Santo
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Four dogs, available for adoption, were chosen to christen the new Arizona Humane Society P.U.P. Park during the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Jan. 16. They explored the new area under the watchful gaze of AHS Field, Behavior and Animal Experience team members, from left: Estevan Vega, Melissa Graham and Mik Moeller (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

**New exercise, play
area for shelter dogs**

The Arizona Humane Society (AHS) last month unveiled its interactive P.U.P. Park and Walking Path at AHS' Sunnyslope Campus, 9226 N. 13th Ave. The P.U.P. Park, or Pop Up Pup Park, is a portable dog park that will be used to walk and exercise AHS' dogs, including those recovering in AHS' trauma hospital.

The project was donated entirely by PetSmart Charities, Inc., and Sunburst Landscaping, which provided the walking path lined with desert-adaptive plants and leveled play area for the dogs.

The entrance to the P.U.P. Park is an innovative shipping container donated by PetSmart Charities Inc., which acts as a secure segue into the park, complete with 340 feet of expandable fencing, three clean-up stations, benches, solar powered lighting and a storage closet. Inside the fenced area, groups of dogs can be off leash and play, under strict supervision by members of the AHS behavioral team.

There also are a number of enrichment activities along the Walking Path leading to the P.U.P. Park, including dog-friendly plants and scent markers the dogs can enjoy while out for a stroll. These markers will have exciting scents like squirrel, raccoon and fox that will be rotated periodically.

The P.U.P. Park is situated at the end of a large, unimproved overflow parking lot at the south end of 14th Avenue. The lot is owned by AHS.

"Thanks to our great partners at PetSmart Charities, Inc. and Sunburst

Landscaping, we have a beautiful and enriching site for our dogs to enjoy," said Debbie McKnight, AHS' director of Field, Behavior and Animal Experience. "It is because of generous supporters like this that we can take our pets' experiences to the next level."

**Kodi's celebrates
in-store on Feb. 17**

North Central resident Rhonda Teel, owner of Kodi's Natural Pet Foods, looks back on her 10 years of business and is proud of what she has accomplished.

Much of that has to do with educating her customers about the health and well being of their pets, and helping them to select the best food products for them. Her store, located on 16th Street just north of Bethany Home Road, carries a wide selection of food and supplements for dogs and cats.

Teel herself knows how important nutrition can be for an animal, whether in preventing disease or countering the effects of aging.

"My dog, Kodi, was already gone (when she started the store) but I truly believe that her food contributed to her cancer," Teel says. "My heart lies in helping pets with cancer and hopefully over the last 10 years I have."

Teel will celebrate the store's anniversary during regular store hours Saturday, Feb. 17, with demonstrations, free samples, raffle prizes, "Bobbing for Hot Dogs," and more.

For more information, visit <http://kodisnaturalpetfoods.com> or call 602-265-0462.

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Pet of the Month

Retriever mix loves giving out kisses

A sweet and energetic 7-year-old Labrador Retriever mix, Frankie loves being petted and spending time with people. He is always very happy and enjoys giving kisses to anyone who spends time with him. This big boy is not just all looks, he also loves showing off how smart he is whether it's how well he walks on his leash or sitting on command.

Frankie came to the Arizona Humane Society as a stray with a case of a puppy cold but after he was healed by the wonderful vets at the Arizona Humane Society's Second Chance Animal Trauma Hospital, Frankie was able to come out of his shell and show how great of a dog he can be. Tug toys and fetch are some of his favorite activities and he would love for you to be his "forever" play companion.

To meet Frankie, visit the Arizona Humane Society's Sunnyslope Campus at 9226 N. 13th Ave. For more information, call 602-997-7585 and ask for animal ID number A570831 or visit www.azhumane.org.

Please note: This pet might have been adopted by the time you visit the shelter; however, AHS has dozens more wonderful pets who also need loving homes. To see all adoptable animals right now, visit www.azhumane.org/findapet.

Fundraiser features vintage cars, raffles

The Fundraiser Benefit for Lucky Dog Rescue is set for 3-6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, at The Rhythm Room, 1019 E. Indian School Road. The donation cover charge is a \$10 and all proceeds go to benefit Lucky Dog Rescue. Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

The 21 and older benefit will feature live performances from rockabilly favorites, The Booze Bombs, local band Pat Roberts and The Heymakers, along with Chops and the Shakem Ups.

The Transplants Club will host the Pre-1964 Vintage Car Show, vendors will be there and Lucky Dog's rescue dogs, up for adoption, will also be at the event. The Pin-up ladies "Devoted Dolls" from Phoenix will be on hand to pose for pictures. A raffle with amazing prizes also will be included. One of the raffle items is a beautiful Gretsch guitar.

For more information on Lucky



Frankie is a sweet and loving Labrador Retriever mix who already walks well on a leash and sits on command (submitted photo).

Dog Rescue and on the event, contact Dee Alschuler at 602-321-8376, or dee@luckydogrescue.org.

In-home pet hospice, euthanasia services

Gentle Journey is a team of expert veterinarians who offer a new service to Phoenix pet owners—training and assistance with in-home pet hospice

care. With guidance and support from the Gentle Journey vets, pet owners can honor their human-animal bond by learning to competently and compassionately care for their ailing pet at home.

Most pets do not show outward signs that they are in pain, and many owners don't realize their pet is suffering. Gentle Journey's hospice assessments can help protect pets from prolonged, unnoticed suffering by assessing the pet's pain and educating clients on what to look for.

Gentle Journey founder, Dr. Christina Nutter, was the first veterinarian in Arizona to specialize and dedicate her services to pet home hospice care and euthanasia. Gentle Journey's objective for pet hospice care is to help create a peaceful, memorable experience for pet-owners and their animal companions facing a terminal illness. Then, when your pet is ready to pass on, in-home euthanasia services are available, as well as off-site cremation services.

For more information visit the Gentle Journey website at www.gentle-journeyaz.com.



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Community Calendar

Monet & Malbec:

A First Friday Event

6-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2

Herberger Theater Plaza

222 E. Monroe

Enjoy outdoor performances featuring diverse and eclectic artists, music, performance art, projection and visual art, interactive activities and food and drink specials. Create your own watercolor piece with guidance from artist and instructor Sandra Neumann Wilderman. Enjoy live music by Ocotillo Music, sample Malbec varietals and watch a special art film. Admission is free.

Goodwill Donation Drive for Schools

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 3

Washington High School

2217 W. Glendale Ave.

Area residents are encouraged to drop off their gently used items taking up space in homes and garages. Goodwill

will pay a certain amount of money for every pound of donations collected. Proceeds benefit the Washington High School Band and the Orangewood Elementary Band. (No TVs, mattresses, sofa beds or pool tables). Bring to parking lot south of Glendale off 23rd Avenue. For more information, call Kathryn at 602-672-1876.

Melrose Swap Meet

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4

Campbell Plaza

700 W. Campbell Ave.

Shop vintage boho, mid-century finds, oddities, bicycles and more. Food trucks will include The Cruising Bean, Lilly B Muffins, and Weiner Wagon Hot Dogs. Admission is free.

VNSA Used Book Sale

Feb. 10-11

AZ State Fairgrounds

1826 W. McDowell Road

602-265-6805

More than a half-million gently used books, DVDs, CDs, computer games and puzzles will be available at greatly reduced prices. Most books are half price on Sunday. Sale hours on

Saturday are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with Sunday hours from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is free admission to the sale, but the Fairgrounds charges to park. Visit <http://www.vnsabooksale.org>.

Former CIA Director

James Woolsey Speaks

Tuesday, Feb. 13

Omni Montelucia

4949 E. Lincoln Drive

602-730-3300

The Sandra Day O'Connor Institute Distinguished Speakers Series presents James Woolsey, who served under four U.S. Presidential administrations, including Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton. Woolsey is a frequent news media contributor on issues of national and international security, alternative fuel options for transportation, energy, foreign affairs, defense, and intelligence. He currently serves on the Board of Advisors of the Task Force on National and Homeland Security, a Congressional Advisory Board. Individual tickets start at \$75. Visit www.OConnorInstitute.org.

Patrisse Khan-Cullors: When They Call You a Terrorist

7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13

Orpheum Theatre

203 W. Adams St.

602-274-0067

The artist, organizer, and Black Lives Matter co-founder shares her memoir, an emotional and powerful story about how the BLM movement was born. She will participate in a conversation with José Cárdenas, host of Arizona PBS's Horizonte. Doors open at 6 p.m., seating is general. Get your ticket and copy of the book (\$32) at www.changinghands.com; look for the link under the February events calendar.

Beer Bingo for Firefighters

6-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15

North Mountain Brewing

522 E. Dunlap Ave.

602-861-5999

During Arizona Beer Week, the local brewpub will host a beer bingo night benefiting the Sunnyslope Fire Department. All proceeds will be donated to Fire Station 7. There will

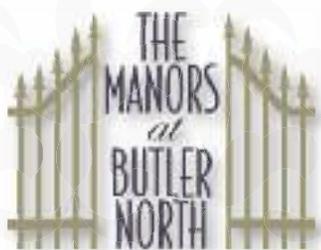
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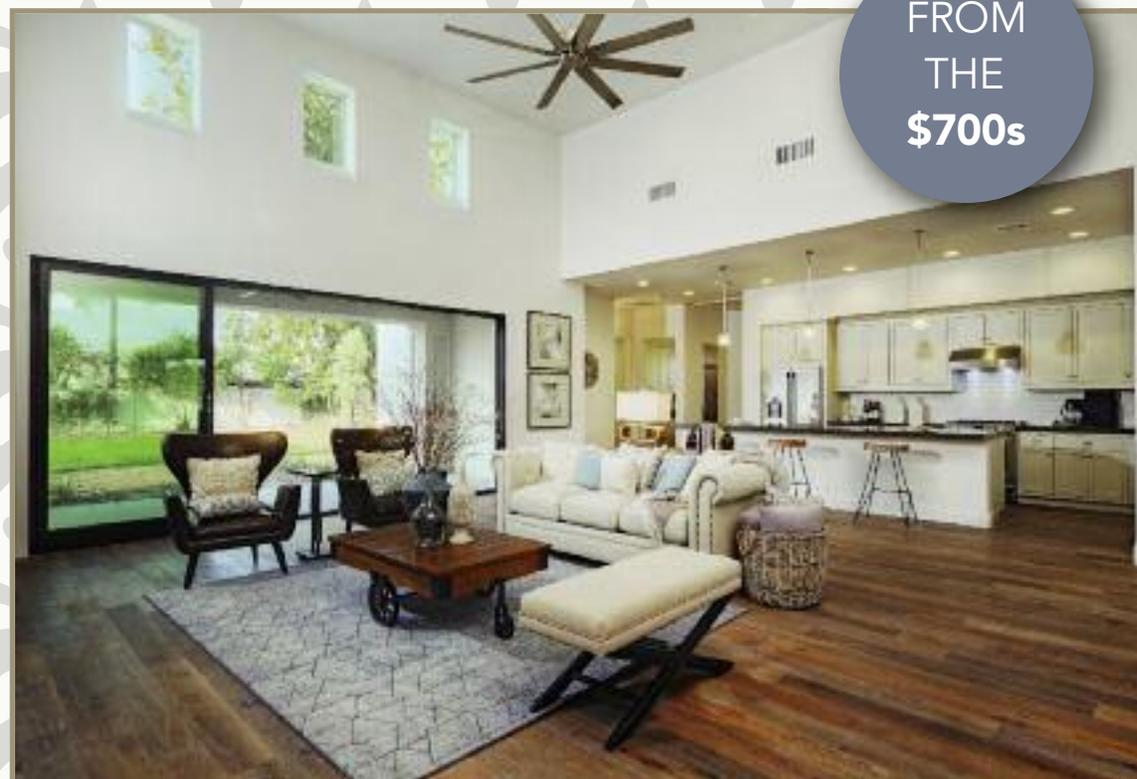
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A Visit with**Sen. Brophy McGee**

