



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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Urban gardens feed need for sustainability

By Colleen Sparks

While Earth Day is April 22, growing vegetables and fruits, along with raising chickens and worms are year-round passions that promote healthy living, sustainability and cost savings in North Central.

There are several public gardens where residents can dig in the dirt to grow food and plants, as well as individual residents with lush yards with fruits and vegetables frequently sprouting. Some local schools bring students to on-campus or public gardens to explore going green and learn about enjoying the fruits of their labor.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further fueled the love of urban farming among North Central residents as it provides a source of nourishment when grocery stores might run out of the produce they want. They also enjoy the camaraderie of working on land with others and the stress relief that comes with exercise.

Keep Phoenix Beautiful runs two community gar-

please see GARDENS on page 4



Laura, an Arizona Humane Society employee, treats a puppy in the Arizona Humane Society's Parvo Puppy ICU. The Arizona Humane Society has seen animals get placed with foster parents more quickly during the COVID-19 pandemic than it did in 2019 (photo courtesy of the Arizona Humane Society).

Pandemic sparks pet adoptions, fostering

By Colleen Sparks

The COVID-19 pandemic is prompting people to adopt and foster furry friends quicker than usual as they crave companionship and have more time to bond with pets.

Animal welfare advocates are thrilled that community members are eager to care for dogs, cats and other animals but also advise folks to carefully consider the commitment, cost and logistics of becoming a pet owner before obtaining one.

The time it took for an animal to get placed with a foster parent from the Arizona Humane Society dropped from an average of six days between March 1 and Dec. 31 of 2019 to an average of three days between March 1 and Dec. 31 of 2020. There was a slight decrease in the average number of days that animals stayed at the organization before being adopted into "fur-ever" homes, from an average of seven days between March 1 and Dec. 31 of 2019 to an average of six days during that same time period last year.

"They're moving out very quickly," said Dr. Steven Hansen, president and CEO of the Arizona Humane Society. "A significant amount of research shows pets actually improve our lives. They keep our blood pressure down, keep our stress hormones

down. I do think that companion animals are one bright spot of the pandemic and the shelter community has been really innovative to make sure the Valley's most vulnerable animals have care."

From March 1 to Dec. 31 of last year, there were 9,252 animals, including dogs, cats and other critters, adopted from the Arizona Humane Society. That is down from 12,092 from March 1 to Dec. 31 of 2019. The Arizona Humane Society streamlined from offering four animal adoption locations to one – its Nina Mason Pulliam Campus for Compassion at 1521 W. Dobbins Road when the pandemic hit for safety reasons. It also added a virtual matchmaking process,

please see PETS on page 6

in this issue

- Mall owners seek redevelopment plan, page 3
- Churches keep services going, page 12
- Long-time stylists open new salon, page 16
- Student collects toys to comfort kids, page 24
- Caterer offers old favorites, new tastes, page 34

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COMMUNITY



This is a rendering in a master plan of a proposed rezoning of Christown Spectrum mall. The proposal would create a more modern, urban feel and could include a hotel and residential units (rendering courtesy of Kimco Realty Corporation and Streetsense).

Major facelift sought for Christown mall

By Colleen Sparks

Christown Spectrum mall could receive a major facelift that would create a more modern, urban feel and might include a hotel and residential community.

A request has been submitted to the city of Phoenix to establish a Planned Unit Development (PUD) for the property at 1703 W. Bethany Home Road, a site that was developed using the Planned Shopping Center (PSC) zoning and superblock concept. Primarily owned by Christown 1755, LLC, this mall is managed by Kimco Realty Corporation, which is proposing a multi-phase approach to evolving and expanding on the retail, service, entertainment and office uses in existence now. Kimco Realty Corporation wants to create a “dynamic and vibrant urban environment” that would include a hotel, residential units and office components that complement and support retail shopping, restaurants and support services, according to Earl & Curley, PC, the legal firm representing the principals and development team.

The development for Christown Spectrum, which opened in 1961, would be designed around a mixed-use urban theme with an accessible pedestrian and bicycle network that would ultimately connect the Montebello/19th Avenue light rail station to the “spine” of the project, according to the applicant’s narrative filed with the city. Wide sidewalks, significant landscaping, lots of tree canopy offering shade and many pedes-

trian and bicycle amenities are being proposed on the site.

“We saw a similar application at Central (Avenue) and Indian School Road,” said Joshua Bednarek, deputy director of the Planning Division of the city of Phoenix’s Planning and Development Department. “The idea

please see CHRISTOWN on page 8

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COMMUNITY



Greg Peterson, founder and owner of The Urban Farm, holds one of the hens he raises on his property in North Central (photo by Colleen Sparks).

GARDENS continued from page 1

dens – Pierson Street Community Garden at 1822 W. Pierson St. and one at Mountain View Park at 9901 N. 7th Ave. Native Health, an organization that provides holistic healthcare, partners with Keep Phoenix Beautiful to operate the Pierson Street garden, where tomatoes, peppers, melons, squash, eggplant, spinach, kale, rosemary, thyme, sage, oregano and other foods are grown. Chickens, bees and worms also live in the garden, which is on land where two abandoned houses used to be. Anyone can grow items and take gardening classes there.

Eggs and honey, as well as powder made from moringa grown in the garden are sold for fundraisers. Native Health provides the produce to clients.

“It brings the neighborhood together,” said Terry Gellenbeck of Keep Phoenix Beautiful, who manages the Pierson Street garden and is director of recycling. “It’s also health reasons. A lot of people come out there because they need to come outside.”

The garden at Mountain View Park also hosts classes and corporate group outings and grows the same fruits and vegetables as are planted at the Pierson Street garden. It also has fruit trees and worms eat scraps and help fertilize the soil, said Gail Latour, co-manager of the Mountain View garden with Mary Lu Nunley. Some vegetables grown there are donated to HonorHealth Desert Mission Food Bank.

“One of the things gardeners do is they do a lot of exchange with each other on produce and ideas,” Latour said.

Midtown Primary School brings 35 students in its after-school program to the Pierson Street garden twice a week to watch cooking and science demonstrations. They also look at plants and

bugs and water and harvest their own plants, as well as learn about composting, said Tiedra Vargas, kindergarten teacher and Shazam! Club coordinator/director.

To learn more about Keep Phoenix Beautiful’s gardens, visit <https://keep-phxbeautiful.org>.

Longview Elementary School has gardens, where families can obtain freshly harvested vegetables, said Alexandra Menendez, 21st Century Community Learning Centers After School Coordinator, instructional assistant and 21st Century Site Coordinator. Through a partnership with the Blue Watermelon Project, kits with a coordinated planting and cooking activity will be sent to a class.

Elsewhere in North Central, The Urban Farm provides free online classes. Greg Peterson, founder and owner of The Urban Farm, grows apples, peaches, apricots, mulberries, grapes, kale, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, carrots, beets, squash, and other produce in his home’s yards. He also does a weekly podcast. Fruit trees are sold in a rented space at Seventh Street and Camelback Road through The Urban Farm Nursery. Peterson also raises 13 hens, mostly using their eggs for personal consumption.

“The business part is online education and fruit trees,” he said. “My hobby is a one-third acre of dirt. I’ve created my yard into a food forest, which basically means I plant open, pollinated seed. Since the pandemic hit, the interest in gardening has exploded all over the place, all over Maricopa County and the world.”

Growing your own food means you know it is organic and fresh, Peterson said.

To learn more about The Urban Farm **please see GARDENS on page 6**

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COMMUNITY

PETS continued from page 1

where people can view available pets for adoption on its website and talk to a staff member on the phone before adopting one.

The Arizona Humane Society also added curbside adoption appointments since the pandemic began, where future pet owners can fill out paperwork at home, talk to an adoption matchmaker about available animals on the phone and then pick up their new pet and complete payments from their vehicles.

People who adopt animals can return them to the Arizona Humane Society if it does not work out. However, the number of adopted animals who have been returned since the pandemic started also has decreased.

The Arizona Humane Society hired a Resource Navigator after the pandemic began. With that addition, as well as the organization's efforts to keep pets in homes with their owners by providing resources, extending veterinary clinic hours and adding virtual pet behavior classes, there has been a decrease in the number of pets that

came to the organization's shelter during the pandemic.

Hansen recommends people who are considering adopting a pet think about the time demand it will require, figure out the medications the animal will need and consider if they will be able to bring their pet to work or will keep them at home.

Almost There: A Mom + Pups Rescue, a North Central non-profit organization, also has seen people respond quickly to requests for fostering puppies and dogs since the pandemic started, said Annie Verderame, director of communications for the organization. The staff asked for the community to help care for about 50 animals when the healthcare crisis hit as it had to close down.

"It was absolutely incredible," Verderame said. "Within less than two weeks, all animals were in foster homes. One of the biggest blessings is a lot of fosters ended up adopting the babies."

Almost There: A Mom + Pups Rescue accepts only pregnant and nursing mother dogs and their puppies. Since reopening in its new headquar-

ters on east Indian School Road in December, there have been 45 adoptions, as of press time.

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control saw 9,099 pets adopted to new homes last year, down from 14,215 in 2019. Fewer pets are being surrendered to the county since the pandemic began. The county department closed one of its shelters when the pandemic started and centralized these operations to the West Valley, said Monica Gery, communications officer for Maricopa County Animal Care & Control.

The county department has partnered with other animal welfare organizations to create a website, azpetproject.org, to help people struggling with homelessness keep their pets.

Raquel Huerta, who co-owns Fetch Natural Pet Market with her husband, Aaron Oaks, also recently adopted a dog. She said since she and Oaks took ownership of the business on 16th Street in September "we've just had an influx of customers being brand new pet owners" come to the store.

To learn more about Fetch, visit www.fetchaz.com.

GARDENS continued from page 4

Farm, visit www.urbanfarm.org.

Project Roots, a non-profit organization that WNBA champion and former assistant coach of Chicago Sky Bridget Pettis started, has been planting fruits and vegetables and feeding families in need for more than a year. The organization receives much support from volunteers, said Pettis, co-founder of Project Roots with her partner, Dionne Washington, who is the organization's director.

Pettis wanted to provide access to nutritious food and to promote a healthier, more sustainable way of living for urban neighborhoods. Produce is sold at Uptown Farmers Market at North Phoenix Baptist Church and at Spaces of Opportunity Farmers Market. Residents can buy plots to grow produce.

"We really want to get the knowledge of living a more sustainable life in the consciousness of our community," Pettis said.

To learn more, visit www.project-rootsaz.org.

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Bobby Lieb

Your residential real estate specialist for North Central, Biltmore, the Camelback Corridor, and Paradise Valley

Happy spring to everyone!

Regarding our current state of our real estate market I have just one word to express what is going on.. INSANITY! Those of us who have lived in North Central for a long time have always known how great it is to live in this area and we are finally getting discovered by the rest of the country.

