



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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Successful local author offers insight, inspiration

By Kathryn M. Miller

Creative writing was something that North Phoenix resident Barbara Hinske had always kept tucked away for retirement, but life had other plans.

In 2010, well into her 35 years as a practicing attorney, Hinske was in an automobile accident that left her with a broken neck, double vision, and a lot of recovery time on her hands.

“I was just bored out of my mind, but with double vision, I couldn’t read, watch TV, use a computer. All I could do, really, was walk,” Hinske recalled.

Fortunately, it was November in Arizona, when the weather is generally mild.

“I just walked and walked and walked, for hours. And I just came up with my Rosemont series cast of characters and plot arcs.”

“Coming to Rosemont,” Hinske’s first book, was the product of those long walks, and the series continues to expand. Currently, there are seven books

please see AUTHOR on page 6



When the entertainment industry came to a screeching halt in 2020, Creighton Bowman and Ryan Newcomb moved to Phoenix and landed in the Melrose District, where they opened Rewind Vintage & Antiques in December 2021 (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

Couple hits ‘play’ at Rewind Vintage

By Kathryn M. Miller

Creighton Bowman and Ryan Newcomb weren’t necessarily planning on opening a vintage resale shop in Phoenix, but, as it has for so many others, the pandemic changed everything for them.

In 2020, when the entertainment industry came to a near screeching halt, Bowman, a freelance hair artist for three decades, and Newcomb, who had worked in TV production for 15 years, found themselves in L.A. and asking some serious questions.

“When you’re kind of instantly removed from everything, you’re instantly aware of the stressors in your life and so that was, you know, a big catalyst for moving here,” Newcomb shared.

The industry that had brought them together on the set of “Project Runway” in 2011 was at a standstill, the city that they were living in had become too chaotic, and the pull of spending time with family and the opportunity to push “pause” on their careers while they figured out what came next led them to Phoenix.

The couple said that Michigan, where Newcomb hails from, was off the table.

Bowman, who is from Phoenix originally, shared with a laugh, “We have better weather. So, I won that argument quickly.”

While they had kicked around the idea of launching a record label with a store and one-chair hair salon since around the time of their marriage in 2014, things just hadn’t clicked. Until January 2021, which saw the realization of In the Q Records, and the return to Phoenix brought Bowman into the realm of vintage and antique resale — a perfect combination that led to the opening of Rewind Vintage & Antiques in Phoenix’s Melrose District in December 2021.

“My mom has an antique store,” Creighton shared. “She has a booth in a place called Antique Gatherings, just down on Indian School here, and,

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From the Editor

Hello, North Central Neighbors — I hope that 2022 is off to a good start for you!

A new year frequently brings change along with it, and that is certainly true here at *North Central News*, which is why I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself.



I have lived, worked and played in the North Central area for most of my life, and it remains a place that I love and that my family and I call home. As a fan of *North Central News* for many years, I am absolutely thrilled to serve as its new editor.

One thing that isn't changing at *NCN* is our commitment to serving you, our neighbors, by presenting rele-

vant news and information you can use each month. To help us do that even better, I encourage you to reach out and let us know what you would like to see covered.

We also welcome your story submissions. Are you a business owner celebrating a milestone anniversary or hosting a community event? Or perhaps your student won a prestigious award, or your PTO is hosting a fundraiser — we would love to help share the news with our community. Do you have a question about a development going up in your neighborhood? Let us know and we'll try to get you some answers.

We look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime, we thank you for your readership and hope you enjoy our February issue!

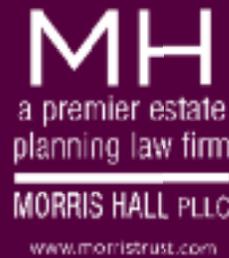
All my best,
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Water service shut-off plan postponed

Citing the continuing rise in COVID-19 cases, the city of Phoenix decided to postpone a previously announced plan to resume water shut-offs in February for past due accounts. The city has deferred water shut-offs due to non-payment for single-family residential customers since March 2020, due to the pandemic. It was announced in early January that shut offs would resume this month, but the city made a quick about-face.

In addition, the Phoenix City Council voted to permanently stop charging late fees for single-family residential customers after water service is placed on low-flow or shut-off. The council also allocated funding for residential utility assistance to support customers. Currently, 17,000 delinquent residential accounts owe approximately \$10 million.

The city says that it will continue to provide low-flow service for delinquent customers who are not participating in the financial assistance programs. Low-flow water service gives customers reduced water pressure while working with the city to resolve their past due accounts.

Customers who cannot afford to pay their water bill should call 602-262-6251, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Get COVID-19 help, information from city

Looking for help? Find information related to the COVID-19 pandemic at <https://www.phoenix.gov/newsroom/em-and-hs/1561>.

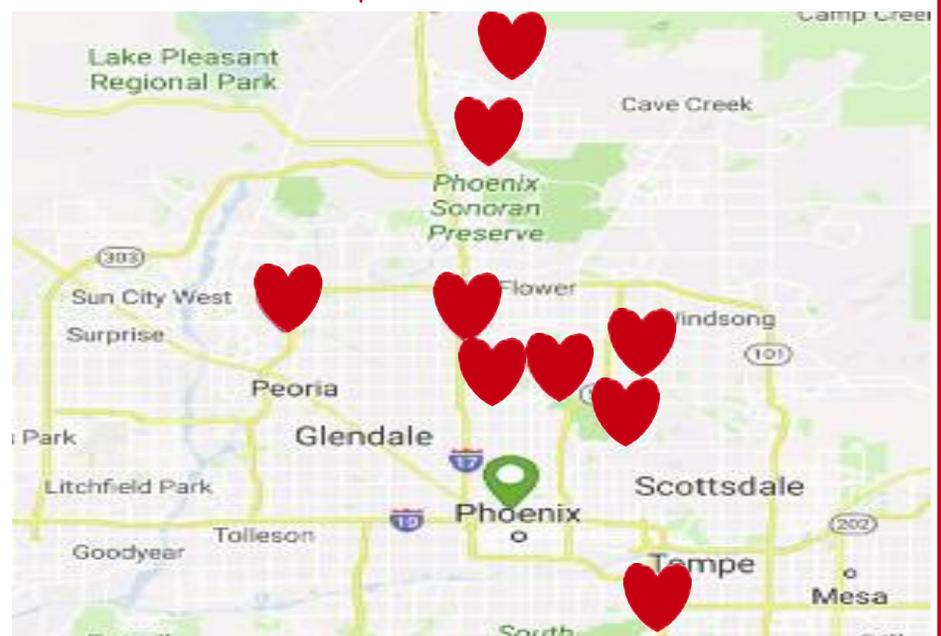
Residents with questions about city services and programs can call 602-262-3111 or e-mail contactus@phoenix.gov. Phoenix small businesses needing help can call the Phoenix Community and Economic Development hotline at 602-262-5040.

CORRECTION

In our JANUARY 2022 story, "HomeSmart headquarters moving to central Phoenix," we incorrectly stated that HomeSmart was "moving its headquarters from Scottsdale to a new office at 4040 E. Camelback Rd., Suite 165." HomeSmart is moving its 32nd St. and Camelback Rd. office to the Arcadia area address noted, rather its Scottsdale headquarters. We regret the error.

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north central news

The voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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DEADLINE FOR ADVERTISING AND EDITORIAL IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

REWIND continued from page 1

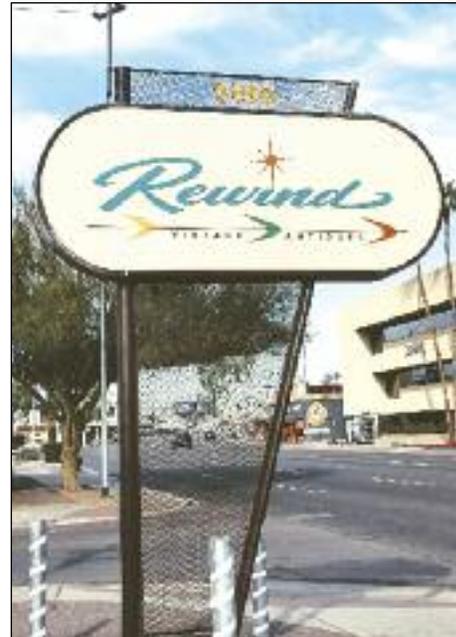
honestly, just to keep me busy, I've been helping her decorate it. We go to a lot of estate sales together, garage saling. So, it all just kind of fell into our lap."

The couple also came to set up shop in Melrose quite by luck. While they had been casually searching for a space, and loved the Melrose neighborhood, they were having doubts that they would find something affordable. Until Newcomb was driving by the former Rebel Salon building on 7th Avenue and a "For Lease" sign in the window caught his eye. Fast forward to Dec. 7 when Rewind opened its doors.

The shop can best be described as eclectic and welcoming, much like the neighborhood.

"I've always been drawn to eclectic," Bowman shared. "It's how I've done my house. I always feel like an eclectic home tells a story."

He creates beautiful vignettes to artfully display his estate and garage sale finds. His goal is to create a comfortable atmosphere of discovery, where browsers can take a walk down



Rewind Vintage and Antiques, located in the Melrose District, offers vintage and antique resale items in an eclectic and welcoming atmosphere (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

memory lane and find unique items that will spark conversation. His only rule: he has to like the piece. If he wouldn't put it in his own home, it won't find a place in the shop.

In the Q Records has its own nook at Rewind, where Newcomb personally

curates the small but growing vinyl section. Passionate about music and an avid collector, he brings in items from his own collection, and music lovers will also find titles recorded by the label, including Destroy Boys and Honey Child. Coming in February, a 7-inch from Jessie Payo, and in March, a four-song EP from Modern Original, with more titles in the works. And while all of the artists are currently those he brought from L.A., Newcomb says that he is excited about getting involved in the Phoenix music scene. "There's a lot of cool things that are going on," he added.

With the synergy of Melrose working in their favor, the couple has created their own cool thing at Rewind — and it's on long play.

Rewind Vintage & Antiques is located at 4150 N. 7th Ave. in Phoenix. Call 602-612-3840 or visit www.rewindon7th.com or. Learn more about In the Q Records at www.inthegrecords.com.