10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17

Sunnyslope Historical Museum

737 E. Hatcher Road

602-331-3150

Kate Brophy McGee, state senator for District 28, will reflect on growing up on a ranch in Southern Arizona. She is a Sunnyslope resident and an active volunteer in the community. The event is free and a light lunch will follow; donations welcome.

Phoenix Writers Club

12-2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18

Bluewater Grill

1720 E. Camelback Road

The club welcomes speaker Danielle Hampson, creator of The Authors Show, a professional interview program developed specifically for authors and broadcast online. Cost is

\$20 members/\$25 guests. RSVP to navissak@hotmail.com with Phoenix Writers Club in subject.

AAUW Leaders**Reflect on 2017**

6:30 p.m. Tuesday Feb. 20

Beatitudes Luther Life Center

1616 W. Glendale Ave.

602-510-1544

The Phoenix Branch of AAUW (The American Association of University Women) features Arizona AAUW past co-presidents Dr. Jane Adrian and Shirley Talley. They will discuss the experiences of their term—what they had thought, what they found, and what they have learned. The meeting begins after an optional dinner at 5:30 p.m. (\$15). RSVP for the dinner by Feb. 16. Visitors are welcome.

Scientists, fans meet at local restaurants

Arizona State University's Biodesign Institute this month launches a new outreach program that invites the general public to mingle with notable sci-

entists and learn about some of the world's most fascinating and current scientific issues.

The "A Sip of Science" talks will take place at Valley venues from Feb. 8 through May 8, where guests will have the opportunity to meet with biologists, neuroscientists, chemists, physicists, engineers and computer scientists at local restaurants.

Each event in the series will feature accessible, lively and wide-ranging conversations. The event schedule includes:

- **Breaking the Ice: Exploring the Frozen Continent with the Penguin Whisperer**, Thursday, Feb. 8 from 5:30-7 p.m. at George and Dragon English Pub, 4240 N. Central Ave. Led by molecular virologist Arvind Varsani, aka "The Penguin Whisperer," who works across ecosystems from plants and animals from the tropics to the Antarctic, this lecture covers the role viruses play in ecosystems and how they affect the world's population.

- **The Brain Explained: Can I Change My Brain?** Sunday, March 4 from 4-5:30 p.m. at Tomaso's Italian

restaurant, 3225 E. Camelback Road. Neuroscientists Paul Coleman and Diego Mastroeni have handled thousands of human brains in their quest to alleviate suffering caused by Alzheimer's, dementia and other brain-related illnesses as well as unlock other mysteries of the brain such as nature versus nurture, how to help children develop their brainpower and more.

- **Why is Cybersecurity So Hard and What Can We Do About It?** Tuesday, March 6 from 5:30-7 p.m. at The Market by Jennifer's, 3606 E. Indian School Road. Stephanie Forrest is a computer scientist who looks at cybersecurity from a different angle. How can the principles of biology help us attack viruses and build immunity into our systems?.

Cost is \$15 (plus fee) per "Sip of Science" event, and includes light appetizers. Happy Hour pricing on beer and wine will be offered at each venue during the event. Proceeds will be used to fund community science events.

For registration and information, visit www.Eventbrite.com, keyword search: A Sip of Science.



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Local agency tackles transgender issues

By Hanna Plotnik

Transgender youth and adults face a disproportionate amount of discrimination at home, in their neighborhood, at school and at work, according to speakers at a workshop held Jan. 11 by a Jewish community group to help educate Valley stakeholders about transgender issues.

Gender expression is the fifth-most common reason students are bullied at school, and due to their negative experiences at school, trans students are over three times more likely than their LGBTQ peers not complete high school, said Madelaine Adelman, associate professor of Justice and Social Inquiry at Arizona State University.

Adelman was one of the speakers at the transgender workshop sponsored by the Aleinu Program of North Central Phoenix-based Jewish Family & Children's Service.

Also talking to parents, educators and counselors was Cammy Bellis, director of the Transgender Education

program at Arizona State University.

Trans students face discrimination in schools due to being unable to participate in gender-segregated activities and face exclusion and health concerns when unable to access gender-segregated bathrooms and locker rooms, Adelman said.

"Trans and gender non-conforming youth and adults want to thrive, but many are just fighting to survive," Adelman pointed out.

Bellis added, "Parents of trans youth are fighting the battles for their children so they can be their true selves at school. Many of these parents wish they could shield their children from this discrimination but unfortunately they find out how our society currently operates."

Adelman said it is important for schools and parents to get in front of issues, before problems arise in schools and workplaces.

Jewish Family & Children's Service hosted the workshop as part of its Aleinu Program; Aleinu comes from a Hebrew word, meaning "it is our responsibility," said Jessica Levin, Aleinu

program coordinator and clinician.

"We are just all about offering as much help and support to all different types of people, different cultures, different backgrounds, and different educational levels, so the more that we can do to help create awareness and inform people about different resources the better," Levin said.

Cynthia Baysdorfer, a licensed professional counselor at Jewish Family & Children's Service, attended the workshop because it was a relevant topic. "The very next day I met a family who has an 11-year-old trans male child. I felt more equipped and educated to work with him," Baysdorfer said.

There is a trend in recent surveys where young people tend to reject rigid boundaries when it comes to gender or sexuality, and they will likely continue to blur those boundaries, Adelman pointed out.

"All of us deserve safety, dignity, and equal access and opportunity," Adelman said. "None of us should have to negotiate our safety, bargain for dignity, or be held back by a lack of equal access or opportunity, regardless of our gender identity or gender expression. It is that simple."

Editor's note: Hanna Plotnik is a student at the ASU Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.



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Luci's at the Orchard has Little Free Library

Little Free Libraries have started popping up all around the world and according to the most recent reports, there are over 50,000 registered Little Free Library book exchanges in over 70 countries around the world. Most recently, Luci's at the Orchard received a Little Free Library, donated by the Phoenix Association of Realtors.

The Little Free Library is a "take a book, return a book" free book exchange, and the Little Free Library at Luci's at the Orchard aims to inspire a love of reading through people sharing their favorite books with the community. The library at Luci's at the Orchard is a mini replica of the water tower that sits out front of the patio there.

Anyone is welcome to visit the Little Free Library at Luci's at the Orchard, located at 7100 N. 12th St. For more information about Luci's Urban Concepts and each of its locations, visit <http://www.lucisurbanconcepts.com/concepts/>.

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8135 N. Central Avenue Unit 14, Phoenix, AZ 85020
1701 W. Seldon Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85021
8043 W. Laurel Lane, Peoria, AZ 85345
915 E. Oregon Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85013
1625 W. Mission Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85021
1748 W. MISSION LN, Phoenix, AZ 85021

409 W. Beverly Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85023
7537 N. 17th Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85021
2036 W. Kathleen Road, Phoenix, AZ 85023
14211 N. 10th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85022
11983 W. Pima Street, Avondale, AZ 85323
409 E. Lamar Road, Phoenix AZ 85012

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8103 N. 11th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85021
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7519 N. 14th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85021
10218 N. 60th Lane, Glendale, AZ 85302
5817 N. 12th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85014
10426 N. 11th Street Unit 1, Phoenix, AZ 85020
8009 N. 16th Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85021
1750 E. Ocotillo Road, Phoenix, AZ 85016
7326 N. 17 Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85021

5436 E. Cambridge Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85008
9854 N. 1st Street, Phoenix, AZ 85020
1410 E. Cholla Street, Phoenix, AZ 85020
910 W. Kaler Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85021
4209 N. 10th Place, Phoenix, AZ 85014
7025 N. 22nd Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85021
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Book details simple ways to farm in the city

Living in a city does not mean you can't grow your own food and raise your own livestock, according to Phoenix resident and Master Gardener Kari Spencer, whose family operates The Micro Farm Project.

"The Micro Farm Project is a beautiful place where veggies, flowers, fruit, and herbs grow and our small livestock animals provide us with fun and food," Spencer explains. "We are creating a tiny farm on our urban lot and are always experimenting with ways for our family to become more self-reliant and efficient. Our practices are slowly becoming more sustainable, replenishing our little piece of land, our health and our spirits."

Spencer shares her experience, tips and techniques in a new book released last month, "City Farming: A How-To Guide to Growing Crops and Raising Livestock in Urban Spaces." The book



Master Gardener Kari Spencer grows food and raises livestock—including chickens—on her urban farm in Phoenix (photo by Joyous Moments Photography).

provides expert advice on growing a wide variety of fruits and vegetables and raising small livestock in a straightforward and non-technical way that is aimed at everyone interested in establishing an outdoor plot on any scale, from a modest backyard to a fully functioning small farm.

Farming in cities and small spaces is becoming increasingly popular, but it has its challenges. "City Farming" addresses the problems the urban farmer might face and turns them into creative solutions. It assists the new grower to gain expert understanding of how to create a production urban farm, as well as helping established farmers to troubleshoot and discover new ways to bring their space into greater harmony and production.