I want to thank my clients who have allowed me to sell 41 homes so far in 2021 (including eight homes for more than \$1 million including a home for \$3.5 million). We have some GREAT long-time agents in our 'hood and I especially want to thank two agents who brought me buyers on day one of my listings. The reason we got the deals done is because of great communication between us to make it easier to sell the home. I will be honest with you guys - that just does not always happen enough in today's world. Steve Caniglia of North & Co. brought an out-of-state buyer to a home that I listed for \$1.65 million on day one and after working out all the details (about eight calls), we are set to close in a couple of months. The seller did not want to move until June 1 but we made it work by being creative.

The other agents who were fantastic were Katie and Nancy Cotton of Realty Executives, who called me on a home we had coming soon in Paradise Valley for \$2.395 million. My seller there also wanted a few extra months after closing to find a home so we worked it out for the buyers to lease back to my seller for a couple of months. The Cottons and Steve Caniglia are an excellent example of the great agents we have in North Central.

In today's crazy market we are forced to think out of the box to make deals happen because it certainly is not just as simple as listing and then selling anymore. Creativity in selling or buying a home today is about having enough experience in selling real estate and figuring out a solution for each buyer and seller ... and, again,

COMMUNICATION is huge. I cannot say enough about how great it is for me to have such experienced agents such as Steve Caniglia and Katie and Nancy Cotton to work with.

Another creative marketing tool today is COMING SOON as long as it is used properly and not abused. Some sellers are not quite ready to have their home active for about 2-3 weeks while they finish cleaning and fine-tuning their home to sell. Since there are about 100 buyers for every seller today, my suggestion to my clients is let's make the home COMING SOON so buyers will have notice that your home will soon be available. In 2021 I have had seven homes sell while they was listed as Coming Soon because I knew the agents who called me to see them and we made a deal before they went active.

The best advice I can give a seller is to work with an agent who sells in your neighborhood. There is no substitute for an experienced agent who knows the values in the area because he or she has lived in and sold in that area for many years (30 years for me). In today's every changing real estate market, my suggestion to you is to **HIRE A NORTH CENTRAL REAL ESTATE** expert to sell your home.

Have a wonderful April and Happy April Birthday to my wife, Mary Ann, to yours truly, and to our son Jesse Milleson. Please keep being safe!

Bobby Lieb

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COMMUNITY

CHRISTOWN continued from page 3

is to try to make those places hubs for not only investment but also outdoor dining, walking. It builds on the fact that people are maybe getting there through rideshare or light rail.”

The Alhambra Village Planning Committee will eventually hear the case for the Christown Spectrum proposed zoning change but a date had not yet been set as of press time. This committee will discuss the case for “information only” at one meeting and then vote on a recommendation on it at a meeting after that. After that the city’s Planning Commission will listen to a presentation on the proposal and make a recommendation on it. The City Council will have the final say in whether to approve the rezoning.

Christown Spectrum is home to a Walmart, Walgreens, Ross Dress for Less, Big 5 Sporting Goods and many other stores and restaurants. It is unknown how the proposed development change would impact businesses that are already in the mall. As Kimco considers the future of the mall, it will

deal with a “significant constraint” related to the long-term lease agreements with many tenants including Walmart, Ross Dress for Less and Walgreens, according to the planning document. Walmart’s lease and options will expire in 2053 and Walgreens’ lease and options will expire in 2102. The long-term leases delineate tenant control zones over big areas of the property, which offer tenant approval rights that protect their customer parking lots, vehicular circulation, entrance driveways and other issues.

A Costco warehouse at Christown Spectrum mall closed in September despite an online petition thousands of people signed to try to keep it open.

To learn more about the proposal for the redevelopment of the mall, visit <https://earlcurley.com/christownspectrum>.

Crossroads’ long-time coordinator retires

A non-profit organization that provides residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment is saying good-

bye to a long-time employee.

After 11 years of working for Crossroads, John House, program coordinator of the organization’s Midtown Campus at 3702 N. 13th Ave., recently retired. House managed daily operations for that campus and ensured a safe, efficient recovery environment for residents. He said through the organization he was able to “help thousands of men turn their lives around and be seen for who they truly are.”

House joined Crossroads in 2010, then was promoted to program coordinator in 2014. House was instrumental in helping Crossroads transition from a licensed halfway house to an Arizona Department of Health Services licensed residential substance abuse treatment program. An Army veteran, he was especially engaged in sparking programs and services for veterans. House worked closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as facilitated Crossroads’ participation every year at the Maricopa County StandDown, an event that serves thousands of U.S. military veterans and their families, who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

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COMMUNITY

UMOM to hold virtual scavenger hunt

Put on your walking shoes and grab your smartphone to engage in a scavenger hunt to help support people struggling with homelessness.

UMOM's second annual Scavenger Hunt to End Homelessness will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 1 in Phoenix. The hunt allows participants to compete for prizes and enter a raffle by searching for virtual items at home or around their neighborhoods using the Let's Roam app.

Because the COVID-19 pandemic struck last year, non-profit organizations that typically hold annual in-person fundraising events had to find creative ways to keep generating money while keeping supporters safe. UMOM decided to hold this virtual scavenger hunt to replace its annual Walk the Walk to End Homelessness at the Phoenix Zoo. The non-profit organization holds the world record for the largest thong sandal 1K race from its 2019 event. Its walk last year raised more than \$70,000, vital funds that help the organization provide



Christina Arnold, grants manager for UMOM, helps hand out T-shirts and bags with goodies for people who have registered for UMOM's second annual Scavenger Hunt to End Homelessness (photo courtesy of UMOM).

comprehensive support programs to families, single women and youths experiencing homelessness at its shelters around the Valley.

UMOM New Day Centers, which serves Maricopa County, work to prevent and end homelessness with unusual strategies and housing solutions to meet the needs of every family and individual.

Registration fees for access to the hunt are \$25 for adults ages 18 and older and \$10 for those ages 3 to 17. Register at <https://umom.org/sh2021>.

Park amenities reopen, some limits in place

City of Phoenix park amenities are open again after closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic but there will be restrictions over Easter weekend.

The Phoenix City Council last month approved starting to reopen the city's outdoor recreational features March 17. Easter weekend limits were also approved for parks around the city.

Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego said the "COVID numbers are encourag-

ing, and suggest that we are headed in the right direction." She said that the city wants residents, especially children, to be able to get outside, but everyone needs to "remember that the pandemic is not over" and people should keep wearing masks and socially distancing themselves from others.

In mid-March, the process to reopen picnic tables and ramadas, as well as volleyball and basketball courts, along with fitness equipment and sports complexes began in all city parks. The other park amenities have been open since Oct. 8 and all city parks, hiking trails and golf courses have kept normal hours of operation during the pandemic. Use of some city park amenities had been restricted intermittently since April 2 of last year.

During Easter weekend, April 3 and 4, all city parks and amenities will be open, but parking lots will be closed, with only people who have accessibility placards being allowed access. Grilling and large gatherings will not be allowed that weekend.

To learn more, visit www.phoenix.gov/parks.



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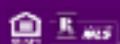


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COMMUNITY

Churches offer services despite pandemic

By Maryn Weeks

During this COVID-19 pandemic, there haven't been many things that are for certain. However, some local churches have been doing what they can to keep providing their services and support to the community.

Cross Roads United Methodist Church at 7901 N. Central Ave. has been making sure it is constantly serving the public.

"Our attendance has stayed the same throughout this time," said Senior Pastor Kimberly Scott.

Cross Roads church has been offering outdoor worship on its front lawn since late last year and plans to continue providing this service for their community. It also offers services inside the church but visitors must wear masks and social distancing is required.

It also started to provide its services on Zoom and through Facebook Live.

"For some folks it has been convenient to not have to come to church," Scott said. "The good thing is we have people who are able to listen that are near and far."

She said that people who live in Nevada and Oregon have attended the church's services and they plan to continue to offer their services online post pandemic so that can continue.

Cross Roads also plans to have Easter services, both online and in-person, along with an Easter egg hunt for the kids, but this year the egg hunt will look a lot different. The kids will be sent out one at a time to look for eggs and count as many as they can find. Then they will say how many they saw and they will be given that many eggs.

Once things slowly get back to normal, Scott isn't sure if people will be comfortable enough to attend services fully in-person again.

"I do wonder if people, once the pandemic is over, are going to want to come back in person," she said. "Just because it is so convenient to attend online."

To learn more about Cross Roads, visit <https://crossroadsphx.com>.

First United Methodist Church at 5510 N. Central Ave. had planned to resume in-person services late last month for Palm Sunday and it has scheduled services for Easter Sunday, April 4. These services are being held in the Friendship Patio. In-person nursery

and children and adult classes had not yet been planned.

The church is asking people to wear face coverings and to socially distance themselves from others. People are asked to register online or by telephone if they plan to attend the Wednesday before the Sunday they will be at a service. Each service is limited to 50 people.

To learn more about First United Methodist Church visit <https://firstchurch.church>.

Maryn Weeks is a student in Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Arizona Town Hall seeks award nominees

Do you know someone who is dedicated to helping improve Arizona?

Arizona Town Hall, a non-profit organization that brings diverse people together to solve vital and often divisive policy issues, is taking nominations for its Shirley Agnos Arizona Town Hall Legacy Award. Nominees must have a long, dedicated record of working to improve the state and the lives of citizens; have shown they create consensus positions from different points of view, actively advocate on behalf of statewide issues and be highly respected with the highest level of integrity.

Nominations are being taken through May 31. Arizona Town Hall is a non-partisan organization that teaches, engages, connects and empowers state residents to solve critical policy problems. Town Hall topics generally are picked at least a year ahead of time. Arizona's public universities work with diverse non-academic professionals to create a comprehensive research document that serves as a basis for discussion.

Town Hall participants answer specially prepared questions that aim to create solutions that incorporate diverse, multi-partisan perspectives. The method for developing the report varies depending on whether the session involves more than one panel or many days of discussion. A recommendations report is bound with the research report and made available to Town Hall members, as well as elected officials, public libraries and other leadership organizations.

To nominate someone for the award and learn more, visit <https://aztownhall.org>.

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HAPPY HOUR WITH HERSCH

Two years without Coachella makes Eric a very dull boy. Below is my lineup for Herschella, which will be jamming in my backyard this month:

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021

The National

LCD Soundsystem • Jay-Z • The Rolling Stones • The Police
Bruce Springsteen • Eminem • The Smiths • The Replacements • Frank Ocean
Miley Cyrus • M83 • Journey • Childish Gambino • Bloc Party • Nicki Minaj • Big Sean
The War • Drugs • Sidewinders • SilverSun Pickups • The Brian Jonestown Massacre • King Princess
A\$AP Rocky • Ben Folds • Holly Humberstone

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2021

Dr. Dre • Pearl Jam

Radiohead • Elton John • Taylor Swift • Motley Crue
Echo • The Bunnymen • Kanye West • Kings of Leon • Arcade Fire • Chance The Rapper
Outkast • New Order • Halsey • Jane's Addiction • Courtney Barnett
Jean Dawson • BLACKSTARKIDS • The Psychedelic Furs • Manchester Orchestra • Banks & Steelz
Harvard • The South • Soccer Mommy • Clap Your Hands Say Yeah • Beach Youth • RKCB

SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021

U2 • Led Zeppelin

Guns N'Roses • Wolf Alice • Kendrick Lamar • The Who
R.E.M. • Chris Stapleton • The Weeknd • Run The Jewels • Lana Del Ray
Stiff Little Fingers • Smashing Pumpkins • The Chicks • Chvrches • Japandroids • Pusha T
The Airborne Toxic Event • Maggie Rogers • Broken Social Scene • Sponge • Of Monsters • Men
Band • Horses • Best Coast • The Naked • Famous

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Winner for Last Month – TBD | Last Month's Answer – Darrell Griffith



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COMMUNITY



Pickle is a four-year-old domestic shorthair kitty who needs a “fur-ever” home that is quiet with patient, loving owners (photo by Arizona Humane Society).