Tennis tournament seeks volunteers

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19, men's professional tennis returns to the Valley March 13–20 for the Carvana Arizona Tennis Classic at Phoenix Country Club. The tournament, which is part of the ATP Challenger Tour, will feature many top-ranked players as well as some of the world's rising professional stars.

The Arizona Tennis Classic is recruiting general volunteers to work the event and Ball Crew volunteers to work the courts during matches. The tournament benefits the Phoenix Children's Hospital and relies on volunteers to make it a success.

Those interested in volunteering or who would like more information may visit www.arizonatennisclassic.com.

Phoenix names new deputy city manager

Alan Stephenson has been named as Phoenix's newest Deputy City Manager. Stephenson has worked for the city for 21 years and has served as Planning and Development Director since 2013. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Valley Partnership.

Stephenson will continue to oversee Planning and Development until a new director is named.



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An advertisement for VELUX Roof Windows and Skylights. It features the VELUX logo at the top, followed by the text "ROOF WINDOWS AND SKYLIGHTS". Below this is a horizontal line, then the word "TITAN" in a stylized font, and "SECURITY SCREEN DOORS" in a bold sans-serif font. A small image of a screen door is on the right, with a blue arrow pointing towards it from a target graphic in the center of the page.



An advertisement for THERMA TRU DOORS. It features the company name "THERMA TRU DOORS" in a bold, blocky font, with the tagline "THE DOOR SYSTEM YOU CAN BELIEVE IN" below it. A photograph of a red entry door with glass inserts is shown at the bottom.



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COMMUNITY

AUTHOR continued from page 1

plus a short Christmas novel that was just published as an anthology, and she is planning on writing the next book in the series this year.

While the Rosemont series was her introduction to and mainstay in the world of fiction writing, and her 2018 novella “The Christmas Club” was made into a Hallmark movie in 2019, Hinske says she is most proud of her “Guiding Emily” series.

Inspired by a 2019 visit to the Foundation for Blind Children in North Phoenix, “Guiding Emily” tells the tale of Emily Main, who loses her eyesight on her honeymoon, and Garth, a guide dog in training, and their journey to find each other.

“I was so moved by what I saw that I asked, ‘What can I do to help?’ and they said, ‘Well we need to raise awareness within the sighted community of the isolation that the blind feel.’ And, of course, they’re nonprofit. They need money, so I said I could do both with the novel — raise awareness and donate money.”

Half of the proceeds from the first

book are donated to the Foundation.

“I love the Rosemont series, but ‘Guiding Emily’ is profound in its outreach and its encouragement within the visually impaired community and the sighted community.”

From those early days spent walking and developing “Rosemont,” to the “wild” experience of seeing her book made into a Hallmark Christmas movie, Hinske finally worked up the courage to give up her law practice and focus on writing full time. For those who feel the pull to bring their own characters to life on a page and need some encouragement, she suggests finding a good writing group — she’s a member of the Grand Canyon chapter of Sisters in Crime group — and staying in touch with what is happening in the industry — Hinske tunes in daily to an author conference on Clubhouse. She also offers her own encouragement.

“The best advice I can give anyone is push aside all the naysayers in your life because there will be plenty of people that will tell you, ‘Oh, you could never sell it, you’ll never make a living, blah, blah.’



An automobile accident led local resident Barbara Hinske to make the transition from practicing attorney to successful author (photo by Jean Laninga Creative)

“I’m a hybrid author, meaning I self-published in print, my audio stuff is all traditionally published, and I’ve become very, very successful. I’ve replaced my lawyer income with author income. If I can do it, anybody can do it.”

Find Hinske’s works wherever books are sold, on Kindle Unlimited or your local library. To learn more, visit www.barbarahinske.com or find her on Facebook, @bhinske.

Pastor elected Phoenix vice mayor

The Phoenix City Council elected District 4 Councilwoman Laura Pastor as vice mayor during the Jan. 5, formal Council meeting. This is the second time that Pastor has been elected vice mayor. Her first term began on March 1, 2017.

Pastor was sworn in as the District 4 Phoenix City Councilwoman in 2014. She is the current chair of the Economic Development Subcommittee and serves on the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Planning Subcommittee. She has served as a member of the Encanto Village Planning Committee and is a former member of the Hispanic Advisory Board of Maricopa Community Colleges, the Homeless Task Force, the Maricopa Transportation Advisory Board, and Phoenix Day.

A fifth-generation Arizonan, with a background in public education, Pastor also serves as a current member of the Phoenix Union High School District Governing Board, where she has been a strong advocate for strategic planning and participatory governance.



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Real Estate Corner

Bobby Lieb

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

Thank you for your support in 2021!

Thank you to all our North Central News readers who have allowed me to sell 116 homes in 2021. We did sell 27 homes priced at more than \$1 million in 2021 (six were more than \$2 million) but we also sold 26 homes priced between \$700,000-\$950,000 and 63 homes priced between \$240,000 to \$699,000. I have always said that if you specialize in selling homes in North Central you have to be able to realize that we have a variety of different styles of homes which offer many varied home values.

I have sold more than 3,500 homes over the past 31 years and some of the homes I have sold two to three times each. I have always specialized in Central Phoenix because this is the area my dad lived in when he moved to Phoenix in 1964. I feel that North Central homes should be

sold by a North Central Realtor because we all know this area and values better than anybody else since we raised our families here and have supported all the local businesses that exist here for many years!

Thank you for allowing me to be a small part of your family over the years by trusting me to not only sell your homes but also to help you find new ones.

Have a healthy 2022!!

Bobby Lieb

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8634 N 52nd St • \$2,395,000	1747 E Las Palmaritas • \$1,495,000	1545 E Northern Ave • \$1,070,000
5706 N Central Ave • \$2,112,000 <i>*represented buyer</i>	625 W Echo Ln • \$1,450,000	8902 E Rusty Spur Pl • \$1,050,000
1527 W Caribbean • \$2,000,000	202 E Kaler Dr • \$1,195,000	21 E Cactus Wren Dr • \$1,050,000
7234 N 3rd St • \$1,860,000	17 W Sierra Vista Dr • \$1,350,000	2015 E Glenn Dr • \$1,039,500 <i>*represented buyer</i>
4501 E Calle Tuberia • \$1,800,000	3436 N 38th Pl • \$1,299,500 <i>*represented buyer</i>	2685 E Canyon Pl • \$1,000,000
1 E Northview Ave • \$1,700,000	712 W Vogel Ave • \$1,250,000	3183 E Rose Ln • \$1,000,000 <i>*represented buyer and seller</i>
777 E Circle Rd • \$1,650,000	6809 N 12th Ave • \$1,210,867 <i>*represented buyer</i>	2 E Cactus Wren Dr • \$1,000,000
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COMMUNITY



Built in 1942 and renovated several times, this Mission-style building on 7th Avenue and Encanto Boulevard served as the City of Phoenix Fire Station #8 until 1978. Still owned by the city, it is now on the National Register of Historic Places. You can see the fire station as part of the 2022 Willo Home Tour (photo by Diana Herman, Monte Vista, from the forthcoming “Willo Photo Book — Architecture and History”).

Home tour and fair returns to Willo

After taking 2021 off, the Willo Historic District Home Tour and Street Fair returns for its 33rd year on President’s Day weekend.

“This unique neighborhood tour welcomes you into some of Arizona’s finest historic homes representing a variety of styles: Tudor, Spanish, Bungalow and more — dating from the 1920s through the 1940s,” said Teresa Fontana, co-chair, Willo Home Tour 2022. “In addition to the home tour, the street fair will feature vendors, artists, local food trucks and live music.”

The Home Tour and Street Fair is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition to nine beautifully restored historic homes and the historic fire house at 541 W. Encanto, a street fair featuring local vendors winds down Monte Vista and Holly Roads. The Street Fair opens at 9 a.m. There will also be live music, food trucks and a beer and wine garden.

Parking is available at the parking garage located at 1st Avenue and Holly. Visitors are also welcome to park in any available location within the neighborhood, according to organizers. Trolleys will be continually running throughout the day for visitors to hop on and off at their convenience.

Tickets are \$20; children 12 and

under attend for free. For more information and tickets, visit www.willophx.com/home-tour.

Gates elected chair of county supervisors

The Maricopa County Board of Supervisors elected District 3 Supervisor Bill Gates to serve as chairman at its Jan. 5 meeting. This is Gates’ second time serving as chairman.

Gates has served on the Board of Supervisors, representing District 3, since 2017. Prior to that, he represented District 3 on the Phoenix City Council. He was elected chairman unanimously by his colleagues.

At the annual “Passing of the Gavel” ceremony, Gates outlined his vision for how the nation’s fastest-growing county will defend democracy, grow the economy and combat the continuing pandemic.

“Our focus should be helping people get things done — with low taxes, fewer regulations, and less red tape — so we create an environment where families and businesses can thrive,” said Gates. “That’s why we’re going to cut property taxes in 2022 for the second year in a row. We can do that responsibly so people have more money in their pockets without a negative impact on the service they get from us.”

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COMMUNITY

Permaculture course begins this month

Residents interested in sustainability and regenerative design can register for a hands-on permaculture course being offered by Valley educators this month.

The Urban Farm and Bee Oasis have opened registration for the annual spring Phoenix Permaculture Design Course (PCD), which begins Feb. 19 and runs for five weekends. The 72-hour deep dive introduction into permaculture is designed to give students a whole new perspective on sustainability and regenerative design.

Led by Don Titmus and Greg Peterson, as well as several other guest teachers, the program is a one-of-a-kind hands-on course that focuses on permaculture and regenerative design with an emphasis on dry lands and Southwest ecosystems. Course topics include agroforestry, design principles and patterning, site analysis, drylands gardening principles, ecosystem restoration, regenerative community economics, soils and erosion control, village and community design, water harvesting, invisible structures and many other topics.

“The Phoenix PDC course is one of my favorite courses that I always look forward to teaching as it is truly a life-changing class,” said Peterson, founder of The Urban Farm. “Students will learn how they can use nature’s own energy and cycles to foster a regenerative system in their landscape and lifestyle. I like to define Permaculture as the art and science of working with nature.”