Each chapter unfolds a piece the story of The Micro Farm Project that provides an overview of the theme, and then discusses the crop and livestock considerations relating to the theme of the chapter in the form of the challenges they present and practical solutions to the problems such as lack of space, high population density, poor soil quality, planning restrictions/municipal regulations, etc.

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HOME & GARDEN

stock suitability in limited space, permaculture in small spaces, and more.

The book (5m Publishing, \$39.95) is available from ChangingHands.com and Amazon.com; presently not available in store.

Spencer also is the author of “Urban Composting Made Easy: The Art & Science of Creating Gardeners Gold,” and offers a free webinar on “Growing Food: The Basics” (download from The Micro Farm Project Facebook page). Additional free resources can be found at www.themicrofarmproject.com.

Citrus trees available at pop-up nurseries

The Urban Farm has announced dates for its fruit tree pop-up nursery events as part of its annual Fruit Tree Program. Thousands of trees are set to arrive in Phoenix and are ripe for picking. Shoppers can choose from an incredible selection of citrus starting in February, like lemons, limes or blood oranges.

The Pop-Up Nursery will take place Feb. 16-17 and Feb. 23-24 at 4549 N.

7th St. Hours will be 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Gardening supplies will also be available for purchase. Prices of fruit trees begin at just \$10.

“I am really excited about all that The Urban Farm has to offer,” says Urban Farm owner Greg Peterson. “I hand-select trees that will continue to grow and provide food for you year after year.”

Have issues growing fruit in your yard? Wondering what kind of soil is needed to make your trees a success? Peterson will be on-hand throughout the day with the answers to help you and your trees succeed.

For more information on The Urban Farm, visit www.Urbanfarm.org or like them on Facebook at [Facebook.com/TheUrbanFarm](https://www.facebook.com/TheUrbanFarm).

Willo home tour, street fair returns

The history and charm of downtown Phoenix’s historical neighborhoods will be on display at the Willo Historic Home Tour & Street Fair, sponsored by The District PHX, from

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11 in the Willo Historic Neighborhood.

The Willo neighborhood is located between 7th and 1st avenues, north of McDowell Road and south of Thomas Road. Attendees can view 13 historic residences and a fire station museum, and enjoy a street fair with a classic car show, beer/wine garden, live music, food trucks and more than 80 vendors. Admission to the street fair is free.

Advanced tickets are \$18 and can be purchased at www.WilloPhx.com or onsite for \$20 the day of the event; ticket booth is located at 3rd Avenue and Monte Vista Road.

Take a tour of Marion Estates

The annual Modern Phoenix Home Tour will take place 1-6 p.m. Sunday, March 25 in the Marion Estates area. Tickets go on sale Feb. 1 (\$40) and sell out very quickly.

Mature native landscaping, gentle slopes, dramatic desert washes and spectacular views of Camelback Mountain and Praying Monk make this 1950s-era

neighborhood of custom homes a fan favorite. The tour is park-and-walk with many homes clustered within walking distance of each other. A map will be provided at check-in on tour day.

To purchase your tour ticket, visit <http://www.modernphoenix.net/home-tour/index.htm>. You will also find a calendar of all events and tours for Modern Phoenix Week, March 16-25. Check out the March issue of *North Central News* for a listing of lectures and events, many of them free, in the North Central community.

Sogetsu Ikebana class at downtown garden

Ikebana is the art of Japanese flower arrangement. A Sogetsu Ikebana class takes place 10 a.m.-12 p.m. on Sunday, March 3 at the Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix, 1125 N. 3rd Ave.

Cost is \$35 per person, \$30 for garden members. For more information or to register, call 602-274-8700 or visit www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org and click on “Workshops/Classes” under the Events & Programs tab.

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Business Briefs

Net profits don't always match your bank balance

On the Money will host a panel discussion moderated by President and CEO Ruth Urban at 12 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21, at Workuity, 2309 E. Camelback Road, Suite 130.

The topic is "Why doesn't my net profit equal the money in my bank account and other bookkeeping questions you've always wondered about."

The event is free and a complimentary lunch begins at 11:45 a.m. No RSVP required. Attendees can e-mail questions in advance to info@onthemoneyaz.com.

Stanton to deliver final 'State of City' address

Join more than 1,000 Valley business and government leaders, Phoenix City Council members and the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce to

hear Mayor Greg Stanton's final State of the City Address, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 6 at the Sheraton Grand Phoenix, 340 N. 3rd St.

As he ends his term, Mayor Stanton will share the City of Phoenix's progress over the past year and provide a glimpse at how the city plans to carry on a legacy of innovation and growth.

This event is expected to sell out. Tickets are \$80 for chamber members and \$95 for nonmembers. To register, visit www.phoenixchamber.com/events. For questions, call 602-495-2182.

Buckingham brings 'Modernique' to Phoenix

Interior and furnishings designer and top-selling author, Julia Buckingham opened her first standalone retail shop last month in the Uptown Plaza at 100 E. Camelback Road, Ste. 112. A Grand Opening Party is set for 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15

Named Modernique, this storefront tucked into the north side of the plaza

next to West Elm will showcase Buckingham's signature interior design style: mixing and matching different genres and eras, allowing customers to create their own personalized yet still pulled-together look. The new boutique offers unique furniture, decorative lighting, textiles, wall coverings, unique accessories and gift items, which will be available both to the trades and the public.

Plus, Modernique offers an extensive selection of Buckingham's own custom-designed furnishings and accessories, which were previously only available to fellow professional interior designers, architects, retailers and the hospitality trade.

Blurring the lines between "modern" and "antique," Modernique is more than just the trademarked name of Buckingham's interior design book and new store; it's her entire design philosophy.

Modernique is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, visit www.shopmodernique.com; call 480-349-2408, or follow on social media @shopmodernique.

Studio Ma renovates new home for Free Arts

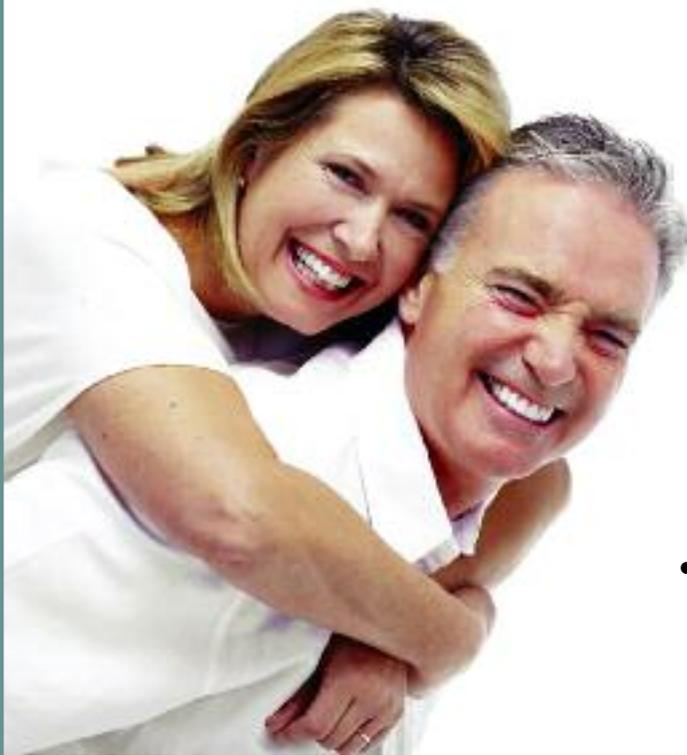
The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation awarded Free Arts for Abused Children of Arizona (Free Arts) a \$2.5 million grant in August 2017 to purchase a new building, allowing the nonprofit to double the organization's physical space, and provide funding for two of its signature programs.

Free Arts selected architecture and environmental design firm Studio Ma to design and oversee the renovation of the new building, located at 352 E. Camelback Road, which will be named The Bob & Renee Parsons Center for Hope & Healing.

The 10,500-square-foot building will be renovated to accommodate onsite programming, staff and volunteer growth and create a community center that can be utilized for training, workshops and events.

Studio Ma says construction on the first phase will begin in the summer of 2018 and the entire renovation will be complete by mid to late 2020.

please see FREE ARTS on page 22



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SOLD

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SOLD

19633 N. 37th Way • \$432,000
4 bdrms & 2 baths, 1908 sq ft
Quiet cul-de-sac



SOLD

16602 W. Hilton Ave. • \$415,000
4 bdrms, 2 baths, 2659 sq ft
Six car garage on an acre lot



SOLD

2865 N. 136th Dr. • \$375,000
5 bdrms & 3 baths, 3542 sq ft
Gorgeous TW Lewis home



SOLD

9628 E. Los Lagos Vista Ave. • \$370,000
5 bdrms & 3 baths, 3472 sq ft
Augusta Ranch beauty



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Earlier this month on Facebook, Impression Makers Printing . . .

. . . offered five followers a **FREE Map**, of their choice, scanned from the owners private copy of The Century (World) Atlas published as engraved in 1897 by the Century Company, New York. Two maps are shown here. Final maps were printed as continuous tone in 8 colors on high gloss paper 12" x 18" rolled in tubes.

If you are interested in getting a "copy" of similar quality and detail, we offer to all NCN readers a **Free Scan** of the map of your choice, and a minimal Printing Charge of \$25 plus any shipping charges, if necessary.

Contact Paul at 480.967.2180 if interested.



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

FREE ARTS continued from page 20

The Parsons have been longtime supporters of Free Arts and, through The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation, have granted more than \$3 million to the organization over the past six years. To learn more about the work of Free Arts or how you can get involved, visit www.freeartsaz.org.

Hair removal system uses art of sugaring

Driven by an entrepreneurial dream, Aimee Blake and her husband, William Johner, created Sugar Sugar five years ago. Living in Seattle and after attempting traditional waxing once, Aimee made the decision to sugar and has been a loyal client of sugaring for 15 years.

While visiting family in Phoenix, the couple was surprised to find no one practicing sugaring hair removal in the Valley. This realization inspired a kitchen table frenzy and 10 months later, the dream of Sugar Sugar was a reality, with a location at 5202 N. 7th St.

"We wanted to build the business from the perspective of the client," Aimee said. "I was a client and knew what was missing from my spa experience."

Sugar Sugar is an all-natural, organic spa specializing in sugaring hair removal. It is a modern, "micro" boutique-style spa that offers hair removal with less pain and skin irritation, and with longer-lasting results.