Pet of the Month

Pickle is handsome kitty who needs love, patience

Pickle certainly knows that he is the real “dill” when it comes to cuteness.

The handsome four-year-old domestic shorthair kitty was surrendered to the Arizona Humane Society in February after his owner passed away and he had no one else to care for him. Upon medical evaluation in the Arizona Humane Society’s animal trauma hospital, it was found Pickle has some gingivitis and was in need of den-

tal assistance to get some rotten teeth out. He is feeling much better now.

While in the care of the Arizona Humane Society, it was discovered that Pickle was quite scared and frightened while in the shelter. However, with daily care and interactions from the organization’s Behavior Team, he has slowly but surely continued to come out of his shell more and more. Originally, Pickle would not even come out from under his bed but now he will even seek out his human friends for a few pets. However, because he can be a bit shy it is recommended he meet any children he will be living with and for him to go to a patient, quiet home where he can take his time while acclimating to his new surroundings.

All Arizona Humane Society Adoption locations are temporarily closed, but its Virtual Adoption Matchmaking Program by appointment is available to place pets, like Pickle, with their forever families! Pickle’s pet number is 657555. This pet might have been adopted by the time of your Virtual Matchmaking Adoption by Appointment, however

the Arizona Humane Society has dozens more wonderful pets who also need loving homes.

For more information, visit azhumane.org/adopt.

Enter to win a car, support AHS

If you are looking for some new wheels and want to help furry friends, you might want to enter the Arizona Humane Society Car Raffle.

The winner will receive a 2021 Toyota RAV4 XLE, valued at \$30,000, thanks to the Arizona Humane Society’s partners at Valley Toyota Dealers. Tickets cost \$20 each or three for \$50 and 100 percent of ticket sales will help support the Arizona Humane Society’s services and programs to help save the lives of homeless pets in the community. Only 8,000 tickets will be sold for this raffle. You must be age 21 or over and a legal resident of Arizona to be eligible to win.

The winner will be announced at noon on May 5 via Facebook Live. To buy a ticket, visit www.azhumane.org/toyota.

Virtual workshop will teach about water use

There is still time to learn about how to use water in an intelligent, sustainable way at home in a city of Phoenix virtual workshop.

The Phoenix Water Services Department will host “Water 101” at noon on Thursday, April 8, online. Participants will learn about where water comes from, how water travels to us, how we use water, where it goes and how Phoenix is planning for the future.

To register for the April 8 workshop, visit www.phoenix.gov/newsroom/water-services/1804.

City launches another COVID-19 testing van

There is good news for anyone who wants to get tested for COVID-19. The city of Phoenix recently launched its second COVID-19 mobile testing van.

This new unit will provide COVID-19 antigen testing with rapid results, along with Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing with results emailed to the person who took the test within one to two days for extra assurance. There is no cost to individuals for testing. The van will run from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays or Tuesdays, as well as Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The goal of the van is to make testing for the virus accessible to Phoenix’s underserved communities, but it will focus on offering testing in areas of the city considered to be “hot spots,” or sections with a higher incidence of reported COVID-19 cases.

Premier Lab Solutions, located at 3440 N. 16th St., is managing the daily operations of van number two, administering COVID-19 tests to the community and delivering results to individuals. Premier Lab Solutions will work closely with city of Phoenix employees, Mayor Kate Gallego and the City Council offices to decide where there are “hot spots” in the city.

A 2020 Ford T-350 Transit, the mobile testing van was customized by the Phoenix Public Works Department’s Fleet Management division with an externally mounted generator, an A/C unit, refrigerator, USB ports, service windows and a foldable work desk.

To learn more about COVID-19 testing in the city, visit phoenix.gov/newsroom.



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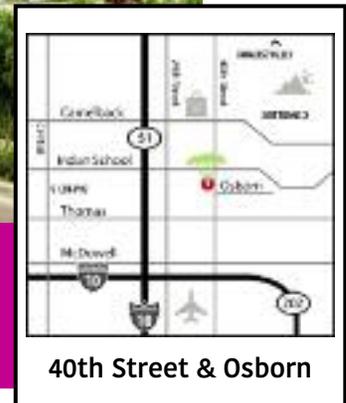
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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Long-time stylists create oasis for hair

Two long-time hair stylists are thrilled to be operating their own salon in North Central.

Jill Moore and Zhanna Davidova recently opened Hair Craft Salon at 6522 N. 16th St. with a mission of providing excellent service to current and new clients. The two co-owners also aim to create a peaceful, inviting and relaxing environment where customers can receive haircuts, color, regular highlights and lowlights, as well as collagen treatments, hair styling, air touch/airbrush highlights and Brazilian blowouts. They also offer Balayage, a brush hand painting service where the hair's roots stay dark and then gradually get lighter.

Guests also can buy a variety of shampoos, conditioners, volumizers, hair sprays, treatments, smoothing serums, color sprays, frizz controller and other products in many different brands including Goldwell, Guy Tang, Redken, Pureology, Innersense Organic Beauty, Amika, Joico, Paul Mitchell, TIGI, Olaplex and Schwarzkopf. It also sells professional hair dryers, flat irons and curling irons.

Davidova said the salon provides an atmosphere to draw out stylists' "creativity and passion in their craft." Besides she and Moore, the salon has one other stylist and is hiring more hairstylists. Anyone interested in renting a station can call the salon at 602-601-5001 or call Davidova at 602-518-1624 or call Moore at 602-300-1253.

In order to protect the safety of clients and stylists during this COVID-19 pandemic, Hair Craft Salon is only working on one client at a time in the building.

To learn more, visit www.haircraft-salonaz.com.

**Business Briefs
Local organizations honored by Chamber**

Several local businesses and non-profit organizations are receiving recognition for their accomplishments and positive impact on the community and economy.

The Greater Phoenix Chamber recently announced the winners of its 34th Annual IMPACT Awards. They



Long-time hair stylists Zhanna Davidova, on left, and Jill Moore recently opened Hair Craft Salon on 16th Street (submitted photo).

were selected from more than 100 businesses that were nominated for this distinction.

In the category of "Large Business," for organizations with more than 250 employees, the Boys & Girls Club of the Valley received the Community Champion award. This organization has its Harry & Sandy Rosenzweig Branch Phoenix at 2242 W. Missouri Ave.

Also in North Central, a finalist for the 2021 IMPACT Awards was Fennemore Craig, which has a location at 2394 E. Camelback Road. Shamrock Foods Company, which has an office at 3900 E. Camelback Road, also was a finalist for an award.

The two 2021 IMPACT Businesses of the Year recipients will be chosen out of the honorees during the virtual 34th Annual IMPACT Awards Ceremony from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 13. It costs \$55 per person for Chamber members to view the event and \$110 for non-members. To register, visit <https://business.phoenixchamber.com/events/details/2021-impact-awards-6274>.

Mid-century complex getting makeover

A North Central redevelopment project will transform an office site into a neighborhood retail center.

The Frederick, located at 1215 E. Missouri Ave., will be home to several new tenants. Those that have signed leases to open in the retail center are



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- **Beneficiary designations:** assets are transferred to a named beneficiary according to completed beneficiary designation (or POD) form
- **Living Trust:** document directs how trust-owned property is to be distributed at death

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Mahalo Made, a Hawaiian shaved ice business; Vida Moulin, a neighborhood boutique; Melt by Melissa, a beauty concept; Form Floral, a florist; Batea Boutique, a vintage store; Cricket and Ruby, a children's boutique and Metalmark Fine Jewelry. There are two other spaces available to lease, which will be food concepts, said Kevin Cieszkowski, who is developing the site with his wife, Chantell Nighswonger, under their company, Moulin Investments LLC.

The existing buildings on the property are being used and there will be a minor, square footage addition to accompany the restrooms, Cieszkowski said. He said the goal of the redevelopment was "to utilize the mid-century design" of the building. Frederick Weaver, a prominent Phoenix architect, constructed the building on the property in 1963.

The Frederick is expected to be open for business this month. Anyone who is interested in leasing the restaurant spaces can email hello@thefredphx.com. To learn more about the project, visit www.thefredphx.com.

To Be Continued opens two new resale stores

Those who love finding luxury and mid-level priced vintage and contemporary clothes and accessories have new stores to shop at in The Shops at Town & Country.

To Be Continued, a luxury consignment boutique, recently opened a full-scale, pop-up shop and a brand-new retail store geared toward Gen Z customers in the shopping center at 2021 E. Camelback Road. You can check out To Be Continued – The Pop-Up in a 2,625-square-foot space with the same lavish feel the boutique has in other locations. Expect to find designer handbags, shoes, jewelry, clothes and accessories in this shop.

The company's new Resale Revolution offers a mix of vintage and contemporary styles and some luxury classics in a 3,748-square-foot spot. This store operates on an immediate buyout model and is tailored to younger customers who want to sell pre-owned goods and support the sustainable clothes movement.

Both new shops sell pre-owned

pieces and not new goods.

To learn more about To Be Continued, visit tbconsignment.com.

Local HomeSmart agent, broker earns top honors

Bobby Lieb, associate broker with HomeSmart, is receiving top honors again among agents in Maricopa County and around the country.

He was recently ranked number one out of all the HomeSmart agents in Maricopa County and number two out of all the HomeSmart agents in the country. There are about 7,000 HomeSmart agents in the county and about 22,000 around the United States.

Lieb received the HomeSmart Diamond Club award for these ratings recently based on his sales in 2020. He completed more than \$93 million in sales last year.

"I like it," he said. "I enjoy what I do."

To learn more about Lieb and HomeSmart, visit <https://homesmart.com/real-estate-agent/arizona/phoenix/5171-bobby-lieb/Welcome>.

Chicanos Por La Causa helping small businesses

Chicanos Por La Causa is helping small businesses bounce back during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The community development corporation that serves Arizona and other states recently announced it had received a \$5 million award from Wells Fargo to assist with relief programs in Arizona, California and Nevada experiencing hardships due to the healthcare crisis. Prestamos CDFI, a division of Chicanos Por La Causa, is responsible for using the money from Wells Fargo's Open for Business Fund to tackle the lack of access to affordable capital for small businesses.

The funds will help Chicanos Por La Causa provide low-interest loans to small businesses in combination with free consulting services, said David Adame, Chicanos Por La Causa president and CEO. This capital will aid predominantly racially and ethnically diverse small businesses targeting the counties of Maricopa and Pima in Arizona, as well as Clark and Washoe

please see FUNDS on page 18

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

FUNDS continued from page 17

counties in Nevada and Los Angeles.