For more information and to register, visit www.urbanfarm.org/pdc. Seating is very limited.

Festival brings Italian culture to downtown

A two-day festival celebrating Italian art, culture, food and music returns for its seventh year, Feb. 26-27, at Heritage Square, located at the corner of East Adams Street and 7th Street in downtown Phoenix.

Hosted by the nonprofit Italian Association of Arizona, this year’s event will begin Saturday morning at 11:30 a.m. with a parade and opening ceremonies and feature live entertainment and some of the best Italian food the Valley has to offer. Live performances will include Sbandieratori del Palio di Asti (flag-wavers) from the city of Asti in Piemonte, and an art gallery with



Greg Peterson, founder of The Urban Farm, will co-lead the spring Phoenix Permaculture Design Course that begins on Feb. 19 (submitted photo)

local and international Italian art. A *concourse d’elegance* will feature restored collector Italian automobiles and Italian motorcycles. Italian bicycle manufacturers will feature their latest hand-crafted road bikes. A concert will take place Saturday evening at 7 p.m. and guests can dance in the streets.

Tickets can be purchased online for \$15 through Feb. 27; children under 12 are free. For additional information, visit www.italianfestivalaz.com.

Register by Feb. 28 for Arizona Gives Day

Local nonprofits interested in participating in Arizona Gives day have until Feb. 28 to register for the 2022 event.

Arizona Gives Day is a 24-hour online fundraising event that takes place from noon on April 5 until noon on April 6. Since 2013, Arizona Gives has raised more than \$30 million for nonprofits statewide, setting a single-year record in 2021 by raising \$7.1 million.

Presented by FirstBank, the annual event is hosted by the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits and the Arizona Grantmakers Forum to help unite nonprofits, big and small, new and established, and celebrate and increase philanthropy in Arizona through online giving. Arizona Gives helps raise awareness about the critical role Arizona nonprofits play in our communities and inspires people to give generously to create a thriving and stronger Arizona for all.

Re-enrollment and payment of a refundable registration fee is required and can be completed at www.azgives.org/eligibility. Registrants receive access to workshops and training, marketing and graphics toolkit and can fundraise all year on AZGives.org.

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COMMUNITY



The 19th annual M7 Street Fair, which celebrates the diversity of the Melrose District and spans over half a mile, will take place on Saturday March 5, along 7th Avenue from Indian School Road to Campbell Avenue (photo courtesy of Seventh Avenue Merchants Association).

M7 Street Fair returns for 19th year

The Melrose 7th Ave Street Fair (M7), a one-day event that spans over a half mile in the heart of Phoenix's Melrose District, will celebrate its 19th annual event Saturday, March 5.

The event is hosted by the Seventh Avenue Merchants Association, a non-profit organization established to further the unique character and assets of the Melrose Curve to facilitate safety, community, revitalization and beautification. The organization is celebrating its 21st year as an organization in 2022.

Running from Indian School Road to Campbell Avenue along 7th Avenue, the free M7 Fair will run 11 a.m.–5 p.m. and feature more than 200 local and independent artisans, food trucks, live music, farmers market, kids' activities and craft beer garden.

Live entertainment for the event includes the Phoenix Metropolitan Men's Chorus (11–11:45 a.m.), The Twits (noon–1:30 p.m.), The Waters (1:45–3:15 p.m.) and The Sugar Thieves (3:30–5 p.m.). Family entertainment will be offered all day, including Wild Man Phil Reptile Show and Exhibit, aerial acrobats show, Midway games, arts and crafts, magicians and street performers, face painting and more.

In addition to the scheduled activities, visitors are encouraged to stop in at the many local businesses located along 7th Avenue. Patrons can also enjoy the ever-popular Chester's Classic Car Show, which welcomes over 200 classic, antique and vintage cars, truck and hot-rods during the event.

Parking is free throughout the surrounding neighborhood and general vicinity. For additional information, visit www.melrosemerchantsassociation.com.

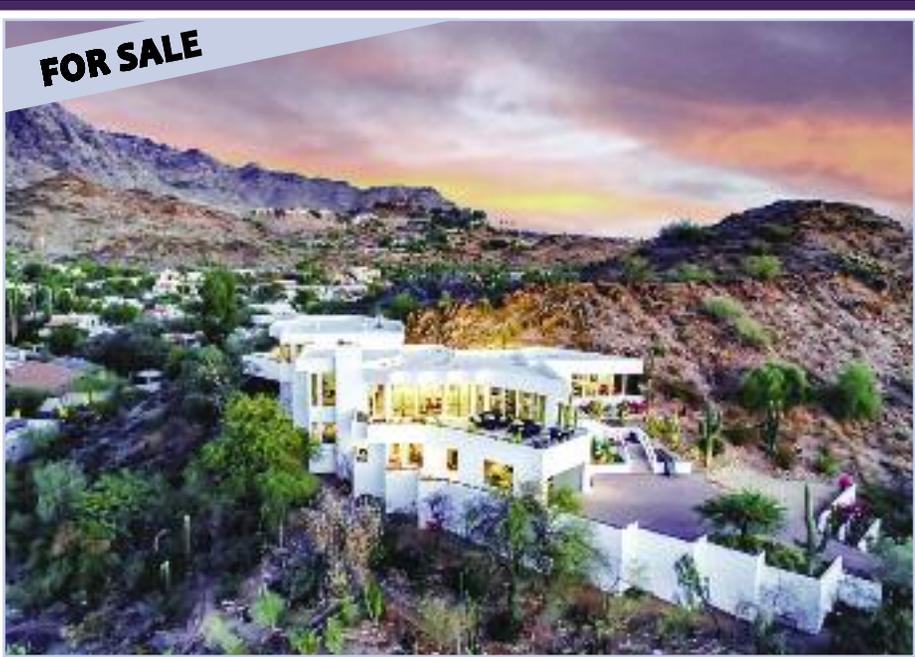
Tournament to raise funds for foundation

Area nonprofit Young Visionaries Board will host a cornhole tournament fundraiser for the Foundation for Blind Children this month, and Valley residents are invited to attend.

Scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 26, 11 a.m.–5 p.m., residents are invited to join the Young Visionaries Board (www.youngvisionariesboard.org) for its inaugural Bags for the Blind event, a cornhole tournament with music, entertainment, food and drinks. The fundraiser is inclusive of all skill levels with plenty of entertainment for those who don't make it to the final rounds.

One hundred percent of proceeds will benefit the Foundation for Blind Children, an organization that serves the blind and visually impaired of all ages, from birth to currently 102 years old. The nonprofit is an essential resource to families and children with blindness or low vision. With three Valley locations, the organization strives to serve as the community's resource for blind, visually impaired and multi-handicapped children, adults, and their families.

Tickets cost \$200 for a team of two; spectator tickets are \$50, free for those ages 10 and under. Bags for the Blind will be held at Foundation for Blind Children, 1234 E. Northern Ave., Phoenix. To learn more about Foundation for Blind Children, visit or www.seeitourway.org.



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** 15th Ave to 44th St & Camelback to Northern*

	2021	2020	Difference
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Avg. Sale \$/SF	\$368.27	\$290.83	↑27%

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HAPPY HOUR WITH HERSCH

The NFL season is winding down and our hometown Cardinals have taken us on quite the thrilling ride so far (this is being written after Week 17, when they took down the Cowboys on the road!). Before the season started, I was hopeful we could get back into the playoffs for wildcard weekend, and ultimately that is what has happened. Whether we go in as a division champion is still unknown as of this writing. I know many of my friends are disappointed we didn't get the #1 seed and first-round playoff bye because of the spectacular start to the season, but if they would take a step back and consider their expectations, I think they would agree the year has been a success.

It's a perfect example of how easy it is for us to manipulate our own expectations without taking the bigger perspective. One of my goals this year, not saying I will be successful, is to really slow down on my initial response and try and do a better job of assessing the full view. As far as our Cardinals go, I am grateful for the thrills they have provided me and my family this year and am hopeful they still have a few surprises left in them for the playoffs.

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Winner for Last Month – Rachel Zaslou | Last Month's Answer – Francesco Petrarca

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COMMUNITY

Pet of the Month

Handsome senior is resilient and loving

At eight years old, Esteban is a handsome senior pup who has been through quite a bit prior to being rescued by the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) late last year. Found as an injured stray in December 2021, this cute boy had major injuries to his head that needed immediate medical attention.

Once in AHS' animal trauma hospital, it turned out that Esteban's injuries were serious enough to require surgery. It was determined by the veterinarians that his eyes were beyond saving but this extremely resilient angel has adjusted very well to life without sight.

Pets like Esteban may have some characteristics that make them different than other pets, but they are just as capable of living a great life as their furry companions. Although some adjustments may need to be made, these pets are full of so much love and are just as deserving of receiving love from their families.

Although he is a little chihuahua,



Esteban is a handsome eight-year-old chihuahua who lost his sight, but still has loving companionship to offer (photo courtesy of Arizona Humane Society).

Esteban has a huge appetite and always perks up when his favorite treat, shredded chicken, is around. Because of his history as a stray, not much is known about this loving boy so an introduction to the whole family would be best to allow him to adjust to his new home at his own pace.

Esteban's animal number is 683314. AHS' Virtual Adoption Matchmaking Program by appointment is available to place pets, like the handsome Esteban, with their forever families. While

Esteban may have already been adopted by the time of a matchmaking appointment, AHS has dozens more wonderful pets who also need loving homes. Interested adopters are encouraged to take a moment to meet some of the dogs, cats and other companion animals at the shelter, or view available pets on the Adopt pages on the website.

To schedule an appointment online or to see all adoptable animals right now, visit www.azhumane.org/adopt.

Family-friendly festival focuses on furry friends

Shemer Arts Center announced that its annual Furry Friends Fine Arts Festival has been moved to February.

Scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 26, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., the animal-themed art festival is a family-friendly event that will include juried artists showcasing drawings, photography, ceramics and more.