Sugar Sugar also offers an organic brown sugar airbrush tan, which was formulated to fade evenly with no "tan smell" and be a true golden brown. The spa also provides organic/vegan facials. Hours are 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Learn more at

www.SugarSugarAZ.com or call 480-367-8427.

Zinnias at Melrose will close Feb. 28

Michael Hardesty, owner of Zinnias at Melrose, announced on the store's Facebook page last month that the indoor mall will close on Wednesday, Feb. 28.

The mall, which is just over 10,000 square feet, features 30 different vendors. Zinnia's was first opened by Michael Todd Robertson in 2009 as an eclectic vintage market. Hardesty purchased the business from Robertson in 2013.

"In that time, we have grown sales at the store over 109 percent, which is something I am very proud of, but it's a much bigger picture than just the numbers to me," Hardesty explains.

Sales were significantly up in 2017, with the store selling online and shipping items across the country and internationally. However, Hardesty says that, after careful consideration, he will not be renewing his lease on the building, located at 724 W. Indian School Road. "Unfortunately, we did not reach a new agreement with the building owners."

Hardesty, who has built a loyal following at Zinnias, invites current and former customers to share their memories and personal experiences from the store, talk about the items they have purchased over the years, etc., on Facebook at Zinnias At Melrose Mall. Also, follow the Facebook page for a calendar of important dates and events that will take place as the clock for Zinnias begins to count down.

For more information, call 602-264-4166 or visit <http://www.zinniasatmelrose.com>.



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As many of you know, who have followed me, I am a huge lover of music. It has such an amazing quality to evoke all emotions from joy to acceptance to regret. 2017 was a banner year in new music and I thought I would share with you my favorite dozen songs released last year (yes, a little late).

- | | |
|--|---|
| 12 Humble by Kendrick Lamar | 6 I&I by Lost Under Heaven |
| 11 PRBLMS by 6lack | 5 Processional by William Patrick Corgan |
| 10 Burden by RKC&B | 4 Don't Delete the Kisses by Wolf Alice |
| 9 Flower Power by Greta Van Fleet | 3 Day I Die by The National |
| 8 Rage by Vic Mensa | 2 Sign of the Times by Harry Styles |
| 7 Valley Boy by Wolf Parade | 1 ???? |

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*First person to correctly answer the trivia question via email, text or phone call will win \$100 gift card to Revolver Records. Winner will be notified via the same channel in which they enter and their prize will be mailed. By entering this contest you agree that if you are the winner your name will be publicly announced in Bay Equity's North Central News ad next month.



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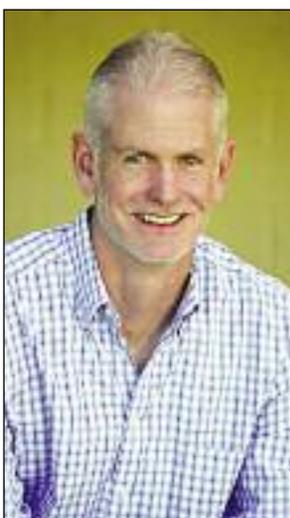
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7170 N. Central Ave.IN ESCROW3741 SF4BR/4BA	\$1,395,000
1761 E. Hatcher Rd.IN ESCROW4807 SF4BR/4BA	\$1,150,000
243 W. Montebello Ave. ..	.NEW PRICE .....	.5811 SF .....	.5BR/3.5BA	\$1,025,000
306 E. Wexford Cove ....	.IN ESCROW .....	.3950 SF .....	.4BR/4.5BA	\$1,050,000
7110 N. 18th St. ....	.4107 SF .....	.4BR/3.5BA	\$ 949,000	
902 W. El Camino Dr. ....	.4560 SF .....	.4BR/3.5BA	\$ 899,500	
5319 N. 2nd St. ....	.NEW PRICE .....	.3501 SF .....	.5BR/4.5BA	\$ 875,000
6730 N. 7th St. ....	.IN ESCROW .....	.4272 SF .....	.4BR/3.5BA	\$ 849,500
1300 W. Myrtle Ave. ....	.NEW CONSTRUCTION ..	.3581 SF .....	.4BR/3.5BA	\$ 738,203
1755 E. Aurelius Ave. ....	.IN ESCROW .....	.2722 SF .....	.4BR/2.5BA	\$ 724,900
1400 W. Myrtle Ave ....	.NEW CONSTRUCTION ..	.2863 SF .....	.3BR/2.5BA	\$ 685,619
1320 W. Myrtle Ave. ....	.IN ESCROW .....	.2863 SF .....	.3BR/2.5BA	\$ 648,375
700 W. Drey Dr. ....	.3850 SF .....	.4BR/3BA	\$ 640,000	
1430 W. Myrtle Ave. ....	.NEW PRICE .....	.2863 SF .....	.3BR/2.5BA	\$ 614,900
3800 E. Lincoln Dr #29. .	.NEW PRICE .....	.3031 SF .....	.4BR/3BA	\$ 599,000
1620 E. Echo Ln. ....	.NEW PRICE .....	.3250 SF .....	.4BR/4BA	\$ 599,000
544 E. Belmont Ave. ....	.IN ESCROW .....	.3941 SF .....	.5BR/2.5BA	\$ 579,000
6122 N. 8th Ave ....	.NEW PRICE .....	.2781 SF .....	.4BR/3BA	\$ 565,000
1320 W. Myrtle Ave. ....	.IN ESCROW .....	.2863 SF .....	.3BR/2.5BA	\$ 574,900
1410 W. Myrtle Ave. ....	.IN ESCROW .....	.2863 SF .....	.3BR/2.5BA	\$ 569,900
210 E. Keim Dr. ....	.JUST LISTED .....	.2182 SF .....	.3BR/2.5BA	\$ 559,000
7638 N. 5th Ave. ....	.JUST LISTED .....	.1984 SF .....	.4BR/2BA	\$ 475,000
6311 N. 10th Ave. ....	.JUST LISTED .....	.2509 SF .....	.4BR/2BA	\$ 475,000
14240 N. 5th St. ....	.JUST LISTED .....	.3250 SF .....	.4BR/3.5BA	\$ 474,900
1617 E. Lamar Rd. ....	.NEW PRICE .....	.2181 SF .....	.4BR/2.75BA	\$ 445,000
3116 N. 27th St. ....	.JUST LISTED .....	.1659 SF .....	.3BR/2BA	\$ 399,000
537 E. Hayward Ave. ....	.IN ESCROW .....	.1709 SF .....	.4BR/2BA	\$ 365,000
706 E. Boca Raton Rd. ..	.NEW CONSTRUCTION ..	.1912 SF .....	.3BR/2.5BA	\$ 329,000
706 E. Boca Raton Rd. ..	.IN ESCROW .....	.1912 SF .....	.3BR/2.5BA	\$ 307,900
722 E. Boca Raton Rd. ..	.NEW CONSTRUCTION ..	.1767 SF .....	.3BR/2.5BA	\$ 296,600
711 E. Boca Raton Rd. ..	.NEW CONSTRUCTION ..	.1784 SF .....	.3BR/2.5BA	\$ 295,000
718 E. Boca Raton Rd. ..	.NEW CONSTRUCTION ..	.1640 SF .....	.3BR/2.5BA	\$ 282,900
715 E. Boca Raton Rd. ..	.NEW CONSTRUCTION ..	.1640 SF .....	.3BR/2.5BA	\$ 282,900
12831 N. 17th Pl. Lot 1014,972 SF LOT with views	\$ 199,900
5025 N. 20th Ave.IN ESCROW1844 SF3BR/3BA	\$ 199,900

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HEALTHY LIVING

Health Briefs

Family history and heart disease

Learn what effect your family history could have on your heart and your children's hearts during Abrazo Arizona Heart Hospital's "Know Your Heart—What's in Your Family Tree?" seminar from 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6 at the hospital, 1930 E. Thomas Road.

Genetics are a strong indicator of your risk for heart disease. During this free seminar, you will find out how changing your behavior, lifestyle and environment can help you stay heart-healthy. There will be a question-and-answer session with cardiologist Sheena Prakash.

To register, go to www.AbrazoHealth.com/HeartHealth or call 844-563-6109.

As part of Heart Month, Abrazo Community Health Network will present "28 Days of Heart Smarts" to help people understand and manage the

risks associated with the disease. From Feb. 1-28, Abrazo will share daily Heart Smarts tips—from the best foods to eat to exercise, medication adherence and more via email and social media. To sign up, visit www.AbrazoHealth.com/HeartMonth.

Creative imagery in guided relaxation

Kharma Life Center instructor Piperlyne hosts an exploration of guided relaxation into the mind in her "Guided Imagery" class. This workshop is held 1-2:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month and is available to anyone—no experience necessary.

Clear away clutter and unnecessary buildup that has been holding you back and taking up too much valuable space in your mind, your body and your emotions. Using storytelling, metaphors, and creative imagery you will learn how to use your intuitive subconscious to re-create your life's journey.

Each month will offer a unique focus of guidance. Cost is \$20 per class. Preregister to attend by visiting www.kharmalifecenter.com.

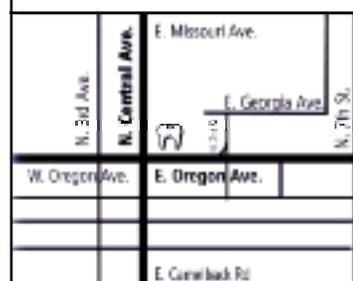
Free dental exams for kids in February

Risas Dental and Braces is celebrating National Children's Dental Health Month in February by offering free exams and X-rays for kids and educating students on proper oral health care at a number of Phoenix-area schools.

"About 147 million kids drink at least some sugar-sweetened beverage daily, so it's no wonder one of the top reasons kids miss school is due to dental problems," said Dr. Whitney Wright, founding orthodontist at Risas Dental. "What children eat and drink not only affects their oral health, but their overall well-being. It's critical to educate them on the importance of proper care."

Risas Dental and Braces will offer free exams and X-rays for all children ages 17 and younger between Feb. 1-28. Parents can make an appointment at any of Risas Dental's offices, by calling 480-566-2930 or they can book online at www.risasdental.com. Local offices include Metrocenter, 10621 N. 35th Ave., and Phoenix Central, 4501 N. 7th St.

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SCHOOL DAYS



Sherri Johnson, preschool teacher at St. Francis Xavier School, welcomes Tom Barnes, aka “Grandpa Tom,” to her classroom via FaceTime, as he prepares to read the 3-year-olds the story of “Rowdy’s Big Day” (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

Family members visit virtually

By Teri Carnicelli

Sherri Johnson gets her preschool class of 3-year-olds settled down on the carpet inside the classroom at St. Francis Xavier School, as her assistant, Heather Halican, prepares the tablet for the next activity.