Wells Fargo kicked off the Open for Business Fund last year as an approximately \$400 million small business recovery attempt across the country to help entrepreneurs hit the hardest by COVID-19 recover and rebuild.

To learn more, visit www.cplc.org.

New president takes reins of FirstBank in Phoenix

A new leader is steering FirstBank in the Phoenix Market.

Humphrey Shin recently began as the Phoenix Market president after Bryce Lloyd retired. Lloyd had served the company for more than 32 years.

Shin has worked in the banking industry for nearly 17 years, first joining FirstBank as a management trainee in 2004 and quickly moving up the ranks before being chosen as executive vice president in 2016, when he was responsible for business development, mentoring and training junior officers, as well as managing a wide portfolio of business and commercial real estate

loans. He serves on the boards of Valley Partnership, Goodwill of Central and Northern Arizona and the Arizona Housing Coalition.

FirstBank operates more than 110 branch locations in Arizona, Colorado and California.

The Mint dispensary hiring many employees

The Mint, a large marijuana dispensary, is hiring employees after recently opening a new location.

It opened its third retail dispensary at 17036 N. Cave Creek Road, and is going to hire dozens of people around the Valley to fill retail and administrative positions at that location and its locations in Tempe and Mesa. Some of the open jobs include retail managers, patient service representatives, accounting professionals and pastry chefs. The recent approval of recreational marijuana in Arizona has created the need for The Mint to increase its workforce by 50 percent to meet customers and patients' demand.

Applicants will interview virtually and through COVID-19 pandemic-

appropriate measures with in-person meetings when possible. The Mint's dispensaries have taken many extra precautions to increase the cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing of its facilities. They also limit the number of people allowed in the dispensaries at any one time to allow for social distancing. The hiring is expected to continue through April 15.

To look for available jobs, visit themintcannabis.com. Those interested in applying for positions are urged to send a cover letter and resume to Jobs@TheMintDispensary.com.

New legal counsel joins Bell Bank Camelback office

Laura Wochner has been appointed as vice-president/legal counsel for banking at Bell Bank's location at 2710 E. Camelback Road. She will offer legal and compliance support for all matters related to the core business of banking, with an emphasis on commercial lending and deposit operations. Wochner will help with developing and implementing legal risk management policies, procedures and guidelines. She also will

assist with developing, managing and overseeing outside counsel relationships.

Wochner earned her Juris Doctor from Arizona State University. Before joining Bell Bank, she was a transactional attorney working in private practice at Tiffany & Bosco, P.A. in Phoenix, focusing on commercial real estate and finance.

Pearl Biltmore luxury apartments open

There is another luxury apartment community in North Central.

MORGAN, a multi-family development, construction, acquisition and property management company, recently opened the Pearl Biltmore, a multi-family community at 2323 E. Highland Ave. This 472-unit property offers 19 unique floor plans in studio, one, two and three-bedroom apartments, including many loft-style units. More than 7.4 million square feet of Class A office space, medical offices, resorts and many retail and dining destinations surround the property.

To learn more, visit <https://pearlbiltmore.com>.



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1050 E Clinton St • \$300,000
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1313 W Luke Ave • \$346,500
1125 E Shangri La Rd • \$435,000
1123 W Orangewood Ave • \$530,000
10407 N 11th St 3 • \$1450 Mo.
821 E North Ln 2 • \$1350 Mo.
1010 W Vista Ave • \$2795 Mo.

7529 N 8th Ave • \$2195 Mo.
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4455 E Paradise Village Pkwy S 1024 • \$268,000
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14840 N. 47th Pl. • \$522,000
10628 N. 73rd Dr. • \$242,500
7025 N. 22nd Dr. • \$280,000

3543 W. Tuckey Ln. • \$214,900
230 W. Denton Ln \$457,500
802 E. Cavalier Dr \$430,000
1320 E. Bethany Home Rd. Unit 26 • \$206,000
22627 N. 45th Pl • \$655,000
564 W Nido Ave • \$2695 mo.
6514 N 13TH Dr • \$1495 mo.
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777 E Circle Rd	In Escrow	5093SF	4BR/5BA	\$1,650,000
549 E Hayward Ave	Just Listed	2915SF	3BR/3BA	\$1,195,000
21 E Cactus Wren Dr	In Escrow	6718SF	4BR/3.5BA	\$1,075,000
1364 E Victor Hugo Ave	Just Listed	4742SF	5BR/5.5BA	\$ 975,000
340 E Osborn Rd #4	In Escrow	2441SF	3BR/3.5BA	\$ 669,000
340 E Osborn Rd #1	New Construction	2255SF	3BR/3.5BA	\$ 619,000
340 E Osborn Rd #2	New Construction	2255SF	3BR/3.5BA	\$ 619,000
700 W Northern Ave	In Escrow	13240SF	2BR/1BA	\$ 510,000
117 W Oregon Ave	In Escrow	1548SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 475,000
1326 E Stella Ln	In Escrow	1745SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 475,000
1414 E Earll Dr	In Escrow	1152SF	2BR/2BA	\$ 425,000
1132 E Orangewood Ave ...	In Escrow	1879SF	2BR/2BA	\$ 419,000
6922 N 129th Dr	In Escrow	2903SF	5BR/3BA	\$ 385,000
1536 E. Mission Ln	In Escrow	1375SF	2BR/1.5BA	\$ 349,900
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Sold in 1 day

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SOLD

1 W Cheryl Dr • \$640,000



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 5501 E Beryl Ave*\$ 925,000
 7140 N 9th St.....\$ 901,000
 6520 N Central Ave\$ 850,000

5428 E Cannon Dr.....\$ 825,000
 1309 W Linger Ln.....\$ 670,000
 340 E Osborn Rd #3.....\$ 669,000
 1 W Cheryl Dr.....\$ 640,000
 1555 E Ocotillo Rd #17.....\$ 627,500
 1345 E Missouri Ave\$ 609,000
 5338 E Questa Tierra Dr\$ 540,000
 4231 W Monte Cristo Ave\$ 520,000
 15 W Cochise Dr\$ 520,000
 2040 W Trotter Trail\$ 500,000
 6301 N 14th Pl\$ 495,000

6418 N 13th Ave.....\$ 483,850
 3920 W Sandra Terrace.....\$ 460,000
 1026 E Wagon Wheel Dr\$ 450,000
 5 E Butler Dr\$ 429,900
 1 E Butler Dr*\$ 420,000
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HEALTHY LIVING

Health Briefs

Improve your health and help others in challenge

You can improve your health and wellness while helping others in the community by participating in the Spring Into Wellness Virtual Challenge.

Mission of Mercy Arizona (MOM), a local non-profit organization committed to offering free primary medical care and medications to people in need, is hosting the challenge all this month. Participants will receive challenges through weekly emails involving fitness, nutrition, mindfulness and healthy-planning activities. It costs \$25 to take part in the challenge. Anyone who signs up for the program also is urged to form wellness teams and to recruit friends, family members and co-workers to participate.

All proceeds raised from the challenge will pay for clinic operations for

Mission of Mercy, including primary healthcare, diabetes education and chronic disease prevention and management.

To register for the wellness challenge, visit app.mobilecause.com/vf/HEALTHCARE.

Cancer patients need to avoid COVID-19

People with cancer and their caregivers need to know how COVID-19 could impact them.

The American Cancer Society in a new article posted online said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends wearing masks that completely cover your nose and mouth when you are out in public. Cloth masks and gaiters, which are cloth coverings that wrap around the nose, mouth and neck, need to have at least two layers of fabric and fit snugly on your face to protect you. The CDC does not offer specific recom-

mendations on masks for those who have or have had cancer and their caregivers. However, for many people receiving treatment for cancer, especially with chemotherapy and stem cell transplants, doctors recommend patients wear masks to help reduce their exposure to germs that might cause infections. If you are unsure about whether you or a caregiver needs to wear a mask, ask your doctor or another member of your cancer care team.

The American Cancer Society says some cancer patients might have a higher risk of serious infection if they contract COVID-19 because their immune systems can be weakened by cancer and treatments for it. Most people who were treated for cancer in the past are likely to see normal immune function but every person is different.

It is especially important for cancer patients to avoid being exposed to COVID-19 as they might be at greater

risk of developing serious illness if they become infected. Registries including the COVID-19 and Cancer Consortium and studies including the “NCI COVID-19 in Cancer Patients Study” are collecting data to learn more about cancer patients and COVID-19. To learn more, visit www.cancer.org.

Abrazo Health notes how healthcare has changed

Healthcare is being delivered in different ways in North Central and around the Valley since the COVID-19 pandemic struck the country.

Dr. James Carty, chief of staff at Abrazo Central Campus, said safety precautions that were already in place before the pandemic have been enhanced to help protect the community. Abrazo Health has adopted COVID-19 safety standards including intensified cleaning protocols, visitor restrictions and screening of everyone coming into its facilities.

Physicians in all practice types have been offering telehealth appointments to try to ensure patients still have access to the care they require. Many hospitals have used cell phones, iPads and tablets in hospitals to try to keep patients and their loved ones connected via video-conferencing.

Carty said after the pandemic has ended he expects “the heightened awareness of infection prevention measures such as hand washing will likely lead to reducing the spread of many ongoing as well as seasonal pathogens.” Patients who are comfortable communicating with a healthcare professional using video appointments will continue doing so while he predicts many patients and healthcare providers will prefer to use in-person encounters.

Abrazo Health provides information about its COVID-19 pandemic safety standards, as well as information about COVID-19 vaccines, tips for determining if you have the virus and other information at www.abrazo-health.com/our-response-to-COVID-19.