"Paw" readings and pet adoptions by Maricopa County Animal Care & Control, business vendors, live music, entertainment, an animal art raffle and food and beverage provided by Black Cat

Coffee House will round out the day.

Admission is \$5 per person, \$10 per family. Furry friends get in for free. Shemer Arts Center is located at 5005 E. Camelback Rd. in Phoenix. For additional information, call 602-262-4727 or visit www.shemerartcenter.org.

Heidi's Village hosts inaugural fundraiser

Heidi's Village, a local animal shelter and welfare service organization, invites residents to its inaugural fundraising gala, "An Evening of Hope," Saturday, Feb. 19, at J.W. Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort and Spa.

The event will begin with a 6 p.m. cocktail reception and silent auction, followed by a live auction hosted by auctioneer Kelee Lee Walton, a presentation by keynote speaker Jackson Galaxy – host of "My Cat from Hell" on Animal Planet – and the evening will finish with a Heidi's Village themed trivia game.

J.W. Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort and Spa is located at 5350 E. Marriott Dr., Phoenix. Tickets are available at www.heidisvillage.org/eveningofhope. For more information, call 602-241-4640.

AHS breaks ground on new campus

The Arizona Humane Society (AHS) broke ground on Nov. 4 for its new Rob & Melani Walton Papago Park Campus. The new campus will increase AHS's capacity to treat sick and injured homeless pets by the thousands.

AHS says its Sunnyslope Campus, which was built in the '60s, is showing its age, and its layout reflects the outdated views of animal welfare that were common at the time. According to AHS, it is only through sheer dedication that its staff is able to save the number of lives that they do.

The new Papago Park Campus will be the most advanced care facility for homeless pets in the Southwest. Outfitted with a state-of-the-art expanded Lazin Animal Foundation Trauma Hospital, expanded ICUs, and the Nina Mason Pulliam P.E.T. Center where pets find their loving families, this location will make a significant impact on the number of pets saved in the Valley.

For more information, visit <https://www.azhumane.org/new-papago-park-campus/>.

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It's National Pet Dental Health Month!

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GREATER PHOENIX CHAMBER



The Clayton on 12th, a new 34-unit apartment complex, is nearing completion on the northeast corner of 12th Street and Highland Avenue (submitted photo).

New apartments set to open in April

A new 34-unit apartment complex is nearing completion on the northeast corner of 12th Street and Highland Avenue in Phoenix.

Tentatively branded as The Clayton on 12th, the 3-story building includes 34 one- and two-bedroom apartments. Amenities will include private, secured assigned parking (including bottom floor garages), separate locking storage rooms for each apartment, large pool area with pool, hot tub, barbecues and fire pits, and a small business center.

According to the developer, Clayton Companies, the floor plans are larger than most found around town “and very well thought out by our architect,” shared Max Frenkel, representative with Clayton.

“All of our 2-bedroom units have two full master bedrooms, and most come with an extra powder room for guests. Balconies are oversized and offer terrific views of the surrounding area, distant mountains, and downtown Phoenix.”

Frenkel added that while the apartments themselves will be upscale in terms of size, finishes, etc., the price per square foot will be somewhere between midrange and upscale.

“We try to keep prices reasonable and value good, long-term tenant relationships over top dollar rent in some cases. We own and manage all of our own real estate, and so tend to build our complexes to a higher caliber than some other developers looking to fill the complex up and sell it.”

Clayton Companies will serve as

property management; the architect is K&I Homes, and the builder is Pono Construction. For additional information, call 480-423-5772 or visit www.claytoncompanies.com.

Business Briefs

Ballet Arizona announces departure of director

After nine years serving with the organization, Ballet Arizona’s executive director Samantha Turner announced in January that the 2021–22 season will be her last with the organization.

Ballet Arizona’s search committee, headed by board vice chair Michael Bolar, is working closely with m/Oppenheim, a nonprofit executive search agency, to conduct a nationwide search for the company’s next executive director. Over the next five months, Turner will work to ensure a smooth transition of executive leadership. Artistic director Ib Andersen continues his tenure of more than 20 years providing the artistic vision for the company.

The chair of Ballet Arizona’s board of directors, Miranda Lumer, stated that Turner has stewarded the ballet to its current strong position through her dedication, leadership and vision.

“Samantha has been with the organization for almost a decade and in that time, she has helped build and solidify relationships with donors to secure millions of dollars in funding, recruited and retained some of the most impressive staff members I have ever met, and kept the organization intact throughout the COVID-19 crisis,” Lumer said.

Learn more at www.balletaz.org.

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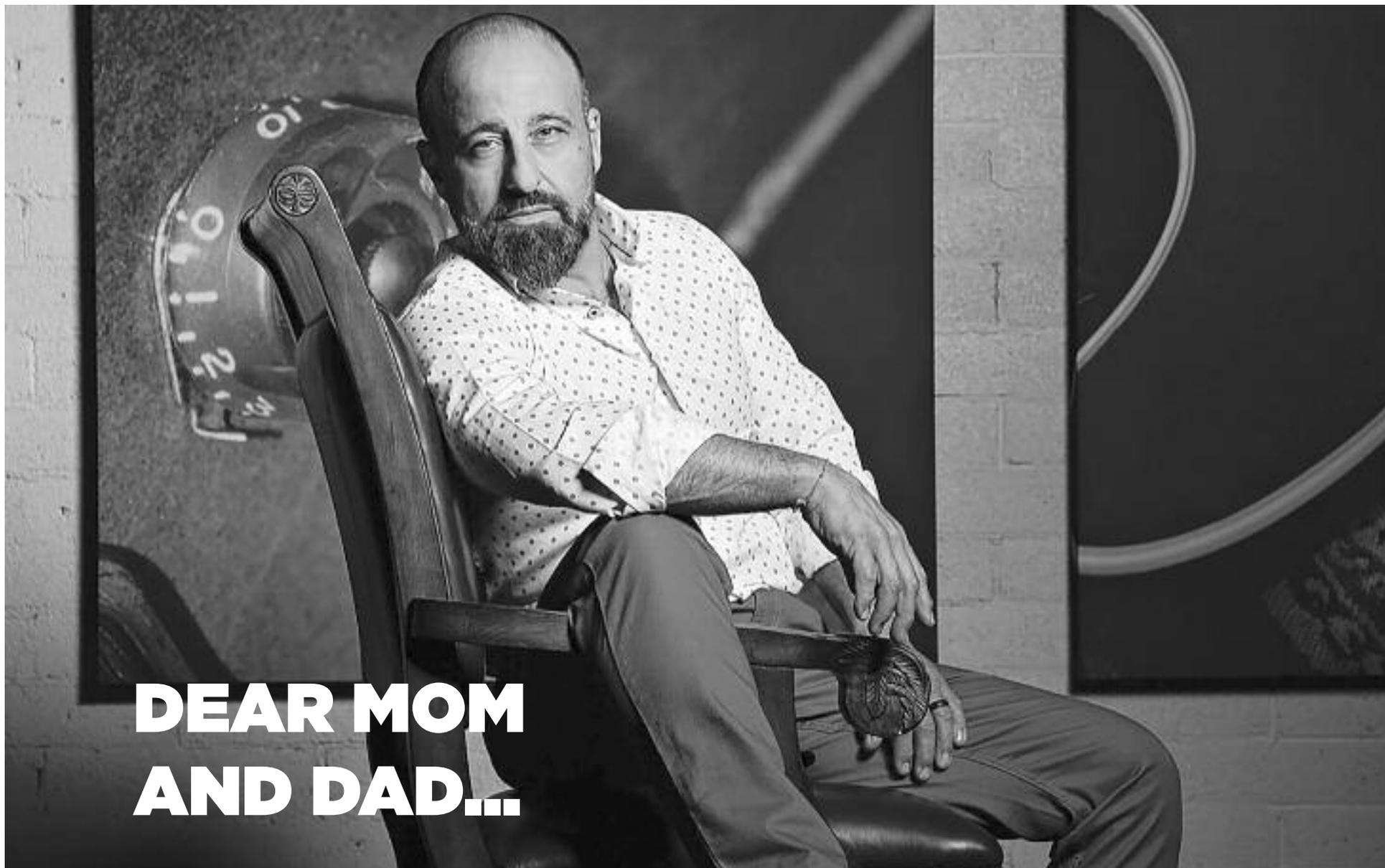
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DEAR MOM AND DAD...

Driving is one of the most popular daily activities we all do, and it usually begins while you're a teenager. Many people develop a driving addiction, and it's easy to see why. Going on road trips with your automobile and friends, or even better, alone with your thoughts, builds an addiction that is tough to break free from. Once that comfort sets in, vanity takes over, and you put safety on the back burner in favor of the attractive appearance and feel that the rolling 3,000 lb. box provides!

Driving is undeniably a difficult undertaking; it involves mental multitasking and motor skill, both of which teenagers have yet to fully grasp. This implies that individuals in charge of them must take extra measures until they have gained the mental and physical competence to drive safely. You must be your own first line of defense as a parent by not expecting them to get it perfect the first time. They require a lot of experience in a controlled atmosphere under constant monitoring. As anyone who has ever tried a new skill knows, practice makes perfect. If they've just passed their test, your teen probably thinks that their perfect driving record will last forever – but sadly not!

Make sure kids get a chance to practice what they've learned every day, or at least every other day. It will be useful not just in the event of an automobile accident. However, they will gain confidence in their abilities as they grow more at ease behind the wheel. We've seen how far technology has progressed in terms of modern car safety measures, and they're fantastic. When you're a novice teen driver, however, they're not so great.

The best thing you can do for your teenager is force them to pick up on the tiniest details, forcing them to turn around and look rather than relying on a beep or a casual glance at the rearview camera. Make sure they understand how to adjust the side

and rearview mirrors. Make them change the spare tire, or if the car does not have one, make them take the vehicle's tire off and on as many times as necessary to get it correctly. Make them responsible for detecting unusual odors and sounds.

Teenagers who are passengers or who are driving with friends stand a greater risk of injury than teens who are driving alone. When teens learn to drive, their teen friends are likely to learn as well, so your teen is likely to be a passenger in a car driven by someone with little expertise at some point. Sadly, more than half of minors who die in automobile accidents are not behind the wheel, and riding with a juvenile driver increases the risk of a fatal accident significantly.