Only this is no ordinary activity—it’s a story being read by a student’s grandfather, who is thousands of miles away in Louisville, Ky. Tom Barnes, aka “Grandpa Tom,” will be reading the story to the excited children, live, via FaceTime.

Barnes read “Rowdy’s Big Day,” the story of a boy’s beloved horse competing at the State Fair for the first time, keeping the toddlers engaged by asking them questions like “have you ever been to a state fair,” or “have you seen a horse race,” and “do you like cotton candy?”

At the end of the session, each student stuck a red paper heart with his or her name on it onto the white board to show “Grandpa Tom” they loved him, and his granddaughter, North Central resident Kathryn Tamm, also gave him a big “hug.”

It’s not Barnes’ first virtual visit, nor is it the first time students have visited with family members around the country through a live video link.

Johnson, who has been at the school for six years, came up with the idea after St. Francis Xavier Principal Kim

Cavnar at the beginning of the school year challenged all the teachers to come up with a “big idea” that would help bring the larger community into the school environment.

Then in November, the school hosted its annual Grandparents Day Celebration. A child in Johnson’s class had grandparents who could not attend because they lived too far away. That’s when the idea of having them “visit” via FaceTime was born. The call was broadcast on the white board, and the grandfather read a story to the class, even dressing as the character in the book, which the children loved.

Another grandparent later that same month visited virtually as a guest art teacher, leading the students in a fun holiday craft.

“We’ve had visitors from Vancouver, Tennessee, and even had a virtual tour of the helicopter area at a naval base in San Diego,” Johnson said. They also have visited with a Phoenix-area teacher who was hospitalized with an illness for more than two weeks. Johnson says she plans to coordinate with a classroom at a public school in Phoenix to do virtual activities together.

“We can use technology to show these children that there is a bigger world out there, and they can not only visit it but have an impact on it themselves,” Johnson explained. “We also can use the activity to emphasize some of the virtues the school’s mission statement of Kids for Others, such and

compassion and empathy.”

The grandparents also are loving the chance to become part of the classroom, and as the technology becomes more accessible, Johnson anticipates more grandparents will be signing up for virtual visits.

Three area schools receive STEM grants

Arizona has a number of educators who inspire students in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). APS and the Phoenix Suns have teamed up to help these teachers bring innovative hands-on STEM learning to 6,000-plus students through financial grants totaling \$50,000.

The grants were recently awarded to 25 elementary and high school teachers across Arizona—including three in North Central Phoenix. These grants will be used by teachers to pro-

please see GRANTS on page28

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SCHOOL DAYS

GRANTS continued from page 27

vide a wide range of STEM-related content, including robotics, gardening, water harvesting, computer coding and even designing and building classroom furniture.

In the Phoenix Union High School District, both BioScience High School and Metro Tech High School received grants. At BioScience, the \$2,500 will be used to help students examine the efficiency and accessibility of alternative fuels, specifically focusing on bio-diesel coming from algae lipids. They will grow and cultivate the algae and extract lipids to create bio-diesel. At Metro Tech, which received \$1,500, students will partner with area non-profits to use design software, wood-working, welding, plasma cutting, and laser engraving to create and build obstacle courses to train future police and fire cadets, an amphitheater for students, a gift shop display area (shelving, storage, lockable cases), therapy play devices for autistic children, and medical carts for medical assistants.

Also receiving a grant, valued at \$740, was Madison Heights

Elementary School, where students focusing mostly on engineering skills will design and create a plane by learning about the science of aerodynamics, while also learning the main parts of an airplane along with the function of those parts. The ultimate goal is to build a plane that can sustain flight.

“These grants are relatively small, but they can make a big difference to a teacher with an innovative idea on how to get students interested in math and science. This year’s applications were especially creative,” said John Hatfield, APS Vice President of Communications and Community Affairs. “These programs are so important because many of the best jobs in Arizona’s economic future will require technical skills.”

For the past 12 years, APS and the Phoenix Suns have partnered to promote STEM education in Arizona schools by annually awarding \$50,000 in mini-grants for hands-on projects focused on STEM subjects. The grants were available to all kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers in public and charter schools in APS service territories. The funds support inventive, student-based projects aimed at sparking students’ curiosity and getting them excited about STEM subjects.

School Briefs

GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Spring sports just ahead

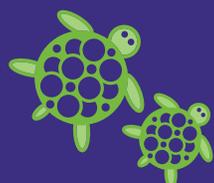
A new season of sports is quickly approaching for Glendale Union students. Spring Sports begin Feb. 25 and continue until April 25. Students will be participating in baseball, softball, boys tennis, girls tennis and track and field.

To locate schedule information, connect with your school’s website and choose the ‘Athletics’ tab at the top of the page. School websites can be found at www.guhsdaz.org.

Students receive GCU scholarships

Students Inspiring Students scholarships are awarded by Grand Canyon University to qualifying students from GCU’s neighborhood, participating schools, including those in the Glendale Union district.

Recent full-ride scholarship recipients from GUHSD included



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PHOENIX, RIVERVIEW & PEORIA

SCHOOL DAYS

Jacqueline Pop and Jack Sedrak of Thunderbird High School, and Nancy Marrufo Aguilar and Gerardo Ortega Sanchez of Washington High School.

Students must complete a minimum of 100 hours of study time at the GCU Learning Lounge, where free tutoring services are provided by GCU students, and must demonstrate a financial need.

In related news, Thunderbird High School senior Rachel Violette was one of 106 students chosen nationwide to receive a \$25,000 scholarship from the Horatio Alger Scholarship Association. The association recognizes students who have exhibited determination, integrity, and perseverance in overcoming adversity.

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT 'Kid chef' finalists compete on Feb. 28

Budding young chefs will have a chance to show all their friends and teachers in the Madison School District their awesome cooking skills as part of the "Madison Top Chef" contest.

Students were invited to submit their favorite breakfast, lunch, side dish, or dessert recipe online by Feb. 1. The winning recipes and their chefs will be invited to present their dish to local celebrities at the Madison Top Chef event, 5:30 p.m. Wednesday Feb. 28, at the Madison Park Commons. All winning recipes will be featured on the April and May school meal menus.

Feedback sought for superintendent search

The Madison School District Governing Board is in the process of recruiting a Superintendent to start the 2018-2019 school year on July 1, 2018. The new superintendent will replace Quinn Kellis, who joined the district on July 1, 2014.

The Madison Governing Board is seeking feedback from all Madison stakeholders regarding the superintendent search. An online survey is available for those interested in commenting to share their thoughts with the board, through Feb. 13. The data collected will be used by the Board to identify and select the most highly qualified individual for this very important position.

The Stakeholder Survey is available at: <https://goo.gl/u4CkmH>.

OSBORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT Solano Student Council give back

Solano School Student Council members recently completed two hours of community service at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in Mesa. Students were able to follow FMSC's motto of turning "hunger into hope" by preparing nutritious lunches for children around the world.

Teachers Diana Schlepp and Amelia Hubbell, who serve as moderators of the student council, coordinated this project.

Read Better, Be Better graduation event

Read Better, Be Better had its winter graduation at Encanto-Clarendon, Solano, and Longview Schools. In this partnership, lead teachers from RBBB work with 6th grade "bigs" who mentor and teach their 3rd grade "littles."

Tremendous academic gains were seen, friendships formed, and leadership skills practiced.

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SCHOOL DAYS

**PHOENIX UNION
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Hall of Fame honors
coaches, players**

The third-annual Phoenix Union Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Dinner took place Dec. 19 at the Talking Stick Resort Arena. This year 70 individuals were inducted, most from the 1971-79 era. Championship teams from that decade also were recognized.

Some of the inductees included ASU and Dallas Cowboy linebacker Bob Breunig, Alhambra, 1971; College and NBA basketball player Steve Malovic, Alhambra, '74; Mississippi State baseball coach Ron Polk, Carl Hayden; NFL assistant and Univ. of Massachusetts football coach Mark Whipple, Camelback, '75; Whipple's high school coach, Jesse Parker; NY Mets hitting coach Pat Roessler, Camelback, '75; PGA golfer Howard Twitty; Central, '67; MLB players Gary and Dave Rajsich, Central; Olympic Track Bronze medalist Dwayne Evans, South Mountain.

In addition, Minnesota Viking



Among those inducted into the Phoenix Union Sports Hall of Fame were Patti (Iske) Kimpler and Carole (Cheuvront) Clark, Camelback archery, Class of 1976. Clark was a top national junior archer, Arizona state high school champion in 1974, and a three-year member of state championship archery teams. At ASU, she was a four-time All American, serving on four national championship teams. Kimpler was a three-year member of state championship teams at Camelback, and in the 1976 state championship game, tied with teammate Carole Cheuvront. She also attended ASU, was two-time All American and member of four national championship teams (photo courtesy of PUHSD).

Steve Jordan, a South Mountain graduate, and his father, Leon Edward Jordan, who coached basketball at Phoenix's Carver High School, were recognized.

Women inductees included Nancy Funari, a West High/Metro Tech graduate who coached softball for 25 years at Carl Hayden; Badminton and tennis state champion coach Janet (Shaler)

Westcott, Camelback; tennis coach Dr. Catherine Wilkinson, four-time state championships at North; and Joelyn Boone, who played four sports while at Central, played volleyball for ASU, and is a coach and teacher in Gilbert.

**Students win award
for app challenge**

Three Metro Tech High School students won this year's Congressional App Challenge. The App Challenge is a competition that encourages high school students from across the United States to create their own mobile applications.

Metro Tech seniors Edgar Alvarez, Jesus Hernandez, and Niyonkuru Pamphile won first place for their app, titled "American Trivia."

The students created the app as a part of a Game and App Development class, a Career and Technical Education (CTE) course. The students designed the functional, fun and user-friendly app using JavaScript in Code.org's App Lab.

"The user is prompted with a variety of questions about American history, some are basic, some are kind of off-the-wall," explained teacher Chad Renning.

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SCHOOL DAYS

“The user earns points for correct answers and loses tries if they get it wrong. After they have missed three questions, the game presents the user’s score and they can choose to play again.”

“American Trivia” will be displayed on the Congressional App Challenge website and will be exhibited on a digital display in the Capitol Building for a year.