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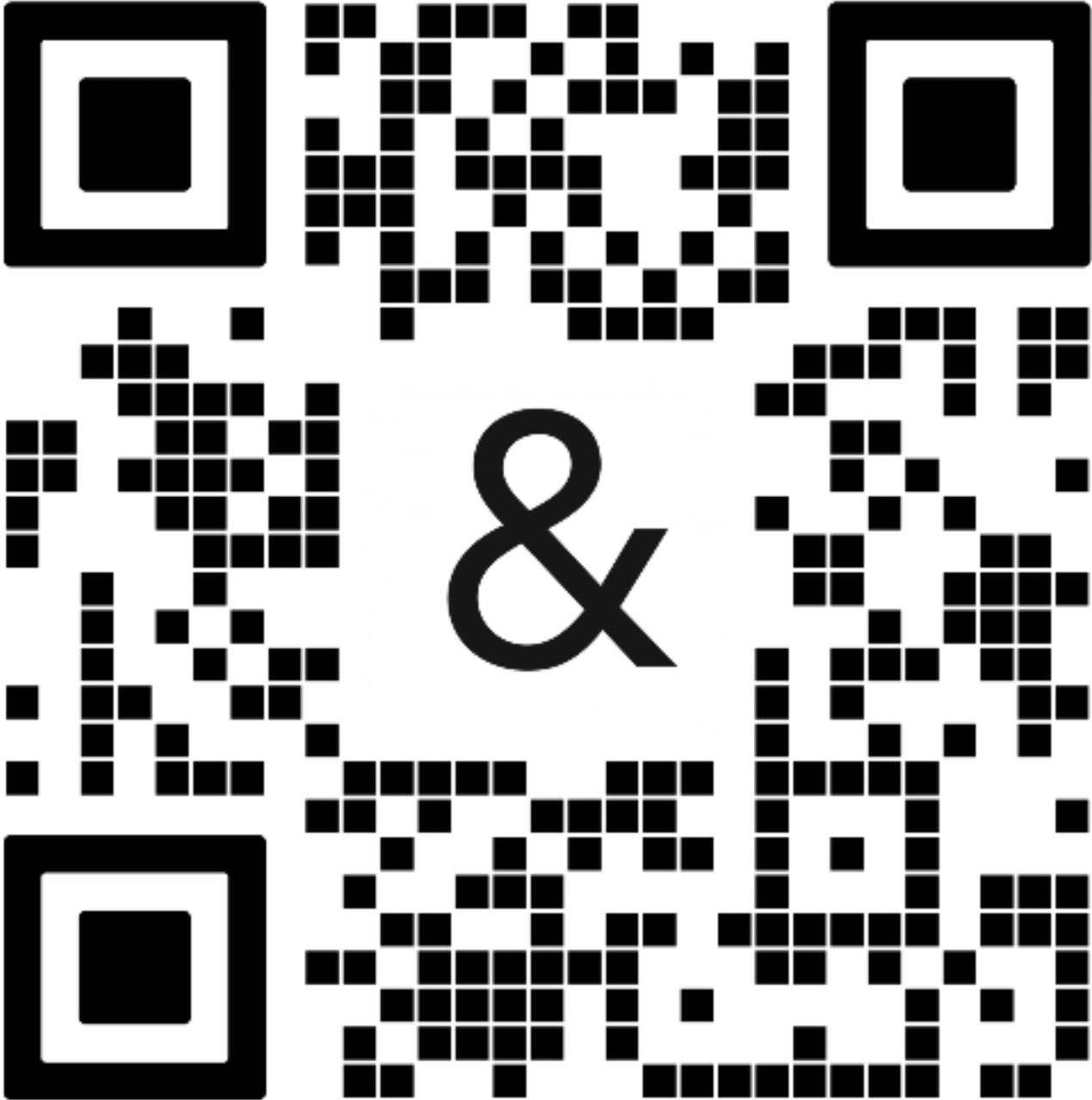
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SCHOOL DAYS

PCP student collects toys to comfort kids

A Phoenix Christian Preparatory School fifth-grader is already a veteran community activist, helping to offer something furry and comforting to other children.

Shelby Shearer, 11, has been collecting new and gently used stuffed toys for the Phoenix Police Department every February to provide to traumatized youths they encounter while serving the community. She began collecting the stuffed animals when she was 3 years old when she wanted to have a birthday party with her friends from preschool. Her mother and grandmother suggested that because it was only six weeks after Christmas, when she had received many presents, she ask her friends to bring teddy bears to the party to donate to the area police station instead of gifts. From there, “Shelby and the Bears” was born, with Shelby collecting 25 teddy bears. The next year even more friends helped her and they brought in 250 stuffed toys to donate to the police department.

Over the last seven years, Shelby’s outreach has greatly expanded, with 500 new or gently used stuffed toys given to Phoenix Police Officer Aaron Stevens, who is the family’s city of Phoenix Neighborhood Community Action Officer.

Shelby’s soft spot for other kids has led to Phoenix police officers visiting the school, where she and other students collect the stuffed toys for officers to pick up. The police department brought a K9 officer to talk to students and answer their questions.



Shelby Shearer, 11, a fifth-grader at Phoenix Christian Preparatory, has been collecting stuffed animals to donate to traumatized children the Phoenix Police Department encounters since she was 3 years old. She is pictured here with Phoenix Police Officer Aaron Stevens (photo by Lisa Blake).

Shelby, who also is a Girl Scout, plans to keep collecting the toys until she graduates from Phoenix Christian Preparatory School. To learn more about “Shelby and the Bears,” contact Principal Ruth Zappe at rzappe@phoenixchristian.org or by calling 602-264-4338.

School Briefs

**GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
In-person classes resume, graduation planned**

Students are back on campuses for in-person learning in the Glendale Union High School District and plans for graduation are underway.

Gov. Doug Ducey required schools in Arizona to resume in-person learning by March 15 or after their spring

breaks ended. Students could still opt to continue with online/virtual learning if their parents preferred that.

The Glendale Union district told families that students should not come to school if they show any symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive for the virus. Students are required to wear cloth masks that cover their mouth and nose areas except for eating, drinking or some other activities. Those who have trouble breathing documented by a medical provider or who are incapable of physically removing the face masks on their own do not have to wear them but alternate methods of protection will be discussed.

Glendale Union will hold graduations at Gila River Arena at 9400 W. Maryland Ave. in Glendale for all schools. To learn more, visit www.guhsdaz.org/home.

Sunnyslope High senior, staff, volunteer honored

A senior student, a student group, employees and volunteers from Sunnyslope High School were recognition for helping the campus thrive as part of the Glendale Union High School District’s monthly Achievement Above All event. The governing board honored Sunnyslope’s Community-Based Special Education teacher Kimberly Celaya; Angela Santana Torres, a senior student; the Sunnyslope Key Club, instructional assistant Thomas Harms and volunteer Christy Bacon. Each award recipient was given an award and/or certificate.

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

New principal named for Madison No. 1

The Madison Elementary School District Governing Board has approved Amy Ball as the next principal of the school. Ball worked as an elementary school teacher for 12 years, then served as the assistant principal at Madison No. 1 Middle School for the last two years. She also has been the Arizona Teacher of the Year Ambassador for Excellence.



Amy Ball

Ball will work with the current principal Pam Warren in transitioning to her new role and Ball will officially start as principal on July 1.

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SCHOOL DAYS

Madison Camelview boy bridges generational gap

A Madison Camelview Elementary School first-grader is bridging the gap with an older generation while enjoying virtual physical education.

Brody Contreras was recently reunited in person with his great-grandmother, Julia Fulkerson, who he had not been able to see in person for almost a year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He and Fulkerson danced together, watching a routine on a laptop. The video of the two dancing received more than 400,000 views on social media. Fulkerson is 102 years old.



Brody Contreras, a first-grader at Madison Camelview Elementary School, recently danced with his great grandmother, Julia Fulkerson, pictured here. A video of the two of them doing this virtual workout received more than 400,000 views on social media (photo by Angela Groch).

OSBORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students back in classes, new pandemic protocols set

Students are back in classes in person in the Osborn Elementary School District with protocols in place to try to protect everyone due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The district returned to on campus learning last month. Students are required to wear facial coverings all day and their temperatures are checked when they arrive on campus. Children also must wash their hands and sanitize them before and after going outside for recess and they are encouraged to sanitize between activities. The district is striving to maintain social distancing of six feet in all classrooms but when it is impossible to do so there are Plexiglass desk dividers in between desks.

Parents have been told if their children have a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, a cough, a sore throat, difficulty breathing, a severe headache, diarrhea or vomiting that they should stay home from school and

consider seeing a healthcare provider and obtaining COVID-19 testing.

To learn more, visit [www.osbornschools.org/ District/5716-Return.html](http://www.osbornschools.org/District/5716-Return.html).

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Long-time teacher, leader receives law firm award

A professional development specialist and former math teacher at Camelback High School who makes students feel like much more than a number is in the spotlight.

The law firm of Burch & Cracchiolo, P.A. recently selected Angela Enciso as the recipient of the B&C Star Teacher Award. Enciso is in her 16th year as an educator and has served in many roles since starting at Camelback High in 2012. She has been *please see AWARD on page 26*

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SCHOOL DAYS

AWARD continued from page 25

a math teacher, Math Department instructional leader and now as the professional development specialist supports the more than 100 teachers across the campus.

Enciso's student Zaye Martinez nominated her for the honor, saying she helped prevent him from dropping out or being kicked out. Now a junior, he has earned all As and Bs in his classes this year and has good attendance.

The law firm chooses a Valley teacher for this award every month, providing them with \$500 after educators are nominated at www.bcattorneys.com.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT**Safety measures in place as classrooms open**

Students are back on campus in the Washington Elementary School District but are required to follow many new safety measures during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Pupils and staff members are required to wear masks on campuses and on buses in the district per Maricopa County mandate and Gov. Doug Ducey's executive order, according to the district's reopening plan. Any students who have trouble breathing or who are incapable of physically removing the face coverings on their own will not be required to wear them and alternative ways of protection will be discussed.

Students' seats are arranged to keep social distancing, with desks facing the



Brophy College Preparatory's Student Climate Coalition (SSC) recently presented a proposal to provide solar energy use at the school. A Xavier College Preparatory student is also part of this group (photo courtesy of Brophy College Preparatory).

same direction or students sitting on only one side of tables that are spaced apart. There is additional disinfecting of high-touch point areas including door handles, sink handles and light switches. To learn more, visit www.wesdschools.org.

Meal service resumes for area families

If you need some help providing meals for your children, the Washington Elementary School District is offering Grab and Go meals.

Any students in the online learning model or a child 18 years old and younger not attending school in-person can obtain these meals again on Mondays after a brief break one day in March. Each meal kit contains five breakfasts, lunches and snacks.

They are being distributed at schools around the district at various times in

the mornings. Parents or guardians can pick up meals for children as long as they show a student ID number or provide their child's date of birth.

To learn more, contact Nicole Augustine at 602-896-5240 or at Nicole.Augustine@wesdschools.org. For the locations of the meal pick-up sites, visit www.wesdschools.org/Domain/29.

PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS**Clubs push to preserve environment, go green**

Earth Day is April 22, but every day students at Brophy College Preparatory urge people to go green.

The school's Student Climate Coalition (SSC) and Native American Club (NAC) frequently take action on environmental issues. The SSC recently delivered a proposal for solar energy use

at the school to students and staff members. These students want Brophy to begin using solar panels over the next few years and utilize the financial savings generated from lower energy bills to fund more financial aid scholarships.

Students in the Native American Club recently ran or walked 188 miles over two and a half days starting from the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff to protest a mining company proposal to purchase land and mine copper ore underneath Oak Flat, which is near the town of Superior. The copper deposit lies partially underneath the Oak Flat Campground, which is considered a sacred Native American site.

Brophy senior earns award for overcoming issues

A Brophy College Preparatory senior is a shining example of how a student can overcome challenges.

Diego Acevedo Garcia recently received the 2021 Gwendolyn Reese Spirit of Challenge Award. Brophy Principal Robert E. Ryan III and Brophy President Adria Renke presented the award to him on behalf of the Brophy Mothers' Guild. Diego has excelled despite dealing with medical and personal issues including developing Type I diabetes when he was younger.

Diego is a member of the Brophy Advocacy Club, which lobbies for the rights of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students. He was born in Mexico, at a time when he said medical personnel were not used to children his age having diabetes.