Limiting distractions, respecting the driver, and always wearing a seat belt will help reduce this risk for teen passengers. Here are six short ways to help your teen learn to be safe passengers:

- **Talk about how to be a safe passenger.** Distracted driving is a leading cause of car accidents, and passenger distractions are especially risky for inexperienced drivers. Discuss beneficial passenger behaviors including reading directions when asked and respecting the driver by not talking loudly, texting, listening to loud music, or being disruptively.
- **Insist on seat belts.** Most adolescent passengers killed in car accidents are not wearing seat belts. Explain that by fastening their seatbelts, they will be helping to safeguard their friends' as well as their own lives. In the event of a collision, an unrestrained body can cause harm to others in the vehicle.
- **Don't let your child ride with a driver who has less than a year of experience.** The majority of teen car accidents are caused by beginner

mistakes. Even the most mature adolescent requires adult supervision to obtain driving experience. This includes preventing your teen from driving their siblings for the first six months, as siblings can be more distracting than peers.

- **Pay attention.** Keep the lines of communication open to assist them in making appropriate safety decisions. Know where they're going and why they're going and talk about how they'll get there and when they'll come back. Provide alternatives, such as rides, so they can avoid dangerous driving situations.
- **Create a code word.** Allow kids to call or text you with a previously agreed-upon code word that indicates danger to help them get out of dangerous circumstances. Pick up the term as soon as you hear or see it.
- **Lead by example.** Always fasten your seatbelt. While driving, don't talk on the phone or text. Don't go too fast. Observe the traffic laws.
- **Trust them to the professionals.**
 - A-** Have them complete driving school and not just any driving school! Enroll them into N-CONTROL DRIVING SCHOOL. It's one of the most comprehensive driving courses they can take, and they are local business.
 - B-** get them enrolled into B.R.A.K.E.S PROGRAM. This program is totally FREE, and it allows them to drive on a racetrack to understand the fundamentals of what it means to lose control and how to get out of it. Parents, it's good for you as well, so team up with your teens and take control of your drive skills as a family!

“DEAR PARENTS, IF YOU DONT WANT ME TO TEXT WHILE DRIVING, PLEASE DONT TEXT ME WHEN YOU KNOW IM DRIVING”

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Phoenix wins \$1 million in Global Mayors Challenge

Bloomberg Philanthropies has announced the City of Phoenix is one of 15 cities awarded \$1 million in the 2021-2022 Global Mayors Challenge. The worldwide innovation competition supports and spreads the most promising ideas that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Phoenix' award-winning innovation is a data-directed Mobile Career Unit (MCU) that helps unemployed residents overcome barriers and obtain employment. The MCU connects hiring employers with jobseekers, right in their neighborhoods, filling job vacancies and providing access to employment services.

In addition to the \$1 million award, Phoenix' Mobile Career Unit initiative also will receive technical support and coaching over three years. A targeted zip code focus is coupled with quantitative and qualitative data to determine areas in Phoenix that most need assistance. Offering trainings, interview opportunities (virtual and in-person), translation, career counseling, and supplemental supportive services, the goals of the

MCU is to decrease unemployment, while boosting confidence. The MCU is the only service in Phoenix acts as this kind of mobile career "hotspot."

The 15 global winners are being recognized for designing the boldest and most ambitious urban innovations to emerge from the global COVID-19 pandemic. The winning ideas address one or more of four current issue areas in cities including economic recovery and inclusive growth; health and well-being; climate and environment; and gender and equality.

Axiom gallery relocates to Biltmore Fashion Park

Axiom Contemporary Art Gallery is now open at Biltmore Fashion Park, next to Blanco Rapido and across from MAC Cosmetics.

Previously located in Scottsdale's Kierland Commons, the contemporary art gallery showcases emerging and mid-career painting, sculpture, photography, and works on paper.

Visit Axiom at Biltmore Fashion Park, 2502 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix. For additional information,

call 480-335-0177 or visit www.axiom-contemporary.com.

Learn about the future of the electric vehicle industry

Arizona is seeing tremendous growth in the electric vehicle sector. What impact has the progress of electric vehicles already made on our economy, and how can businesses and manufacturers work in partnership with legislators moving forward?

Join the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, Feb. 17, from 9 to 10 a.m. for an in-depth discussion on the future of electric vehicles, current legislation concerns, advancements in technology, and existing workforce needs within the electric vehicle industry.

Speakers include Alana Langdon, Head of Government Affairs and Global Policy, Nikola Corporation; Jennifer Mellor, Chief Innovation Officer, Greater Phoenix Chamber; and Todd Sanders, President & CEO, Greater Phoenix Chamber

The event is part of the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce's

Economic Development Insider Series. The event, which will take place at Fennimore at 2394 E. Camelback Rd. #600, is complementary for Premier members, \$15 for Chamber members and \$50 for non-members.

To register, visit <https://phoenixchamber.com/events/>. For more information, contact Ashley Caronna at acaronna@phoenixchamber.com.

Delgado is shareholder at Burch & Cracchiolo

Jennifer R. Delgado has been named a shareholder at Burch & Cracchiolo, P.A. effective Jan. 1.

Delgado joined the law firm in 2017 and focuses her practice on the representation of entrepreneurial individuals and companies in all areas of transactional business and real estate law. She received her undergraduate degree with honors from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1996, and her law degree from Boston College in 2000. Delgado is a board member of the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona and a charter member of Local First Arizona.

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- 7517 N 3rd Ave In Escrow 3800SF 4BR/2.5BA \$1,250,000
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- 1146 E Royal Palm Rd In Escrow 3080SF 4BR/3.5BA \$1,000,000
- 1033 E Kaler Dr Just Listed 3136 4BR/3BA \$ 899,000
- 700 W Northern Ave 1320SF 2BR/1BA \$ 540,000
- 77 E Missouri Ave #17 In Escrow 1641SF 2BR/2BA \$ 550,000
- 10459 N 34th Way In Escrow 1523SF 3BR/1.75BA \$ 450,000



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914 E Osborn Rd #205 • \$425,000



5816 N 64th Dr • \$342,000



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7234 N 3rd St.....	\$1,860,000
4501 E Calle Tuberia.....	\$1,800,000
1 E Northview Ave.....	\$1,700,000
777 E Circle Rd.....	\$1,650,000
5808 E Turquoise Ave.....	\$1,640,000
526 E Tuckey Ln.....	\$1,575,000
115 E Rose Ln.....	\$1,530,000
1747 E Las Palmaritas.....	\$1,495,000
625 W Echo Ln.....	\$1,450,000
17 W Sierra Vista Dr.....	\$1,350,000
8413 N Diller Grove Ln.....	\$1,348,571
3436 N 38th Pl.....	\$1,299,500
712 W Vogel Acw.....	\$1,250,000
6809 N 12th Ave.....	\$1,210,867
2016 E State Ave.....	\$1,200,000
202 E Kaler Dr.....	\$1,195,000
1545 W Northern.....	\$1,100,000
1545 E Northern Ave.....	\$1,070,000
8902 E Rusty Spur Pl.....	\$1,050,000
3183 E Rose Ln.....	\$1,000,000
3312 E Sells Dr.....	\$1,180,000

6 E Cactus Wren Dr.....	\$1,075,000
2015 E Glenn Dr.....	\$1,039,000
8421 N Diller Grove.....	\$1,029,049
2685 E Canyon Pl.....	\$1,000,000
505 W Solano Dr.....	\$950,000
6246 E Helm Dr.....	\$938,000
6846 N 3rd Ave.....	\$925,000
5501 E Beryl Ave.....	\$925,000
7140 N 9th St.....	\$901,000
1364 E Victor Hugo.....	\$900,000
5139 N 10th Pl.....	\$895,000
12733 E Cochise.....	\$875,000
6233 N 5th Pl.....	\$865,000
6520 N Central Ave.....	\$850,000
5102 N 2nd St*.....	\$840,000
1124 W Myrtle Ave.....	\$825,000
5428 E Cannon Dr.....	\$825,000
7536 N 10th St.....	\$810,000
10261 N Central Ave.....	\$774,000
5125 N 34th Pl.....	\$750,000
15504 E Chicory Dr.....	\$750,000
9621 N 26th Pl.....	\$725,000
7838 N 4th Pl.....	\$710,000
2144 E San Juan Ave.....	\$700,000
8725 E Clarendon Ave.....	\$680,000
1309 W Linger Ln.....	\$670,000
340 E Osborn Rd #3.....	\$669,000
340 E Osborn Rd #4.....	\$669,000

7302 E Rovey Ave.....	\$650,000
8725 E Clarendon Ave.....	\$650,000
20 W Alicen Ct.....	\$643,000
1 W Cheryl Dr.....	\$640,000
6830 N 4th Pl.....	\$635,000
8735 N 11th Ave.....	\$630,000
1555 E Ocotillo Rd #17.....	\$627,500
77 E Missouri Ave #72.....	\$625,000
1415 E Flower St.....	\$616,000
15 W Beryl Ave.....	\$615,000
1117 E State Ave.....	\$612,500
1345 E Missouri Ave.....	\$609,000
1402 W Berridge Ln.....	\$599,000
907 E Berridge Ln.....	\$595,000
5107 E Blomfield Rd.....	\$575,000
3827 N 33rd St.....	\$575,000
5338 E Questa Tierra Dr.....	\$540,000
527 W San Juan Ave.....	\$535,000
1807 E Winter Dr.....	\$520,000
4231 W Monte Cristo Ave.....	\$520,000
15 W Cochise Dr.....	\$520,000
1527 E Hudson Dr.....	\$519,000
2040 W Trotter Trail.....	\$500,000
6301 N 14th Pl.....	\$495,000
6418 N 13th Ave.....	\$483,850
1326 E Stella Ln.....	\$475,000
117 W Oregon Ave.....	\$475,000
5138 N 79th St.....	\$474,000

605 E Royal Palm Square.....	\$435,000
1414 E Earll Dr.....	\$425,000
7321 N 11th Pl.....	\$425,000
914 E Osborn Rd #205.....	\$425,000
3920 W Sandra Terrace.....	\$460,000
1026 E Wagon Wheel Dr.....	\$450,000
7343 N 8th St.....	\$450,000
5 E Butler Dr.....	\$429,900
6522 N 5th Ave.....	\$425,000
1414 E Earll Dr.....	\$425,000
930 E Bethany Home Rd.....	\$420,000
1 E Butler Dr*.....	\$420,000
1132 E Orangewood Ave.....	\$419,000
1232 E Palacio Ln.....	\$395,000
2531 S 156th Ave.....	\$378,000
7887 N 16th St #122.....	\$360,000
100 W Maryland Ave L1.....	\$351,000
1536 E Mission Ln.....	\$349,900
5816 N 64th Dr.....	\$342,000
2019 E Campbell Ave #115.....	\$299,900
2940 E Campo Bello.....	\$299,000
7557 N Dreamy Draw #139.....	\$280,000
1245 E Maryland Ave*.....	\$255,000
1263A E Maryland Ave.....	\$255,000
4354 N 82nd St #204.....	\$240,000

*represented both buyer and seller



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HEALTHY LIVING

Blood donations urgently needed

By Trudy Thompson Shumaker

Until you need it, chances are that you never think about whether there will be blood available for a transfusion.