Abdi nominated for football award

Camelback football player Abukar Abdi was nominated for the Ed Doherty Award, Arizona’s most prestigious high school football player award. Abdi is a four-year, two-sport athlete (football and track). He set a single game record for Camelback this year with 315 rushing yards, 32 carries and 4 touchdowns, and was on track to beat the single season rushing record before breaking his leg in the fifth game of the season.



Abukar Abdi

Abdi, who came to the United States from Kenya when he was 3, is on track with his rehabilitation to still participate in this year’s track season.

“In all my years at Camelback, I have never encountered a more positive student-athlete,” athletic director Steve Kuipers said. “While lying on the field after breaking his femur, with everyone else freaking out, Abukar was cracking jokes and encouraging his teammates. He had surgery the following day, and was back at school on Tuesday.”

Abdi was the only Phoenix Union student-athlete nominated for this year’s award.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT Foundation awards teacher mini-grants

The Washington Education Foundation recently awarded 29 mini-grants totaling \$25,762.81 to deserving WESD teachers, who plan to use these grants to enhance the learning experience for all WESD students.

Among the grant recipients were Desert View teachers Emily Sinclair for

her project, “Sensory Play Keeps Behaviors Away,” and Elizabeth Zimmerman for “A Picture Says A Thousand Words.”

At Mountain View School, several teachers received grants. Diane Distler and Karen O’Keefe were awarded for “Our Pencil Pal Program,” Jackie Swigart’s “Keep Calm and R.I.S.E. On Boxes” program was funded, and “Lakeside Learning: Transforming a Classroom into a Community,” a group project by Andrea Haack, Cassandra Wills, Shannon Schut, and Sheila-Ann Sylvia, also received a grant.

At Orangewood School, Brooks Swigert and Dianna Bonney were awarded funds for “Gearing Up with Rube Goldberg,” and Caitlin Corrigan, Michael Austin and Cassie Reidenbach-Noel were given a grant for “Chromebooks in the Classroom.”

PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS Grant helps repair, upgrade sports fields

Much-anticipated improvements will soon be coming to Villa

Montessori’s recreational fields, thanks in part to a \$115,240 grant recently awarded to the school by the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority.

To be eligible for the grant, the school, located at 2802 E. Meadowbrook Ave., was required to provide matching dollars equal to at least 33 percent of the amount requested. The Villa community raised \$56,760. So \$172,000 is now available for two fields, which are used for sports programs, physical education classes and other outdoor activities.

“This money allows us to finally add proper field drainage on our elementary and middle school campuses,” said Margo S. O’Neill, Head of School at Villa Montessori. “It will also help to lay the foundation for our new outdoor specialty teaching gardens and move forward with the next step in our exciting plans.”

The forthcoming field enhancements are among several improvements planned for the Pre-K-8 school, including new facilities, resources and entrepreneurial programs. Construction on

please see GRANTS on page 32



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SCHOOL DAYS



Empower College Prep students, from left, Jesus Gonzales, Jelenna Perez and Lizeth Corrales are excited to tutor and mentor local elementary school students (submitted photo).

GRANTS continued from page 31

the fields will begin immediately after the school year ends in May 2018. Additional information about Villa Montessori is available at www.villamontessori.com.

Empower launches tutoring program

Empower College Prep High School students started building a pipeline of academic excellence in Central Phoenix-area elementary schools in November. After exceeding the state average and out-performing most high schools in the area on last year's AzMERIT test, Empower College Prep's students are ideal role models for younger peers.

The Empower team of freshman and sophomores have started volunteering weekly in classrooms to help participating elementary students succeed academically.

Empower College Prep, 2411 W. Colter St., was founded 5 years ago as a Title 1 school, serving low-income students in the Phoenix area. The school's promise is that every student, regardless of their situation, will have the opportunity to go to college and change their lives and community.

Empower College Prep's students volunteer 50 hours each year they are in high school, either in local elementary schools, or by helping youth with disabilities at the Arizona Recreation Center for the Handicapped or at a parent resource center for families with behavioral or physical challenges. So far, three elementary schools have invited Empower students to volunteer with their students, and Executive Director Brian Holman is hoping for many more.

"Serving in local schools is a great next step on their pathway to college

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SCHOOL DAYS

and pursuit of changing the world,” Holman said. “It’s all part of them discovering who they are, what they were made for, what needs to be changed in this world, and what they are going to do about it.”

For more information about Empower College Prep, visit the website at www.empowercollegeprep.org.

Xavier hosts Mock Trial Invitational

Xavier College Preparatory’s Elias M. Romley Xavier Mock Trial Team will host its 13th Annual Mock Trial Invitational on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Xavier’s campus, 4710 N. 5th St.

Each year, the competition draws numerous mock trial teams from high schools across the Valley to scrimmage in preparation for Arizona’s regional and state mock trial tournaments in March. Dozens of Maricopa County attorneys and judges volunteer their time and experience to judge each of the competition’s rounds.

For additional information, contact Dani Richter at rrichter@xcp.org.

Volleyball honors for players, coach

Eleven Xavier College Preparatory students were named to the 2017 Sports360AZ All-Academic Volleyball Team in recognition of their outstanding performances both on the volleyball court and in the classroom.

Among them were North Central residents Alyna Draper, senior, and Shannon Shields, junior, who each received Honorable Mention recognition.

Xavier head coach Lamar-Renee Bryant, who coached the Gators to this year’s Division I state championship, was named All-Arizona Girls Volleyball Coach of the Year.

Christ Church School adds fifth grade level

Christ Church School will expand its class offerings to include fifth grade. The Town of Paradise Valley approved this expansion, which will begin with the 2018-2019 school year.

Christ Church School is an Episcopal preschool and elementary school serving families in North Central

Phoenix, Paradise Valley and Scottsdale. Staff members focus on delivering developmentally appropriate intellectual experiences for every student. Small class sizes and low student-teacher ratios give every student the opportunity to thrive and grow to their full potential.

Contact the school office to schedule a tour of the CCS campus, learn about the outstanding elementary standardized test scores, and see the classrooms in action. Visit www.ccsaz.org, call 602-381-9906, or email info@ccsaz.org.

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GENERATIONS

Senior Living

Free programs look at nutrition, pain

The Sunnyslope Senior Center, 802 E. Vogel Ave., hosts several free programs this month on a variety of topics.

Learn how to manage your pain, 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 5. Have fun while discovering healthier ways to eat with “Nutrition Bingo,” 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 12. In addition, there will be special program on “Communicating with People with Dementia,” Monday, Feb. 26, at 10 a.m.

For those looking to have fun and socialize with other seniors, there will be a Superbowl Party, 12 p.m. Feb. 2, featuring trivia and a “touchdown” dance; a Mardi Gras Party, 11:30 a.m. Feb. 13, with soul food, beads, dice games and a make-your-own-mask craft; and an Oscar Party, 10 a.m. Feb. 28.

All programs are free with Senior Center membership (\$20 annually). No RSVP is needed.

Free tax prep for low-income seniors

AARP Foundation’s Tax-Aide program offers free tax filing help for qualifying seniors age 50 and older, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Thursdays, Feb. 1-April 12 at the Sunnyslope Senior Center, 802 E. Vogel Ave.

Tax prep volunteers also will be available 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Washington Activity Center, 2240 W. Citrus Way, and 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the Devonshire Senior Center, 2802 E. Devonshire Ave.

Volunteers will answer tax-related questions and help prepare returns for low- and middle-income seniors. The free service is first-come, first served; no appointments needed. You do not need to be a member of AARP.

For more information, visit www.aarp.org/taxaide, or call 1-888-AARPNOW.

Memory Café hosts visual artist

Jewish Family & Children’s Service’s March Memory Café will feature visual artist, Tessa Windt, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday, March 1, at Beth El Congregation, 1118 W. Glendale Ave.

Windt has worked with senior adults, helping to cultivate creative engagement to build connection and address the isolation faced by many older adults. Since 2015, she has been Artist-in-Residence for the Phoenix Art Museum’s Arts Engagement Program, a program for older adults with memory loss and their care partners. In 2016, she served as a mentor artist to the first Teaching Artist Institute for the Arizona Commission on the Arts’ three-year AZ Creative Aging Initiative.

The Memory Café is a meeting place for those with changes in their thinking or memory, mild cognitive impairment or dementia due to Alzheimer’s disease or a related disorder, along with their care partners. Offered on the first Thursday of the month, each café has a new theme and includes meaningful, fun activities to engage the participants and stimulate their minds and bodies.

There is no charge but registration is required. To register or for more

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Central Valley
Phoenix Community College
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GENERATIONS

information, e-mail kathy.rood@jfc-saz.org or call 602-452-4627.

Kids & Family

'Touch a Truck' benefits camp

Families are invited to bring their children to a fun hands-on activity, "Touch A Truck," 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10 at North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Ave. There will be more than 35 fire trucks, tractors, dump trucks, military vehicles and even helicopters. Children will be able to climb on all the vehicles (under supervision). There also will be bounce houses, face painting, and food and vendor booths.

Cost is \$5 per person, or \$20 maximum per family. Proceeds will be used to send Arizona kids with Spina Bifida to the inaugural, weeklong Camp Patrick this June in Payson, Ariz.

For more information, call 602-799-9136 or visit www.camppatrick.com.

Sunrays hosts national gymnastics competition

Calling all gymnasts and gymnastics fans: Here's your chance to attend the largest gymnastics competition held in the Southwest this year. From Feb. 9-11, the Arizona Sunrays Gymnastics & Dance Center will host its annual Classic Rock Gymnastics Invitational at the Phoenix Convention Center, 100 N. 3rd St. Hundreds of top gymnasts from all over the United States will compete.

This "ultimate gymnastics meet" will feature female gymnasts (Levels 2–Elite), live bands and entertainment, shopping, and more. Admission is \$22 per day for adults or \$42 for an all-

weekend adult pass; \$17 per day for children 12 and under, seniors, and members of the military, or \$37 for an all-weekend pass.

For more information and a schedule for the Classic Rock Invitational, visit www.classicrockinvitational.com.

A rockin' version of 'Cinderella'

Phoenix Dance company Center Dance Ensemble joins with Fantasies and Fairy Tales to present "Cinderella Rocks!" March 3-4 at the Herberger Theater Center, 222 E. Monroe.

The classic fairy tale is retold with a modern beat for children, ages 4 to 10. Show times are at 2 p.m. both days. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children or students, plus fees. For more information, call 602-252-8497 or visit www.herbergertheater.org.