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SCHOOL DAYS

New charter school will focus on business, design

A new college-prep, charter high school is going to open in August.

Copper State Academy, which is at 1212 W. Camelback Road, will offer specialized elective classes in business and design. The school will give students the chance to learn about financial literacy, small business ownership and design creativity and applications. This campus is enrolling freshmen and sophomores initially to start classes when it opens Aug. 2. Each school year it will add another class of students so that its first group of seniors will graduate in 2024.

Mark Houlden, Pamela Houlden and Anne Ferraioli founded Copper State Academy as a way to prepare students for college, careers and all aspects of life. Pamela is the director of the school, Mark is the director of Business and Operations and dean of students and Ferraioli is the chair of Student Opportunities.

To learn more, visit <https://copperstateacademy.org>.



Anne Ferraioli (left), Mark Houlden and Pamela Houlden founded Copper State Academy, a college-prep, charter high school expected to open Aug. 2. The school will focus on business and design (photo courtesy of Mark Houlden).

the United States for the Top 25 Softball Players from the Class of 2022. It created the list by tracking high school accomplishments, statistics given to MaxPreps, post-season local awards and ranking services. In addition to playing softball, Bridget is a member of the National Honor Society and Xavier's Great Books program, a

please see SOFTBALL on page 28

Donations sought for seniors' caps and gowns

A Girls Leadership Academy – Arizona teacher is looking for support to provide graduating seniors with caps and gowns.

Sabrina Araiza-Atkinson posted a request on DonorsChoose.org for financial donations of nearly \$570 to be able to purchase caps and gowns for the students who will be graduating soon from the all-girls school. Araiza-Atkinson said 100 percent of students at the charter high school qualify for free lunches and it is a Title 1 school.

Araiza-Atkinson said many of her students are not able to afford graduation caps and gowns but walking across a stage in their school colors to mark the occasion is a highlight of their time in high school.

In order to make a donation to help with the caps and gowns purchases, visit DonorsChoose.org and search under Phoenix schools.

Xavier junior named as a top softball player

A Xavier College Preparatory junior is scoring big on the softball field and classroom.

MaxPreps recently named Bridget Donahey as its number 17 top player in

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SCHOOL DAYS

SOFTBALL *continued from page 27*

high school offering that combines high quality literature, student-centered discussion and activities that support reading comprehension, speaking, critical thinking, listening and writing.

She has committed to Northwestern University for the 2022 year. Bridget's older sisters played softball for Princeton and Yale universities and she started playing competitively in second grade.

Villa Montessori hosting online gala fundraiser

Villa Montessori School is taking its annual gala night online during this COVID-19 pandemic, aiming to raise money for its teacher assistants and various classroom needs.

You can bid online during Villa's Hope & Happiness Week of Giving 2021 Virtual Auction April 19-24. It is free to bid on auction items online using the GiveSmart app on mobile devices. In-home craniosacral massage therapy sessions, a curator tour, a golf foursome, a French gold Napoleon III 2-franc coin and many other items will be available in the auction. The public can buy raffle tickets for \$25 each or \$60 for three or \$100 for five for a chance to win a Tuft & Needle original mattress in any size.

Anyone can make donations for the "Fund The Future" feature to support the school. To bid in the auction and learn more, visit villa2021.givesmart.com.

Take summer classes, sports camps at Brophy

Summer is just around the corner and Brophy College Preparatory is



Villa Montessori School is shifting its annual gala night to an online format this year. The public can bid on items and buy raffle tickets online. Students pictured here are holding the logo of the auction, designed by student Stella TenBrook (photo by Athena Moskoyes).

planning to offer classes and sports camps in person on campus.

A course bulletin is posted on the school's Facebook page at facebook.com/brophycollegeprep and its website at brophyprep.org. Registration will start early this month. Classes in the Summer Bronco Enrichment Program are filled quickly.

This program is open to boys and girls who will be going into fifth through eighth grades who attend any school in the Valley.

Senior shines in college classes, technology

A well-rounded senior at Xavier College Preparatory is on a roll, reaping the awards of her hard work in classes and getting a jump-start on college.

Jordan Herrera recently was chosen as one of Rio Salado College's two Phi Theta Kappa/All-Arizona Academic

Team scholarship recipients. Rio Salado selected her to the All-Arizona Academic Team, as did Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for junior and community colleges. This award comes with a tuition waiver for two years that can be used at any public university in Arizona.

Jordan participated in Xavier's Dual Enrollment Program with Rio Salado College so she will graduate in May with an associate's degree and an associate's degree in general studies. She also recently won the Hispanic Heritage Foundation Gold Medal in the Technology category. Jordan also serves on the Governor's Youth Commission Education Subcommittee and is on Xavier's Swim & Dive Team.

Students, speakers tackle racism at Brophy summit

Students at Brophy College Preparatory are tackling complex social

issues and had a chance to hear speakers, participate in workshops and engage in faith formation for two weeks during the school's Summit on Human Dignity last month. The topic of the summit this year was "challenging racism." Students and speakers addressed several subjects including the definition of systemic racism and what the lived experience of racism is for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).

The Brophy community also talked about and asked its members to take action related to how people can examine their thoughts, beliefs, relationships and actions in order to address racism within themselves, as well as the community and how the Jesuit identity calls for them to live as anti-racists who work for racial equality.

Wrestlers, soccer, basketball teams on a roll

The hustle and hard work of two Brophy College Preparatory wrestlers and other athletes at the school has paid off.

David Sweetman, a sophomore, and Ty Trickle, a freshman, recently won their classes at the boys Wrestling Sectionals. Sweetman, at 182 pounds, was undefeated this season and had pinned every opponent in the first period, as of press time. Trickle weighs 126 pounds. The two Brophy students were scheduled to compete at the state level.

Brophy's varsity soccer team, the defending state champion, had advanced to the semifinals of the state tournament, as did the varsity basketball team, as of press time. For more updates on their records, visit www.maxpreps.com.



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MADISON HIGHLAND PREP



Football

The 2021 Football Summer Camp will be held on Monday through Thursday, July 19th - July 29th, from 8:00 am – 11:00 am. The football camp is open to all incoming and current MHP student-athletes. The Heat football staff will focus camp activities on conditioning, offensive and defensive skills, and teamwork drills. No equipment will be needed for camp. Weight training is included in the camp fee.
The camp fee is \$125.00



Women's Volleyball

The 2021 Women's Volleyball Summer Camp will be held on Monday through Thursday, July 19th – July 22nd from 8:00 am – 11:00 am. The volleyball camp is open to all incoming and current MHP student-athletes. The Heat volleyball staff will focus camp activities on conditioning, volleyball skills, and teamwork drills. No equipment will be needed for camp.
The camp fee is \$75.00



Cheer

The 2021 Cheer Summer Camp will be held on Monday through Thursday, July 26th – July 29th, from 8:00 am – 11:00 am. The cheer camp is open to all incoming and current MHP student-athletes. The Heat cheer staff will focus camp activities on conditioning, cheer and dance skills, and teamwork drills. No equipment will be needed for camp.
The camp fee is \$75.00



Men's Soccer

The 2021 Soccer Summer Camp will be held on Monday through Thursday, July 19th – July 29th, from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. The soccer camp is open to all incoming and current MHP student-athletes. The Heat soccer staff will focus camp activities on conditioning, offensive and defensive skills, and teamwork drills. No equipment will be needed for camp. Weight training is included in the camp fee.
The camp fee is \$75.00



VEX Robotics

The 2021 VEX Robotics Summer Camp will be held on Monday through Thursday, July 19th – July 29th, from 8:00 am – 11:00 am. The VEX Robotics camp is open to all incoming and current MHP students. The VEX Robotics staff will focus camp activities on design, programming, and build skills in preparation for the 2021-2022 VEX competition game. No equipment will be needed for camp. **The camp fee is \$125.00**



Zero Robotics

The 2021 Zero Robotics Summer Camp will be held on Monday through Thursday, July 26th – July 29th, from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. The Zero Robotics camp is open to all incoming and current MHP students. The Zero Robotics staff will focus camp activities on coding and programming skills in preparation for the 2021 Zero Robotics competition. No equipment will be needed for camp.
The camp fee is \$75.00



Pep Band

The 2021 Pep Band Summer Camp will be held on Monday through Thursday, July 26th – July 29th, from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. The Pep Band camp is open to all incoming and current MHP students. The Pep Band staff will focus camp activities on preparation for the 2021-2022 athletics season. An instrument is required for the camp.
The camp fee is \$75.00



Registration forms available in the office or at [MadisonHighlandPrep.org](https://www.MadisonHighlandPrep.org)



GENERATIONS

Senior Living

Learn skills, dance and explore with online classes

Seniors looking for ways to relax, lift their spirits and socialize can participate in classes that the Center for Senior Enrichment is offering.

The organization, under the auspices of Jewish Family & Children's Service, provides free, daily programs via the video chat system ZOOM for older adults in the Valley. New this month, starting April 5, it is providing Hospice of the Valley's seven-week Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction series. From 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Mondays, participants will learn mindfulness techniques that are believed to help relieve anxiety, depression and pain.

The Musical Instrument Museum will offer an Ethnomusicology program, focusing on the traditions and celebrations of Klezmer music at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13. Every Friday you can gather virtually for a Welcome Shabbat program at 11 a.m. with Rabbi Nitzan Stein Kokin of Congregation Beth El and other guests. To learn more, visit www.jfcsaz.org/cse.

Explore tastes of Sicily in free online class

Indulge in the tastes of Sicily in the comfort of your home in an online lecture provided by AARP this month.

Check out "Savoring Sicily: 2,000

Years of History in 100 Iconic Dishes – Food Historian Lecture Series with Francine Segan," presented by AARP from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13. Food historian Segan will review how various cultures, including those of ancient Greece, Rome, France, Spain and the Arab and Byzantine worlds influenced the flavors of Sicily's well-known dishes. She will talk about more than 2,000 years of Sicilian history as she and participants explore Nero's role in the origin of Sicily's sorbetto.

This event is free but you must register ahead of time. To learn more, visit states.aarp.org/arizona/events-az.

Kids & Family

Kids learn 3D modeling, design in online class

Your child or teen can build some fun into their day while also gaining skills that could help them in future careers during the Phoenix Public Library's MACH1 online/virtual classes.

The library offers these courses from 3:30 to 5 p.m. every Thursday. Youths ages 8 to 17 learn the basics of 3D modeling using Tinkercad. They create simple shapes and assemble them into more complicated creations and then design their own 3D printed pieces. The 3D modeling also is used for video game design, animation and other purposes. Students who participate in multiple sessions and finish

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GENERATIONS

their projects can print them. Beginner and intermediate modelers can attend these virtual classes.

In order to take part in this course each child or teen must obtain a free Tinkercad account. The classes are delivered in Microsoft Teams and sessions are limited to 15 students. To register, visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org/kids/online-programs-for-kids.

Children can plunge into fun at summer day camps

Your child can dive into sports, socializing and creativity at Camp Hubbard this summer.