But right now is the time to do more than think about it. Find a blood drive, make an appointment and roll up your sleeve to share what you have. The nation is in a blood crisis. If you or a loved one needs a transfusion, there may not be blood available unless healthy Phoenicians make time to share their blood through donation.

This level of crisis is historic, with the need at critical levels. In fact, according to the American Red Cross, this is the worst shortage in over a decade. All blood types are critically needed, with a severe need for type O and platelet donations.

What is causing the crisis? There are several factors, according to national and local blood supply experts.

- There has been a 10-percent overall blood donation decline since March 2020.

- There has been a 62-percent drop in college and high school blood drives due to the pandemic. Student donors accounted for approximately 25 percent of donors in 2019 and have accounted for only 10 percent during the pandemic because students are not in school, and many students have had COVID19.

- Many regular blood drive are cancelled due to illness, weather-related closures and staffing limitations.

- Other factors like a surge of COVID-19 cases and an active flu season may compound the already bad situation.

Regardless of the reason, as of press time, the blood in blood banks is enough for about a half day's supply in Phoenix. That is far below the levels considered safe. People with cancer, people hurt in accidents, people undergoing surgery and many others need blood, and they are at risk when there is not blood available.

Regular blood donors like Todd

Tamcsin step up their efforts during a time of crisis.

"I have donated blood regularly for years, and it's just part of my routine. It's easy for me to do, and it makes a difference in the lives of people I have never met. Donors did that for my brother when he needed blood during cancer treatment.

"When I heard about the crisis last week, I recruited a couple of friends to go with me to donate. They might not have gone if I hadn't called them to go with me—we all went together, and it was good for all."

Tamcsin's younger brother had colon cancer, and Todd first donated blood 15 years ago, when he realized that his brother's life depended on donors who took time to "share a pint."

Donating blood takes about an hour, and, as one donor said, "the gratification is instant." Only 3 percent of eligible donors donate blood, and yet blood is needed in the U.S. is needed every two seconds.

Susan Rice was a healthy young mother until she needed an emergency transfusion after childbirth. "Suddenly I was in crisis, and in need of a transfusion. My family and I were so grateful that blood was immediately available when I needed it. My husband and I are now regular blood donors because we know how much it meant to us when I needed help. Blood was available without delay because people had generously donated."

In Phoenix, Vitalant and the American Red Cross are the organizations that supply to hospitals. Blood is obtained at blood drives held throughout the Valley, at schools, churches and businesses. Donors can make appointments through either organization. Their websites provide more information about blood donation, about qualifications to donate, and how to make appointments to donate.

Many employers host blood drives, and they often give their employees time away from work to donate.

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HEALTHY LIVING

“We always need more blood drive sponsors,” said Colin Williams, American Red Cross. “We are here to help organize the drive in your organization. Just contact us to learn more about how to do it.”

The American Red Cross website is www.americanredcross.org and Vitalant’s is www.vitalant.org. In general, donors must feel well on the day of their donation. There is no waiting period to donate for those who have received a Covid-19 vaccine or seasonal flu vaccine if all other requirements are met. A quick finger prick is done to determine whether the donor can safely donate, and blood pressure and temperature are taken. Screening questions are asked in a confidential questionnaire, and they will help determine the health of the donor.

Health Briefs

Free at-home COVID-19 tests now available

Free COVID-19 home test kits are now available for order online through the federal government.

As virus numbers continue to rise, testing sites have seen a dramatic increase, and at-home kits have become increasingly difficult to find at local retailers. To help ease the strain on medical facilities, in January, the government rolled out a new program to get at-home test kits in the hands of residents. Every home in the U.S. is now eligible to order four individual rapid antigen COVID-19 tests, which are offered at no cost and being shipped Jan. 24.

Orders may be placed through a special website hosted by the U.S. Postal Service. The kits usually ship in seven to 12 days. Visit <https://special.usps.com/testkits>. Those who may have difficulty accessing the internet or who need additional assistance may call 1-800-232-0233.

For more information about the program, visit www.covidtests.gov. To find a physical testing facility in Maricopa County, visit www.maricopa.gov/5588/covid-19-testing or call 602-506-6767.

Mindfulness course offers new way to manage stress

Hospice of the Valley invites residents to learn more about mindfulness during an eight-week Mindfulness course that kicks off in March.

Taking place at the organization’s Dementia Care and Education Campus, 3811 N. 44th St., Phoenix,

the mindfulness courses aim to improve chronic pain and insomnia and decrease anxiety and depression. This course will be held from 4-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays, March 2–April 13; and 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m. Saturday, April 2.

This is a sequential course, so participants will be committing to attending most or all sessions. Class size is 15-25 people, and the suggested fee is \$100, although no one will be turned away.

To register, email mindfulnessstraining@hov.org or call 602-636-6363. For questions, email ghamilton@hov.org or call 602-748-3692. For additional information, visit www.hov.org.

Library offers classes promoting healthy living

This month, the Phoenix Public Library is offering programming — both in-person and online — to help residents find healthy living solutions.

First up is “Exercise and Mindfulness for Healthy Aging,” scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 9, from 1-2 p.m. at Burton Barr Central Library. Designed to enhance the quality of life of adults 60 and over, the program explores how mindfulness plays a role in overall health.

Participants will learn how physical activity not only enhances life as people age but improves overall metabolic health. This program will cover other questions such as “What is Exercise?” and “How do different forms of physical activity directly relate to a happy and healthy life?”

Online programming will include “Gut Health: The Secret to Successful Aging,” Wednesday, Feb. 23, from 2–3 p.m. This program will explore how to reduce inflammation in the body with anti-inflammatory foods and boost energy through nutrition and hydration. Discover answers to questions such as “What are phytochemicals?” “Is intermittent fasting healthy and beneficial?” and “How much should I eat to age successfully?”

Also online is “202YOU: Finding the Courage to Create a New You.” Scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 24, from 6–7 p.m., the class will help participants set aside time for self-reflection, self-care and self-empowerment and explore ways to live their best life and make this year one to remember.

To register or for more information, visit www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org and click on the “Calendar” link.

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PRELUDE
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Paula McWhirter, director of Curriculum and Instruction at WESD, congratulated Abigail H. (middle), and Yannis W., the first and second place winners of the District Spelling Bee (photo courtesy of Washington Elementary School District).

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WESD students head to Regional Spelling Bee

Thirty students participated in the annual Washington Elementary School District (WESD) Spelling Bee Friday, Jan. 21, going more than 20 rounds to complete the district's team of eight.

Abigail H., an eighth grader from Orangewood School, came in first place, spelling the winning word "askance." Yannis W., a seventh grader from Abraham Lincoln Traditional School, came in second place.

The six other students who will be moving on to the Regional Spelling Bee with the two finalists are Lily V., Ironwood Elementary School; Daisy T., Manzanita Elementary School; Jhonen A., Mountain Sky Junior High; Waylon F., Sahuaro Elementary School; Tristan C., Sunburst

Elementary; and Kai G., Tumbleweed Elementary.

The Regional Spelling Bee will take place Feb. 8 at 1 p.m. at the Del E. Webb Center for the Performing Arts in Wickenburg. The top two spellers from the Regional Bee move on to the State Spelling Bee in March.

School Briefs

GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

GUHSD to hold job fair for teachers

The Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) is hiring for the 2022-23 school year.

Job seekers are invited to become part of a top-performing high school district in the Metro-Phoenix area. The



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SCHOOL DAYS

Teacher Job Fair will be held Saturday, Feb. 5, 8 a.m.–2 p.m., in the Greenway High School Media Center, located at 3930 W. Greenway Rd. Phoenix.

The district says that it is committed to hiring exceptional teachers and providing the necessary resources to enable them to achieve success and satisfaction while fulfilling the mission of the district. GUHSD offers a nationally recognized teacher-mentoring program, extensive professional development opportunities, competitive teacher salaries, generous benefits package and more.

The GUHSD Human Resources Department will be on-site to conduct interviews at the event. Contact Ester Evans by calling 623-435-6017 to schedule an interview. For additional information, visit www.guhsdaz.org.

Teachers earn National Board Certification

Five GUHSD teachers recently became Arizona National Board Certified Teachers: Billie Lamkin of Cortez High School, Haley Rubio of Independence High School, Jennifer Ziance of Thunderbird High School, and Maggie Mott and Wendy Ramos of Washington High School.

National Board Certification is the highest certificate an educator can earn in the U.S. Administered by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, National Board Certification is a rigorous process that requires teachers to display the National Board Standards in their practice.



Washington High School teachers Maggie Mott (left) and Wendy Ramos (right), both pictured with WHS principal Ashley Burns, were among five Glendale Union High School District teachers who recently earned Arizona National Board Certification (photos courtesy of Glendale Union High School District).