Help teach your baby to swim

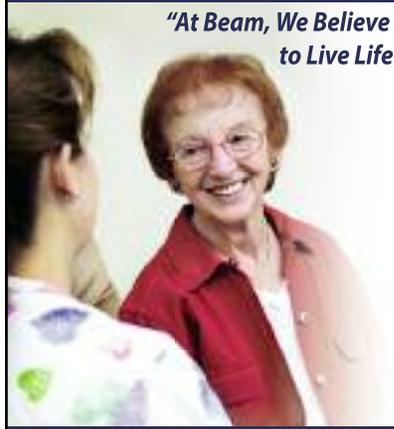
Pool season is just around the corner, and Hubbard Family Swim Schools offers weekly "baby splash" swim classes for babies 8 weeks to 5 months of age.

These 30-minute water acclimation classes give parents or caregivers a chance to learn excellent tips on how to enjoy tub time at home with baby and also learn how to prepare baby for swim lessons. The temperature of the heated, indoor swimming pool is 90 degrees all year long. Advanced registration is required. Parent participation is required. Classes are free but there is a \$25 joining fee before starting the classes.

Hubbard Family Swim School is located at 13832 N. 32nd St., Suite 100. For more information, call 602-971-4044 or visit www.hubbardswim.com.

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The company is commemorating its anniversary with a promotion that allows participating dealers to offer homeowners a \$100 Amazon gift card with any Tuscany, Montecito or aluminum series sliding patio door or a \$200 Amazon gift card for any moving glass wall system purchased through Feb. 28.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

A & E Briefs

'Waist Watchers The Musical'

Through Feb. 25
Herberger Theater
222 E. Monroe
602-252-8497

Set in Cook's Women's Gym, the story takes a hilarious and light-hearted look at four women dishing on food, diets, exercise, friendship, love—and sex. Tickets are \$54-\$62 plus fees. Visit www.herbergertheater.org.

'Hand to God'

Stray Cat Theatre
Feb. 2-25
Phoenix Theatre
100 E. McDowell Road
602-254-2151

The angst-ridden youth of Cypress, Texas spend their afternoons practicing Christian Puppet Ministry at the local church. When one of the puppets turns out to have a life of its own, all hell breaks loose. He may look like an innocent sock puppet, but Tyrone shocks the congregation with outrageous insinuations and exposes deep, dark secrets. Tickets are \$35-\$85 plus fees. Visit <http://www.phoenixtheatre.com>.

'Lines in the Dust'

Black Theatre Troupe
Feb. 9-25
Helen K. Mason
Performing Arts Center
1333 E. Washington St.
602-258-8129

The title refers to Alabama Governor George Wallace infamous speech regarding segregation in the 1960s as the play focuses on the residential zoning for school districts and the very real impact it has on families. When Denitra loses the charter school lottery for her daughter, she must find another way to escape from their underperforming neighborhood school. Tickets are \$38 plus fees. Visit www.blacktheatretroupe.org.

Vampire Ball

8 p.m.-1 a.m. Friday, Feb. 9
Club Palazzo
710 N. Central Ave.
602-734-5734

Guests are encouraged to dress to

the nines in their most captivating vampire or goth attire with a valentine flair. Party the night away with DJs Betty BlackHeart and Self.Destrukt. Performances by internationally renowned dance and aerial company Scorpius Dance Theatre. Pre-sale tickets through Feb. 8 are \$24, \$29 at the door (plus \$4 service fee). For tickets, visit www.phxvampireball.com.

Mark Fuller Piano Concert

4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11
Trinity Cathedral
100 W. Roosevelt St.
602-254-7126

Mark Fuller's final round performance in the 2007 Van Cliburn international amateur piano competition not only earned him the silver medal, but the first prize from the press jury, composed of music critics from around the United States. He lives, works and teaches in Phoenix. The concert program includes Les Juméles by Francois Couperin, Kreisleriana, op. 16 (eight fantasies) by German Romantic composer Robert Schumann, and Pictures At An Exhibition by Modest Mussorgsky. Admission is free. For more information, visit trinitymusicaz.org.

'Outside Mullingar'

Arizona Theatre Company
Feb. 15-March 4
Herberger Theater
222 E. Monroe
602-252-8497

Anthony and Rosemary are two introverted misfits straddling 40. Anthony is painfully shy and has spent his entire life on a cattle farm in rural Ireland. Rosemary lives right next door and is determined to have him—at all costs! She has every reason to fear romantic catastrophe. But these yearning, eccentric souls fight their way towards solid ground and some kind of happiness. Tickets are \$41 to \$70 plus fees. Visit www.herbergertheater.org.

'Luna Gale'

Feb. 16-March 4
Space 55
1524 N. 18th Ave.

This controversial 2015 Los Angeles Drama Critic's Circle Award Winning play focuses on the fight to



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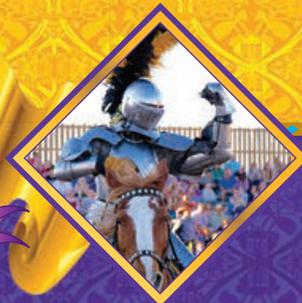
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'Kinky Boots'

Theater League
Feb. 16-18
Orpheum Theatre
203 W. Adams St.
800-776-7469

Charlie has suddenly inherited his father's shoe factory, which is on the verge of bankruptcy. Trying to save the family business, Charlie finds inspiration in the form of Lola. A fabulous entertainer in need of some sturdy stilettos, Lola turns out to be the one person who can help Charlie become the man he's meant to be. Tickets are \$45.25 to \$96.25, plus fees. Visit <https://theaterleague.com/phoenix/kinkyboots/>.

Jazz Coffee House

6-8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18
Dosia Carlson Center,
Church of the Beatitudes
555 W. Glendale Ave.

Featuring the ensemble of Jack Radavich (bass), Cleve Huff (drums), Ted Goddard (guitar) and Neal Seroka (guitar). Suggested \$5 donation at the door. Visit www.beatitudeschurch.org/concerts.

'Into the Woods'

Xavier/Brophy Theatre Co.
March 1-3
Kemper and Ethel Marley Theater,
Xavier College Preparatory
4710 N. 5th St.
602-240-3161

Based on the book by James Lapine with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. The production intertwines several classic fairy tales into one story, complete with heroes and heroines, evil characters, and a very interesting ending. The ticket price will be \$10 for all patrons, general seating, and may be purchased online at www.xcp.org or at the door.

'Shakespeare at the Herberger'

Center Dance Ensemble
March 1-4
Herberger Theater
222 E. Monroe
602-252-8497

Created by Artistic Director

Frances Cohen and featuring Emilio Minto as "Othello" and D. Daniel Hollingshead as the conniving "Iago," Shakespeare at the Herberger reveals the darkness and havoc that unfold from the evil machinations of the classic puppet master. Rounding out the program will be several mesmerizing pieces based on Shakespeare's sonnets. Tickets are \$28 adults, \$23 seniors and \$14 students; additional fees apply. Visit www.herbergertheater.org.

'Nordic Songs'

Phoenix Chorale
7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 3
Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
100 W. Roosevelt St.
3 p.m. Sunday, March 4
Camelback Bible Church
3900 E. Stanford Drive
602-253-2224

In a program inspired by Nordic folklore, kings, castles, and unicorns all make appearances along with the breathtaking beauty of the aurora borealis. Featuring the master composers of Finland, Sweden, Estonia, and Norway's Ola Gjeilo. Guest conductor is Joshua Habermann. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors (65 and older) and for active duty military, and \$15 for students with ID. Visit www.phoenixchorale.org.

Artist Workshop:

Rosa Kilgore
10 a.m.-12 p.m. March 10 & 17
Sanctuary on Camelback Resort
5700 E. McDonald Drive
877-265-1695

Rosa Kilgore, a skilled jewelry maker who creates heirloom pieces that stand the test of time, will lead a workshop using sterling silver, semi-precious charms and amulets to create wearable art. The workshops, priced at \$125 per person, are designed for all levels of artistic accomplishment and exclusively benefit the artist. Following each workshop, participants are invited to join the artist for lunch in elements restaurant. Advanced reservations for the workshop are required. An artist's reception, for those who have reservations for the workshop, will take place at the resort 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 8.



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Fares Tarabichi, one of the owners of The Crepe Club, draws at crowd at the Biltmore Fashion Park location as he prepares one of the “sweet” crepes, while a classic Parisian-style crepe with butter, white sugar and powdered sugar rests nearby (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

Café Chat
Finding fun in the diversity of a crepe

By Patty Talahongva

Looking for authentically French with a splash of southwest flavor? That’s what you’ll get at The Crepe Club, located inside the Biltmore Fashion Park on 24th Street and Camelback Road. It’s a concept three brothers from Syria started dreaming about when visiting their grandparents in Paris.

“Our first stop in Paris was the crepe shop; we’d drive from the airport straight to the shop,” recalls Fares Tarabichi, who attended a French boarding school when he was young. In time, the owner of that crepe shop gladly shared his recipe with the brothers, who later decided to open their own crepe “cart” while still in college.

The brothers attended Arizona State University, where Fares majored in political science. Omar earned his business degree, and Karim earned an engineering degree. Today they are all partners in The Crepe Club, and have three locations (two at ASU) with two more coming soon to Scottsdale and Chandler.

Fares handles the day-to-day operations, Omar takes care of the website, photos and social media, while Karim watches the finances. Their staff of 55 (14 at the Phoenix location) wear shirts emblazoned with, “Let them eat crepes,” a nod to a famously belea-

guered French queen.

Crepe means crisp or curled in French and there’s a definite technique to making the perfect crepe. There are sweet crepes and savory crepes on the menu, and vegetarian options available for both. Being in the southwest, the eatery provides hot sauce to add to your savory crepe and Fares now adds Sriracha right into the crepe batter (currently by request). When cooked, it adds a nice smoky-spicy flavor to the crepe that stands out and makes the rest of the food pop.

New to the menu is the fig jam and brie (\$8.45 for a regular and \$4.99 for a mini). Regulars requested this specific crepe and now it’s on the menu. “We listen to our customers,” Fares points out. Menu changes typically take place about twice a year. If you follow the company on Instagram, you have a chance to be selected at random to come in and test the new items for free.