Hubbard Family Swim will offer these day camps from Monday, May 24 to Friday, Aug. 6 at Sunnyslope High School at 35 W. Dunlap Ave. and Griffith Elementary School at 4505 E. Palm Lane. It also will hold Camp Hubbard in Scottsdale. Designed for youths ages four and a half to 14, the camp engages children in basketball, volleyball, soccer, baseball, softball, archery, swimming and games.

The camps are available for half days, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and full

days from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It costs \$250 a week for the half-day option and \$315 per week for the full-day choice. Single days cost \$80 per child. Sibling discounts are provided. Registration includes daily snacks and a camper T-shirt. There also is “extended stay” childcare from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. To register and learn more, call 602-786-6789 or visit camphubbardaz.com.

Caregivers can learn to help children deal with trauma

If you are a parent or another adult raising a child who has been traumatized in the past, a free online class can help you learn how to help your little one.

Southwest Human Development offers a class called Trauma-Informed Care: Understanding the Impact of Trauma on Children (0-5) from 9 a.m. to noon the second Saturday of every month and from 6 to 9 p.m. the third Thursday of each month. The training is online due to the COVID-19 pandemic rather than in person. The next class will be held April 10.

Adults raising children learn the

importance of relationships, as well as how trauma affects the feelings and behaviors of young children and how caregivers can assist them in this class.

Registration is required and is limited. It closes 48 hours before each class. To register for the class, visit swhd.org/training/traumatraining.

Blast off in astronaut event at Arizona Science Center

Children and adults can have a blast at the Arizona Science Center’s Astronaut Exhibition through May 31.

Museum goers can participate in physical and mental challenges that are out of this world, including experiencing a rocket launch, delving into life on the Space Lab and investigating how to do scientific research in space at the center at 600 E. Washington St. They also can work together to solve problems and determine how to accurately land a capsule and how to eat in space.

There are 26 exhibits that convey the physical and psychological impacts of living in microgravity on the human body, as well as the technology used to finish a mission.

Guests must buy tickets ahead of time. To learn more, visit azscience.org/attractions/astronaut-exhibition.

Phoenix Center for the Arts hosts virtual summer camp

Kids can express themselves through dance, theater, music and visual art in Phoenix Center for the Arts’ Virtual Summer Camp 2021.

There will be four two-week sessions offered from Monday, June 7, to Friday, Aug. 6, online. Each camp session runs from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays through Fridays. Youths ages 7 to 14 will explore different art forms with the direction of highly skilled teachers. There are different themes for each week.

Early Bird registration costs \$250; registration after that costs \$300. There also are sibling discounts. Each morning children will use a password-protected Zoom video call to access the program with the link and information on logging into it provided with the registration packet. To learn more, visit phoenixcenterforthearts.org/summer-camp. If you have questions, call 602-254-3100.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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The Nash will resume its live concerts for its Nash Under the Stars series this month at an outdoor garden at 122 E. Culver St. (submitted photo).

The Nash to resume outdoor concerts

There is good news for jazz fans as The Nash is bringing back live concerts for its series, Nash Under the Stars, at “Venue 122,” an outdoor garden.

The Nash, a jazz performance and educational venue, will resume providing the concerts at the garden at 122 E. Culver St., outside of the Arizona Jewish Historical Society. There will be weekend concerts this month delivered in matinee, sunset and evening shows. The garden has socially distanced seating and there will be a livestream for people who buy tickets to watch concerts at home during this COVID-19 pandemic. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state guidelines related to the pandemic will be followed.

Westside Blues and Jazz is sponsoring the series, which will kick off with Ioannis Goudelis Quartet: “To Chick Corea With Love,” a tribute to the late pianist and composer Corea, at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 3.

Check out Jermaine Lockhart: “Sunshine” at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 10, at Venue 122. “Sunshine” is the feel of the lively, wide-ranging music played by Lockhart, a saxophonist who is topping the U.K. charts performing soulful jazz, pop and dance music.

For tickets, visit <https://thenash.org>.

CD purchases support local musicians, venue

You can support a local music venue and area musicians when you buy a CD.

The “Dream Big” CDs are available with all net proceeds from sales going

to Fiddler’s Dream Coffeehouse, which is located at 1702 E. Glendale Ave. A minimum donation of \$10 is requested. If you want to purchase one but are not within driving distance of the coffeehouse for one of the pick-up events, you can buy one through Facebook at www.facebook.com/fiddlersdream or send a text to 602-997-9795 to ask for one to be mailed to you.

Fiddler’s Dream is closed to in-person visits and live musical performances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it hosts Open Stage Night online/virtually from 6:30 to 9:30 every Thursday night.

You also can support the coffee shop through AmazonSmile. Every time you shop on Amazon.com, the online retailer will donate .5 percent of your eligible purchases to Fiddler’s Dream. To set up this donation method, visit smile.amazon.com.

Diverse performances coming to arts center

Check out a very diverse line-up of live performances coming to the Madison Center for the Arts this spring and summer.

Mariachi Sol De México de José Hernández will bring flavor and style to the stage at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 5 at the arts center at 5601 N. 16th St. This platinum-selling musical ensemble, founded by Maestro Jose Hernandez in 1981, has been nominated for a Grammy Award. It has performed to sold-out audiences in Argentina, Chile, China, Uruguay, Mexico, North Korea, Spain and Venezuela.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

East Africa, will perform at 7 p.m. May 7 and 8 at the arts center. These acrobats have demonstrated their talents and received great reviews from audiences and critics around the world. They perform traditional Kenyan acrobatic skills delivered to energetic beats.

For tickets and information about these shows and other performances at the arts center, visit themadison.org.

Splurge on dining, support Herberger

Imagine enjoying a dinner from an upscale restaurant or from the comfort of home while sipping wine, bidding during an online auction and supporting a local theater.

You can do all of that by purchasing a ticket for the “Plated & Staged...A Herberger Theater Experience” on Sunday, May 2. The deadline to register for the event is April 9. Participants can purchase a meal for eight people and two bottles of wine at a local restaurant with patio dining for \$2,500. Or you can buy dinner in your home for eight people for \$2,200. A culinary team will work with the table host to tailor a four-course menu and chefs will arrive before the event to “final fire” the meal and serve guests.

Another way to support the theater is by purchasing a cocktail box for \$150, which comes with a \$50 Uber Eats gift card, one bottle of wine and two Herberger Theater Center wine glasses. With this choice you can either pick up the box five to seven days before the event or have it delivered to a location in Maricopa County for \$40.

An online auction and virtual livestreamed program will be produced for all guests to participate in starting at 4 p.m. Ticket holders can bid on hotel packages, artwork, wine tastings, outdoor activities and other goodies. Proceeds will benefit the Herberger Theater Center’s youth education and outreach programs.

Phoenix Boys Choir rehearses in cars

The Phoenix Boys Choir found an unusual way to sing together, rehearse for virtual performances and stay connected during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The singers have been rehearsing inside cars in a parking lot using an open FM channel on the vehicles’ radios three days a week. The choir

used the technology to safely record the audio for a concert last month.

The organization invested nearly \$8,500 to purchase the technology it needed. If you’d like to make a financial donation to help the choir defray this unexpected cost, visit app.arts-people.com/index.php?donation=pboy.

The Phoenix Boys Choir also sang “The Star-Spangled Banner” last month at the NASCAR Race Series at Phoenix Raceway. This virtual performance was televised nationally.

Because the pandemic has been challenging for the youths in the choir, the organization began a new program earlier this year called “Mind, Body, Spirit & Voice” to support their social and emotional needs. It aims to empower the boys and support their mental health while helping them develop independent thinking, emphasizing that their voice and actions matter. The program allows the boys to connect their home, school and choir behavior, using journaling to reflect and cope. It also offers parents and the boys and young men access to mental health professionals if they need it.

Phoenix Boys Choir will sing in its final concert of the year, “Voices of Unity” at 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 15. The singers will share a message of hope for solidarity of all human beings. To learn more visit www.boyschoir.org.

Shemer Art Center to host garden art event

The Shemer Art Center’s annual Art in the Garden event is set for from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 10, on the front lawn of the center at 5005 E. Camelback Road. There will be colorful artwork with a garden theme including ceramics, wood, botanical creations and wearable pieces, along with live music and art demonstrations. At least 20 artists will participate in the event. Guests can buy raffle tickets for a chance to win artwork.

Artists will be socially distanced from each other and visitors and there will be hand sanitizer at every tent where artwork is on display, said Shonna James, president and executive director of the Shemer Art Center. It is free to attend Art in the Garden and visitors can purchase artwork. There will be timed entries so about 10 guests at a time will be allowed on the lawn.

To learn more, visit <https://shemer-artcenter.org>.



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Café Chat

Sierra Bonita Catering offers old favorites, new tastes

By Marjorie Rice

The old saying goes, “when life hands you lemons, make lemonade.”

When the COVID-19 pandemic caused the owners of the popular Sierra Bonita Grill to close the restaurant, it also choked off events served by their Sierra Bonita Catering business. So owners Kim and Nate Hopper and chef Rory Hewitt made their own version of lemonade: offering customers favorites from the restaurant in individual take-and-heat portions.

A year later, Sierra Bonita Catering seems to have made it through the worst of the COVID-19 storm, and the phones are starting to ring again with orders for catered events.

A razor-thin staff – the Hoppers, Hewitt and two more cooks – has kept it going in a no-frills production kitchen and office in a nondescript strip mall on Seventh Street south of Dunlap Avenue.

“We’ve had a very small group and we’ve all stuck together,” said Kim, who manages the front office operations such as ordering while also lending a hand in the kitchen. “It was pretty scary – touch and go. It was the take-and-heat menus that got us through.”

When Sierra Bonita Grill closed, she added that “we knew that everyone was going to be missing that food, and we had all the recipes.”

“We had about 3,500 contacts on the e-mail list that Nate had built up over the years, and we started reaching out,” Kim said. “It started slow and we’re hoping that we can continue to do it once people start going back to restaurants.”

The Hoppers have seen encouraging signs.

“We’re doing individual hot lunches for 125 people at a local hospital,” Kim said. “That’s the biggest catering job we’ve had since COVID broke out. I definitely feel hope. And we’re partnering with the Woodland, a new venue downtown where we’ll be the exclusive caterer. We’re hoping that will keep us busy next year.”

The Woodland is a former Lutheran church dating from 1908 that



Sierra Bonita Catering’s chef Rory Hewitt, left; prep and pastry cook Trish Davis; co-owner Kim Hopper; cook Andy Held and co-owner Nate Hopper stand near signature dishes, (from left, clockwise): Korean short rib tacos, Italian meatloaf with polenta, salad with bacon-wrapped dates, ham and Havarti sandwich, avocado toast (photo by Marjorie Rice).

will be a venue for weddings and other events. The location has been undergoing extensive renovation, and an opening date had not been set by press time.

The Hoppers’ and Hewitt’s collaboration has deep roots in another North Central favorite, Phoenix City Grille, and strong ties to its owner, Sheldon Knapp.