Sunnyslope student named Flinn Scholar finalist

Ezri Tyler, who attends Sunnyslope High School, has been named a Flinn Scholarship finalist. The scholarship is valued at more than \$120,000 and can be used at any in-state university. Other benefits of the Flinn Scholarship include funding for one study-abroad experience, personal mentoring from top faculty and much more.

Thunderbird students show artwork at Shemer

Shemer Art Center's New Horizons High School Student Art Exhibition features selected work from students at 28 Valley high schools, and two Thunderbird High School students are included.

Work from Thunderbird students Iyerlie Feist and Sam Watson is included in Shemer's exhibit, which runs



through Feb. 18. The exhibition is open during normal art center hours.

Shemer Art Center is located at 5005 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix. Call 602-262-4727 or visit www.shemerart-center.org for more information.

Thunderbird student makes All-State Jazz Band

Thunderbird High School student Spencer Huttenmeyer auditioned for this year's All-State Jazz Band, and was named second for best jazz bass player in the state. Only two bass players in the state are selected.

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Five teachers receive national certification

Madison Elementary School District recently recognized its most recently named National Board-

Certified teachers with a "Balloon Day."

National Board Certification is the most respected professional certification available in education and provides numerous benefits to teachers, students and schools. It was designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teachers and to generate ongoing improvement in schools nationwide. To obtain certification, a teacher must present evidence of a specific set of skills, knowledge, and dispositions through seven standards and five core propositions of teaching.

In January, Madison honored five teachers who achieved the recognition: Jamie Allen, Madison No. 1 Middle School; Bridget Brown, Madison Rose Lane; Elementary; Kyra Emmerich, Madison Camelview Elementary; and Nancy Magnusson and Tiffani Vanore, Madison Simis Elementary.

Five Madison schools named 'Best'

When *U.S. News and World Report* published the rankings and data on more than 80,000 public elementary and middle schools across the United States for the first time in 2022, five Madison Elementary School District schools were on the list.

The methodology for the brand-new rankings focuses on two areas: math and reading proficiency, or how well students perform on state assessments, and math and reading performance, or how well they perform compared to expectations.

please see BEST on page 26

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SCHOOL DAYS

BEST continued from page 25

Five Madison schools were ranked as *U.S. News* Best Elementary Schools and *U.S. News* Best Middle Schools in Arizona, including Madison Heights Elementary, Madison No. 1 Middle School, Madison Meadows Middle School, Madison Simis Elementary and Madison Traditional Academy.

Learn more at www.madisonaz.org.

Camelview teacher receives MVP award

Elaine Glassman, a kindergarten teacher at Madison Camelview Elementary, was a recipient of the Cardinals MVP in the Classroom Award.

The MVP in the Classroom sweepstakes is presented by Arizona Cardinals and the University of Phoenix and recognizes outstanding teachers in Arizona. Three educators are selected at a home Arizona Cardinals game and receive an Arizona Cardinals jersey, four game tickets with parking, and \$500 towards classroom supplies.



Madison Camelview Kindergarten teacher Elaine Glassman sports her Arizona Cardinals jersey after being selected for the MVP Classroom Award (photo courtesy of the Madison Elementary School District).

OSBORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT Preschool program expands opportunities

The Osborn School District Preschool Program has expanded this year with a new learning opportunity for families in the Valley.

Currently, there are three Dual Language Preschools (English/Spanish)

at Encanto Elementary, Longview Elementary and Solano Elementary, serving students who are four years old in a kindergarten readiness program. This program uses current, relevant and engaging curriculum to support student learning as they prepare for kindergarten in academic and social-emotional content. Instruction is done in both languages with half of the day in English and the other half in Spanish.

New this year is a Montessori Program at Montecito Community School. The Primary Montessori program begins with students age 3 and follows a unique learning continuum to grade six. Montessori learning focuses on individual learning and promotes critical thinking and independence through freedom of choice in a structured learning environment. The learning environment is specifically prepared in an effort to encourage children for further self-discovery, develop an increased love of learning and to trust in their own ability to learn.

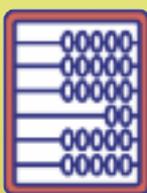
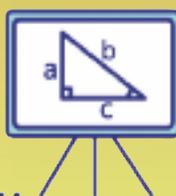
All preschool programs in the Osborn School District offer a full day learning opportunity, breakfast and lunch and two highly trained teachers in the classroom. Enrollment for both the Dual Language Preschool Program and the Montessori Program are now being accepted for this year and enrollment for next year opens in February. For further information, families may call 602-707-2500 or email jsingh@osbornsd.org.

Learn more about these programs at www.osbornnet.org.



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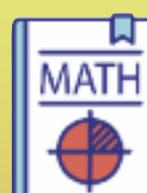
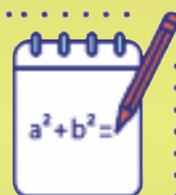


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SCHOOL DAYS

**WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Teacher scores with Touchdowns for Teachers**

Tara Gleash is one of the 98 teachers who scored a \$500 grant through the Salt River Project and Cardinals Charities' Touchdowns for Teachers program.

For every touchdown the Cardinals scored this past season, two teachers were awarded a grant. In total, the Cardinals scored 49 touchdowns, earning \$49,000 in grants.

Gleash is a kindergarten teacher at Lookout Mountain Elementary, which is part of the Washington Elementary School District. The district says that Gleash, a self-proclaimed die-hard Cardinals fan, plans to use the grant for science projects and books for her classroom library.



Lookout Mountain Elementary kindergarten teacher Tara Gleash was awarded a \$500 grant, thanks to the Arizona Cardinals and SRP (photo courtesy of WESD).

**PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS
Black History Festival returns to Brophy**

The public is invited to attend Brophy College Preparatory's Black History Festival, slated for Saturday, Feb. 12, from noon to 4 p.m.

Hosted by the Brophy Black Family Alliance in partnership with Archwood Exchange, the free festival will celebrate Black history, culture, food and more. The afternoon will include performances by choirs from Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church and Tanner AME Church, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, food and a wide variety of arts and crafts.

The festival was first hosted at Brophy in February 2020 with the intent of making it an annual event. Although the pandemic canceled last year's festival, the Alliance says it is excited to bring it back to campus and looks forward to welcoming the greater community to the celebration.

Brophy College Preparatory is located at 4701 N. Central Ave. in Phoenix. For additional information, contact Brophy's director of equity and inclusion, Deena Sellers, at dsellers@brophyprep.org.

Phoenix Christian player named to regional team

Phoenix Christian Preparatory School varsity basketball player Lucas Ceton was named to the 2nd All Region Team this year.

Lucas, a junior, is a multi-sport talented athlete, a bright, academically minded student and has a very good reputation amongst the faculty and staff along with his peers, according to the school. He hopes to attend GCU after he graduates from Phoenix Christian
please see PLAYER on page 28

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SCHOOL DAYS

PLAYER continued from page 27

and pursue a career in business.

The Phoenix Christian varsity basketball team has a season record so far of 10-3 and has hopes of making it to the playoffs.

Bopp to become Brophy principal in 2023

Brophy College Preparatory announced that Jim Bopp will assume the role of principal from Bob Ryan on July 1, 2023, when Ryan will become Brophy's 12th president, succeeding Adria Renke.

"It is a joy and a thrill to return to Brophy," said Bopp. "I am honored to have this opportunity and look forward to working with Adria, Bob and the faculty and staff to ensure a successful transition of leadership."

A principal at Creighton Preparatory, a Jesuit high school in Omaha, Nebraska, since July 2016, Bopp previously spent 11 years at Brophy in various positions, including as a member of the science faculty teaching AP Physics, as dean of students and as assistant principal for technology. Bopp will remain at Creighton through the remainder of the school year, joining Brophy in fall 2022 as an assistant principal.

"Jim is well-known to Brophy as a brilliant teacher and is also widely regarded as one of the most talented educators and administrators in the Jesuit Schools Network," said Ryan. "Creighton Preparatory has flourished under Jim's leadership these past six years, where he designed and implemented a technology and innovation center; strengthened the academic curriculum and teacher formation process; overhauled student support services; and initiated a number of programs to expand equity and inclusion. We are extremely fortunate to have Jim as Brophy College Preparatory's next principal and are excited to welcome him and his family back to Phoenix."

Ryan has been a member of the faculty at Brophy since 2000 and has been



Jim Bopp

principal since 2006. In December 2021, the board of trustees announced its leadership succession plan, naming Ryan to succeed Renke upon her retirement on June 30, 2023.

Athletic director inducted into National Hall of Fame

Sister Lynn Winsor, BVM, Xavier College Preparatory's vice principal for Activities and Athletic director, was inducted into the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Hall of Fame Dec. 14, 2021. The installation took place at its recent annual conference in Denver, Colo.

The NIAAA is an accredited and the preeminent educational institution supporting athletic administrators to provide quality athletic participation opportunities for students.

"I wouldn't be here without the support of Xavier's president, administration, athletic staff and coaches, parents and the wonderful students," Sister Lynn shared. "This award is both humbling and thrilling, and I am most fortunate to work in a field where I can advance high

school athletics and activities — especially in the area of girls sports."

The Hall of Fame award was a complete surprise to Sister Lynn. The Hall of Fame is reserved for retired Athletic Directors. The NIAAA made an exception for Sister Lynn, who has no intention of retiring anytime soon. In addition, it is the first time a Hall of Fame award is given to a religious sister.

Winsor, a Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was joined at the event by six sisters from her convent in Phoenix and three BVM sisters from the Midwest. Twenty-five alumnae from Xavier who live in the Denver area also attended a reception in her honor.

For the last 45 years, Sister Lynn has served as Xavier's Athletic director. She has brought national recognition to its many sports programs, as well as attracted millions in athletic scholarship opportunities for Xavier's student-athletes.



Sr. Lynn Winsor, BVM



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GENERATIONS

Senior Living

Celebrate Arizona's birthday at Devonshire center

Devonshire Senior Center is a 23,000 sq. ft. center located in Los Olivos Park that offers a fitness center, dance/exercise room, billiards room, meeting space and an art gallery. The Human Services Department also offers nutritional and social services for older adults, with a St. Mary's food box distribution at 11 a.m. the first Tuesday of each month. The two departments also collaborate and a full host of activities and programs.