There are two sizes available, including the breakfast crepes. The small ones, such as the mushroom, egg and Swiss cheese, will run you \$4.85 and the regular size chicken, egg and avocado costs \$9.45. Classic or Nutella croissant French toast is \$6.45. Despite its name, The Crepe Club also serve a variety of waffles, the most expensive and most packed of which is the “The S’mores The Better,” which includes two stacked waffles filled with Nutella, marshmallows, Biscoff crumbles and vanilla ice cream for \$12.95.

Of course, the coffee is served in a

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

French press. The Crepe Club also serves cappuccino and a Biscoff or Nutella latte, all around the \$5 price point. You can also bring in your own bottle of wine to enjoy and there is no corkage fee.

Lunchtime offerings include paninis and croissant sandwiches with a side salad for around \$10, and a selection of entrée salads. The menu offers crepe wraps – the customer favorite is the smoked salmon for \$10.95. A selection of French pastries also are available in the cold case by the register.

Fares says he didn't know how much he would end up enjoying running a restaurant but he's found great satisfaction with all aspects of the business. He works on not just making good crepes and a profit but also on employee satisfaction.

He can often be found making crepes or bringing meals to diners' tables. "I love being in the trenches," he says—even cleaning bathrooms. "When you are in the trenches you realize what's working and what's not." Fares still cooks every day. "I spin for 30 to 40 minutes at our ASU location," he says. "Spinning" is crepe lingo on how to properly spread the batter on the griddle. People can walk by The Crepe Club at the Biltmore and watch through the window as each crepe is handmade by carefully spinning the batter around on the griddle with a special wooden tool. Of the three brothers, Fares says he and Karim can spin. "Omar can eat," he teases.

Feb. 2 is National Crepe Day and The Crepe Club is marking the occasion by giving away Nutella or Parisian crepes (one per person, take-out only) from 2 to 5 p.m. Check the Facebook page for details on this special as well as specials for Valentine's Day.

Catering is available for both indoors and outdoors, and the entire Biltmore location can be rented out for private parties (seats 35-38 people). The cost depends on time of day, day of week and season; it can run from \$30 to \$40 per person.

The brothers believe in supporting the community and have held fundraisers for various charities as well as partnering with other local businesses, such as Press Coffee, which is served at all The Crepe Club locations. "I'm from Syria," says Fares, "I was given an opportunity and I won't take it for granted."

Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 8:30

a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. For more information, call 602-956-0087 or visit www.thecrepeclub.com.

Dining Briefs

Coup Des Tartes has closed its doors

One of Phoenix's most beloved French bistros closed its doors last month, after less than three years at its new location.

Coup Des Tartes, originally a BYOB bistro located in a 1930s farmhouse at the corner of 16th Street and Highland Avenue, quickly became a favorite among locals for its intimate dining environment. Regulars enjoyed such menu favorites as the Beef Bourguignon, Moroccan Lamb Shank and the Brie Brulee.

The land on which the 1932 farmhouse was situated was sold for more car dealership parking, and the restaurant, which had been there for more than 18 years, had to move by April 2014. Owner Ron Pacioni acquired a former doctor's office at 1725 E.

please see CLOSING on page 42

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Thank you for your support ... we hope you'll pass it on!

The staff of the *North Central News* would like to thank our readers for your continued support, allowing us to provide quality local news each and every month. We couldn't do it without you ... **but we especially couldn't do it without the support of our advertisers!** These local businesses are not only vital to a publication such as ours but also are the lifeblood of a local economy. So when you do your shopping throughout the new year, please patronize your local small businesses. You'll find great deals and unique items, and you'll help build a stronger local economy.

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CLOSING continued from page 41

Osborn Road in August 2013, and began an extensive remodel on the 1922 red brick Tudor Revival duplex in January 2014. Coup Des Tartes opened in its current location in May 2015.

The announcement came in mid-January that Coup Des Tartes would be closing for good at the end of the month.

"Although business has been steady, financial pressures from the new labor laws, increased competition, and debt from the restaurant's relocation, has forced us to this end," Pacioni said. "In the end we couldn't overcome the expense that came from literally rebuilding a restaurant after the loss of our first location.

Fat Tuesdays food, drinks at Southern Rail

Chef Justin Beckett invites guests to celebrate Fat Tuesday with a special Mardi Gras menu which will be available from 11 a.m.-10 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 13.

Among the specials are festive slices of King Cake, a staple of Mardi Gras

celebrations made of a cinnamon brioche dough shaped into a hollow circle and glazed with icing and Mardi Gras-colored sugar sprinkles.

New Orleans signature whiskey cocktails, Monsoons and Sazeracs, will also be joining the party, and guests opting for the full New Orleans experience are invited to stay for dinner and enjoy Chef Beckett's Jambalaya.

Southern Rail is located at 300 W. Camelback Road, inside The Newton. To make a reservation or for more information, call 602-200-0085 or visit www.SouthernRailAZ.com.

Meal deal at the Clever Koi

Enjoy any two rice and/or noodle dishes and four classic cocktails for \$50, Mondays and Tuesdays at the Clever Koi, 4236 N. Central Ave., #100.

Clever Koi is an Asian-inspired restaurant and craft cocktail bar featuring a wood-fired grill and roaring woks. Guests can get a front row seat to staff diligently preparing an ever-evolving menu of steamed buns, house made dumplings, progressive noodle dishes and small plates that reflect flavors and techniques from regions such as Thailand, Korea, China, Vietnam, Japan, and Indo-China.

For more information, call 602-222-3474 or visit www.theleverkoi.com.

Hula's relocates due to redevelopment

The Valley's original island-style hideaway, Hula's Modern Tiki, is moving a couple of miles north because its unique, 1960s-era building with hexagonal window is slated to be torn down by the landowners as part of a new residential redevelopment at the commercial plaza, located at the northwest corner Central and Highland avenues.

Hula's will remain open until June, as it readies its new space in the former home of Ticoz Latin Kitchen, on 7th Street just north of Camelback Road. The space is being remodeled to include an indoor-outdoor patio, a 40-person private dining "Tiki Room" and a second tiki bar named The Captain's Cabin.

Handcrafted by Hula's owner, M. Dana Mule, this stylish 4,100-square-foot tiki restaurant and bar will replace the original Hula's Modern Tiki, which launched in 2009.

The all-new Hula's will include a

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

second hidden tiki bar with its own entry off 7th Street. This intimate 28-seat bar is named The Captain's Cabin, and will serve up both modern and classic tiki cocktails in a wood-paneled space featuring custom tiki artwork and nautical decor reminiscent of a 1950s Tahitian sailing ship cabin.

Hula's Modern Tiki's new Phoenix location opens this summer at 5114 N. 7th St. Hula's existing Phoenix location (4700 N. Central Ave.) will be open for regular business hours until June. For more information, call Hula's at 602-265-8454 or visit www.hulamoderntiki.com.

Love of chocolate inspires new eatery

Love of Chocolate Coffee & Bakery, family owned and operated, opened last month in the Albertson's shopping center at 1820 W. Northern Ave., Suite 140.

Driven by a passion for quality coffee and delicious pastries, the café offers a comfortable atmosphere and a diverse menu, including handmade pastries, signature breakfast and lunch items, and distinct dinner choices.

Start your day with a hearty bagel sandwich, waffle, or a lighter fruit and yogurt parfait. For lunch or dinner, try a filling salad, panini or flatbread, or split a meat and cheese board with a friend.

Locally roasted coffee, including drip, cold brew, espresso, and lattes, is available, along with a variety of hot or iced teas and, of course, hot chocolate. Watch the Facebook page for weekend specials, such as Molletes— toasted sourdough bread covered with refried beans (Sonora style), shredded provolone cheese, pico de gallo, egg, avocado and roasted fire salsa.

Open 6 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 6 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday. For more information, go to www.loveofchocolate.us, which will redirect you to their Facebook page, or call 602-688-9661.

PHX Vegan Food Fest set for Feb. 24

In its third consecutive year, the PHX Vegan Food Festival, presented by Davisson Entertainment, returns to the Valley on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 11

a.m. to 5 p.m. The event has moved to Margaret T. Hance Park, 1202 N. 3rd St., and will include nearly double the number of restaurants, food trucks, and product vendors, as well as additional beverage stations, and upgraded entertainment experiences.

Event highlights include vegan and vegan-friendly food trucks, restaurants and food and non-food products, plus demonstrations and presentations by chefs and vegan experts. Event activities include a kids zone spearheaded by Free Arts of Arizona, plus The Listening Room Phoenix will showcase a full day of live and local music on three entertainment stages. Additionally, several no-host bars will be located throughout the event.

General admission is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door and includes access to the event vendors, entertainment, and demos, as well as one alcoholic/non alcoholic beverage token. Additional food items, beverages and products are available for purchase. Kids 12 and younger are admitted for free.

For more information and to buy tickets, visit www.phxveganfest.com.

Indulge in a 10-course Chinese feast on Feb. 24

Celebrate the end of Phoenix Chinese Week with a 10-course Chinese Lunar New Year Banquet, set for 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at the Great Wall Restaurant, 3446 W. Camelback Road.

The banquet is co-sponsored by Phoenix Sister Cities Inc. No-host cocktails begin at 5:30 p.m. There also will be live entertainment.

Tickets are \$50 per person and must be reserved in advance. For more information, call Elaine Wong at 480-406-7470 or e-mail her at elainewong@cox.net.

Half Moon seeks wing sauce recipes

Half Moon Windy City Sports Grill wants the Valley's best home chefs to share their wing sauce recipe and compete for the 2018 title of Half Moon Sauce Boss.

All winners—including First Place, Runner Up and People's Choice—will receive one free pound of wings once a

please see SAUCE on page 44

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SAUCE continued from page 43

week for a year at either Half Moon location. First Place will also receive a \$250 cash prize and their sauce will be featured on a future Half Moon menu. The People's Choice winner will also receive a \$100 cash prize and their sauce will be featured on a future Half Moon menu.

Each finalist's wing sauce submission will be sampled and voted on by a panel of local celebrity/VIP judges. The Half Moon Sauce Boss champion will be determined by the celebrity judges combined scores. Scoring will be based on overall flavor, originality and appropriate heat.

All recipe entries must be emailed

as a PDF file to sauceboss@halfmoon-sportsgrill.com. Entry deadline is 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 18. All recipes must be complete with ingredients and preparation instruction and should yield one gallon of wing sauce.

The five finalists will release the rights to their wing sauce recipe and must be present for the final competi-

tion on March 1 to be selected the Half Moon Sauce Boss. For more information, visit www.halfmoon-sportsgrill.com.

For local restaurant listings, visit our Dining Guide online at www.northcentralnews.net

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