After a stint as bartender, in 2005 Nate Hopper and Knapp partnered in opening Sierra Bonita Grill. Nate bought the restaurant later. Rory was the chef at Phoenix City Grille, and after working at another restaurant, joined the Hoppers at Sierra Bonita Catering two years ago.

They remain close friends and colleagues with Knapp.

“He’s like our godfather,” Kim said. In fact, one item on Sierra Bonita’s menu is Phoenix City Grille pasta: penne in poblano cream sauce with broccoli, sundried tomatoes, roasted garlic and grilled chicken.

The take-and-heat menu has changed over the year, offering what Kim calls “upscale comfort.”

Rory and Nate were getting bored making the same old thing, so they started weekly chef selections. They still use a few of the old recipes, too.

Those oldies include buttermilk fried chicken (with mashed sweet potatoes, cracked pepper gravy and asparagus), carne asada, and green chili and red chili pork.

“Those are things we can never get rid of,” Rory said.

Some examples from the combined menu demonstrate a blend of imaginative takes and homey favorites: Mixed greens with bacon-wrapped dates, roasted peppers, pistachios, chile-cured bacon, blue cheese and mesquite honey citrus vinaigrette. Korean, shortrib tacos with cucumber kimchi and gochujang aioli are also on the menu. Other options include ham and Havarti sandwiches with house-made pickles and pasta salad; stacked enchiladas filled with cold-smoked, oyster, button and crimini mushrooms in a chipotle/cheese cream sauce; and Italian style meatloaf with mushroom ragout and creamy polenta.

“It’s fun because we’re never limited to a menu,” Nate said. “We can make it up every week.”

Kim said she enjoys the one-on-one contact they have with clients.

“We have five families who have come every Friday since we started this,” she said. “Even it’s just a brief chit-chat when they come to pick up their food, we get to put a face to each person, which we don’t get to do when we’re catering.”

Nate agreed.

“I love seeing people,” he said. “I’ve had these customers for 20 years. It will be great to see them and say ‘thank you, nice to see you.’ I want to thank everyone in North Central Phoenix for

the last 15 years. They kept us going.”

Sierra Bonita Catering Company, located at 8522 N. Seventh St., is open only for takeout orders placed between 6 a.m. Saturday and noon Wednesday for Friday curbside pickup between 3 and 6 p.m. The company also offers traditional catering services. For information, call 602-573-2367, or visit sierrabonitacateringcompany.com.

Dining Briefs

Luci’s at the Orchard open for dine-in customers

Luci’s at the Orchard is open again for dine-in customers while still providing curbside pick-up options.

The locally owned restaurant at 7100 N. 12th St. recently announced it had reopened for dine-in customers after having closed to in-person service due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Its coffee bar and market, as well as its kitchen are open daily from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. There also are two menus available for take-out and delivery.

Luci’s at the Orchard offers a variety of all-day breakfast items, including avocado toast, Nadine’s Eggs in a Nest, which is local eggs in artisan bread served with applewood smoked bacon and breakfast potatoes; and Funky Monkey French Toast. The restaurant also offers omelettes, power bowls, salads, sandwiches, pizzas, pastas and juices, smoothies, and alcoholic drinks.

To learn more, visit lucisorchard.com.

Farmers market offers fresh produce, other foods

Support local farmers, as well as local bakers and restaurant owners when you shop for fresh foods at the Uptown Farmers Market.

The farmers market is open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays and from 9 a.m. to noon every Wednesday at North Phoenix Baptist Church at 5757 N. Central Ave. Everyone at the farmers market is required to wear a mask and socially distance themselves by at least 6 feet from others during this COVID-19 pandemic. Dining areas and other communal gathering areas are closed for the safety of vendors and shoppers.

please see FARMERS MARKET on page 36

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

FARMERS MARKET *continued from page 35*

There are more than 500 products available, including meats, eggs, fruit, vegetables, breads, granola, pies, ice cream, pasta and many other items available each week. You can order online ahead of time and then pick up your items curbside at the market or have them delivered to your home. To learn more, visit uptownmarketaz.com.

Uncle Biff's offers sweet treats for all occasions

Looking for a shot of sweetness? Try the chip shots at Uncle Biff's California Killer Cookies.

Chip shots come in the shape of shot glasses made from a chocolate chip dough lined with white, dark or milk chocolate. Uncle Biff's fills them with ice cream, candy, milk or some adult drinks including Bailey's Irish Cream.

These cookies make unique gifts for birthdays, Easter, Mother's Day and other occasions. The cost is \$3 per chip shot or order two for \$7 or six for \$18. For Easter Uncle Biff's will offer Bifferdoodles, which are snickerdoodles in pink, yellow and green, or try the white, milk and dark chocolate Almond Toffee Bark candy.

Have your cookies delivered for free in North Central or a small fee in other areas of the Valley. You also can purchase the cookies through delivery companies, including DoorDash and Grubhub, or Stop by Uncle Biff's at 6239 N. 7th St for cookies in a wide variety of flavors.

To learn more, visit unclebiffsarizona.com.

'Takeout Tuesday' adds sizzle and deals to meals

Feast on Blanco Tacos + Tequila's nachos and other eclectic, savory and spicy Mexican staples on "Takeout Tuesday" and get 25 percent off the cost of your online order when you use the code "TUESDAY25" at check.

Try the chicken tortilla soup or nachos con queso blanco for starters or dive into Blanco Tacos + Tequila's diverse tacos including grilled mahi, grilled avocado, carne asada and braised short rib "machaca" or a host of other combinations. Each plate comes with three soft tacos, rice and your choice of black or charro beans.

You also can order family meals to

go for \$50, with enough food to feed four to six people. The menu also offers burritos, bowls, enchiladas, fajitas and chimichangas, along with margaritas, cocktails, wines and beers.

Blanco Tacos + Tequila has locations around the Valley, including one at Biltmore Fashion Park at 2502 E. Camelback Road. To learn more, visit blancotacostequila.com.

Daily Dose delivers dog-friendly date nights

Daily Dose Midtown Bar & Grill is not just for breakfast — it's also a dinner destination with a soft spot for furry friends. Daily Dose recently launched not only new happy hour and dinner menu at its location at 1928 E. Highland Ave., but also a Doggie Date Night.

Daily Dose's happy hour runs from 3 to 6 p.m. and offers a dinner menu from 3 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. The happy hour features deals on bites and sips, while the dinner menu includes new dishes and some favorites from the breakfast and lunch offerings.

Once a month customers can bring their canine companions to dine on the restaurant's patio, where their dogs can munch on all-natural, grain-free custom treats made by Dogs Eating Cake. Their human parents also can order items from a special doggy dinner menu. Part of proceeds from the Doggie Date Nights, which take place the third Thursday of every month from 3 to 9 p.m., will be donated to the Arizona Humane Society.

The next doggie night will be held April 15. You must make reservations by calling 602-274-0334.

To learn more, visit dailydosegrill.com.

Grab a family meal or a sammie at Noble Eatery

If you are looking for easy meals for your family and a variety of sandwiches for lunch and dinner, you might want to stop by Noble Eatery.

The eatery at 4525 N. 24th St. offers bites, grains and legumes, salads and sandwiches. Its Noble Bread is available in country loaf, semolina, multigrain and marble rye. Noble Eatery also offers take and bake dishes, such as baked ziti and rolled lasagna. The ziti is large enough to serve four people and comes with a family-size

Caesar salad and a loaf of Noble Bread, for \$28. Noble Eatery's rolled lasagna also serves four people and comes with a family-size Caesar salad, as well as a loaf of Noble Bread.

To learn more, visit order-nobleeatery.com.

The Gladly supports local family with ice ball sales

When you order a drink at The Gladly restaurant you can get something cool for a cause. Every time a customer purchases an ice ball from the restaurant at 2201 E. Camelback Road, The Gladly will donate \$1 to The Bobby Kramer Memorial Fund through June.

The Gladly will add a pressed crystal clear ball of ice to any dram for \$3 and donates \$1 from purchases of the ice balls to local non-profit partners on a regular basis. The ice balls, provided through a partnership with Artisan Ice, which is owned by The Gladly's beverage director Kurtis Williams, are available for dine-in service only.

Robert "Bobby" Kramer was a well-known mixologist, who also was the food and beverage director and part of the founding leadership team at The Brickyard Downtown and The Hidden House in Chandler. Kramer, 31, died after authorities say a wrong-way driver on Interstate 10 hit him. He left behind a wife and two-year-old son. You also can make a monetary donation to the Bobby Kramer Memorial Fund by visiting thegladly.com/order.

To learn more, visit thegladly.com.

Dunkin' spices up menu with avocado toast

Something new is on the menu at Dunkin' to spice up your morning or afternoon.

The restaurant, which has locations in North Central, recently added avocado toast to its offerings. It features a creamy spread with avocado, sea salt, black pepper and lemon juice. This flavorful spread is on sourdough bread and topped with everything bagel seasoning for some extra zest.

The avocado toast has a special flavor because of its "mid-range sour" taste, according to Dunkin' certified master baker Josh Gomes. Dunkin' has a location at 1543 W. Bethany Home Road, one at 2131 E. Camelback Road and many others in the Valley. To learn more, visit dunkindonuts.com.

Fired Pie spices up menu with Thai chicken salad

Spring into a new lunch routine when you try the Crispy Thai Chicken Salad, new on the menu at Fired Pie.

The locally owned and operated pizzeria recently began offering the salad, which has romaine lettuce, crispy coleslaw mix, grilled chicken, edamame, crispy wontons, peanuts and cilantro. It is tossed in a Thai lime satay dressing and topped with chopped scallions. The salad costs \$9.59.

Fired Pie has a location at 1810 W. Northern Ave. and many other spots in the Valley. To learn more, visit www.firedpie.com.

Try cereal smoothie recipe, other cool concoctions

If you love smoothies, you can try a nationally recognized recipe created by a Phoenix woman or grab one of these treats at a local restaurant.

Gilleen Barkyoumb, a registered dietitian, was selected as part of a national search for a Ninja Smoothie Bowl Sommelier. Ninja, a kitchen appliances company, chose Barkyoumb to craft custom smoothie bowl recipes with the Ninja Foodi Smoothie Bowl Maker and Nutrient Extractor.

Barkyoumb's inaugural smoothie bowl recipe, the Cerealously Fruity Smoothie Bowl, was created in partnership with the Ninja Test Kitchen. To make it, pour coconut milk into a 14-ounce smoothie bowl maker, filling to the "liquid fill" line. Then add a quarter of a cup of frozen strawberries, one frozen banana, half a cup of frozen cauliflower rice, one tablespoon of coconut cream and one scoop of vanilla protein powder up to the "max fill" line. Blend these ingredients, continuously twisting the tamper counterclockwise. Then remove the blades, pour the smoothie into a bowl and top it with any fruity cereal, fresh strawberries, a fresh banana and shredded coconut. To learn more, visit ninjakitchen.com.

You can find various smoothies at Nekter Juice Bar at 2045 E. Camelback Road (nekterjuicebar.com) or at Tropical Smoothie Café Camelback Center at 1640 E. Camelback Road (tropicalsmoothiecafe.com).

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

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