February activities include Geri Fit, Mondays and Wednesdays at 2 p.m.; Zumba, Tuesdays at 3:15 p.m.; Technology Hour, Wednesdays at 10 a.m.; Chair Yoga, Fridays at 10 a.m. and Draw and Sketch Class, Fridays at 11 a.m. This month, in addition to the regular programs, residents are invited to join staff for a special Arizona State Birthday Party event, 10 a.m., Monday, Feb. 14.

Participants may register for the programs up to one day prior. Devonshire Senior Center, located at 2802 E. Devonshire Ave., Phoenix, offers programs and activities 9 a.m.–3:30 p.m. The center will be closed Feb. 21 in observance of Presidents' Day. Contact the center to confirm the schedule — classes are subject to cancellation without notice.

For more information, call 602-262-7807 or visit www.phoenix.gov/seniorcenters.

Sunnyslope center offers in-person, virtual programs

Sunnyslope Senior Center offers a wide variety of activities, games, billiards, exercise classes and health programs, for seniors and adults ages 18 and over.

This month, residents can enjoy programs, both in person and virtually, ranging from gentle chair yoga and Tai Chi to a book club, Mindfulness programs and much more.

Classes and programs offered in February include Beginner Tai Chi, presented Mondays 10–11 a.m. (no class Feb. 14, 21); Gentle Chair Yoga, in person or virtual, Thursdays, 10–11 a.m. (no class Feb. 17); Mindfulness, in person or virtual, Tuesdays, 11 a.m.–noon; Brain Games, Mondays, 9:30–10:30 a.m. (no class Feb. 21); and Book Club, in person or virtual, Monday, Feb. 28, 1–2 p.m.

Co-located with the Sunnyslope Community Center in the heart of Northeast Phoenix at 802 E. Vogel Ave., Phoenix, Sunnyslope Senior Center is open 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The center will be closed Feb. 21 in observance of Presidents' Day.

For more information, call 602-262-7572 or visit www.phoenix.gov/seniorcenters.

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GENERATIONS

Support groups help those caring for others

If you're caring for a loved one and feeling overwhelmed, alone in the obligation or even resentful, you can find family caregiver and grandfamily support through programs offered by Duet.

"Attending a support group can make a big difference," said Deanne Poulos, Caregiver Services, Duet. "You can express your frustrations in a safe space, without judgment. You will be guided to resources and learn coping strategies to bolster your resilience."

Duet is offering free, in-person and virtual options. Social distancing and masks are required for in-person events. Available in-person groups include Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Group, for caregivers and loved ones with dementia (first and third Tuesdays, noon–1:30 p.m., at the Duet office); LGBTQ+ Support Group for caregivers identifying as LGBTQ+ (first and third Thursdays, 2–3:30 p.m. at Community Church of Hope); North Central Phoenix Parkinson Support Group, for caregivers and their loved ones with Parkinson's (second Wednesday of each month, 1:30–3 p.m., Duet office); Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group, (second and fourth Thursdays, 9–10:30 a.m., Duet office).

Check the website for locations, dates or additional information. Visit www.duetaz.org or call 602-274-5022.

Kids & Families

Sloths, scorpions and snakes — oh, my!

Arizona Science Center is slowing things down a bit with its newest exhibition featuring animals that use being slow, small or weak to their advantage.



Valley children can enjoy a night of gymnastics, and parents a night off, during Impact Gymnastics' Valentine's Night Out event (photo by Diamond Collective Photography).

"Survival of the Slowest," the newest exhibition at Arizona Science Center, opens Feb. 5, and allows visitors the opportunity to meet live animals such as a pair of two-toed sloths, a green basilisk, a red-footed tortoise, a four-toed hedgehog, royal python, Asian forest scorpions and several other species highlighting the advantages of being slow along with some of the disadvantages of being fast. Explore dozens of habitats teeming with live animals and discover their counterintuitive adaptations and surprising strategies for survival.

Live animal presentations are scheduled throughout the day with wildlife educators and animal care staff on hand to both educate and "wow" the audiences, and also to engage with guests in an interactive hands-on approach to learning about and more importantly, connecting with wildlife. "Survival of the Slowest" will be open

daily to the public from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a limited engagement through Aug. 7. Tickets are available to purchase at Arizona Science Center and www.azscience.org. For additional information, call 602-716-2000.

Give your kids a night out and take a night off

Impact Gymnastics is offering a "Valentine's Night Out" for Valley parents, Feb. 12, in North Phoenix at 7812 N. 12th St., Suite B.

Owned by Valley businesswomen and moms Maria Lawrence and Samantha Baltierrez, Impact's athletic philosophy is to provide the highest level of coaching and support to its athletes, as well as offer a parent-centric, supportive environment.

This month, parents are invited to take a night off and enjoy a Valentine's Night Out, Saturday, Feb. 12, from 5–9 p.m. Children ages 4–16 are wel-

come. The cost is \$40 for one child, then \$5 for each additional child in the family. To RSVP, call 602-870-7574 or visit www.impactgymaz.com.

In addition, Impact offers Kinder Open Gym for ages 6 months to 5 years, Thursdays and Saturdays, and Friday Night Open Gym for ages 6 to 17. Visit the website for times and additional information.

Young Artists' Competition deadline approaches

The Herberger Theater invites young artists to enter into the Arizona Young Artists' Competition. The competition is open to aspiring young artists and offers the opportunity to compete in the disciplines of acting, dance and musical theatre voice (ages 15–19) and classical voice (ages 16–20) for their chance at a \$1,500 scholarship.

This competition allows for young Arizona artists to experience the audition process and garner productive feedback and pertinent experience through adjudication by highly-regarded arts professionals.

After initial auditions are complete, four finalists will be chosen from each discipline. These artists will be given the chance to "wow" the panel of esteemed judges once more and vie for the opportunity to bring home a \$1,500 first prize scholarship awarded to the winner of each discipline. The audience will also be able to vote on their favorite performer to win the People's Choice Award. People's Choice Award recipients will be awarded \$100.

The deadline to register is Feb. 13; auditions and finals will be held Feb. 21–26. For more information or to apply, visit www.herbergertheater.org/ayac.



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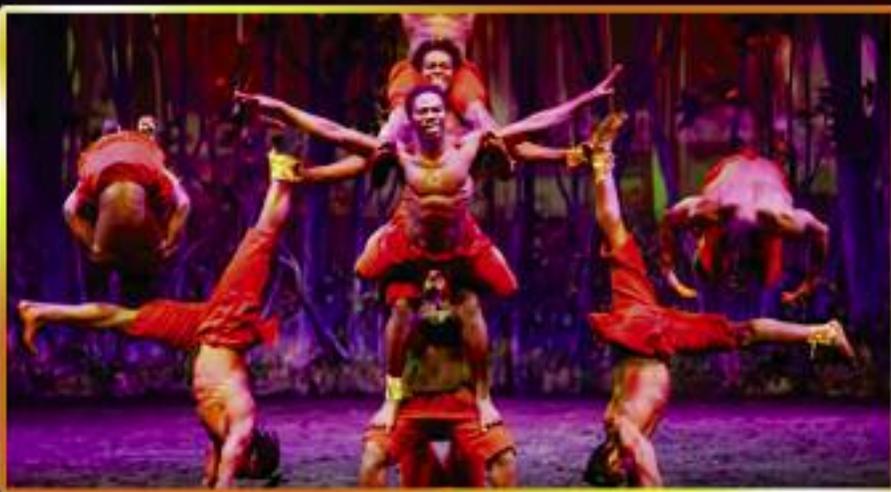
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The film "Tiger Within," the tender story about the unlikely friendship between a Holocaust survivor (played by Ed Asner) and a homeless teen runaway, will be screened during the 26th Annual Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival (submitted photo).

Film festival celebrates Jewish culture, heritage

From Feb. 10 through Feb. 27, the 26th Annual Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival will screen films showcasing the best of Jewish life, history and heritage. This year's film festival will once again be held virtually, due to ongoing health and safety concerns.

Currently the longest-running film festival in the Valley, the Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival celebrates its 26th year by presenting almost 3,400 minutes of Jewish cinema from dozens of different countries. More than 30 feature-length and short films, ranging from defiance and revenge, to fun and adventure, and to laughter and love, with something for everyone and stories that engage both mind and heart, will be available to stream.

Via just about any device, computer or Smart TV, the audience can travel from the beaches and shuks of Israel to the back lots and sound stages of Hollywood; from a tropical farm in Brazil to the witness stand of the United States Supreme Court; from the limestone hills of the island of Majorca to multiple villages and towns of wartime Europe.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.gpjff.org.

Take a self-guided art tour with online map

The City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture launched a new way for residents to explore art. The new online Public Art Map is geared to allow resi-

dents to take self-guided tours of more than 200 major public art projects created throughout Phoenix by the city's Public Art Program.

Each point on the map contains a description highlighting key information about the artist and project. The works range from pedestrian bridges, underpasses, streetscapes, community water facilities and canal projects to monumental indoor and outdoor sculptures, and artist-designed terrazzo floors and installations at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

Explore the Public Art Map at www.phoenix.gov/arts/publicartmap.

Women's Film Festival back in person

After canceling the 2020–21 event due to COVID-19, the nonprofit Worldwide Women's Film Festival (WWFF) makes an in-person return this month.

From more than 120 films submitted from around the world, the 2022 WWFF will screen 89 short films, documentary films, features, web series and music videos during its fourth annual festival, Feb. 18–20, at the Harkins Shea 14 Theatres, 7354 E. Shea Blvd. in Scottsdale.

Filmgoers are encouraged to wear masks and extra masks and hand sanitizer will be available.

Tickets are on sale now and range from \$15 for specific film blocks to a VIP All Festival Pass & Filmmaker Breakfast for \$230. For more information and updates, visit www.wffilmfestival.org.




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- **Steve Hackman's "Brahms v. Radiohead"**
March 4-5
- **Broadway Showstoppers**
March 11-13
- **Music's Master Architects: Beethoven and Shostakovich**
March 18-20
- **Revolution: Music of the Beatles. A Symphonic Experience**
March 25-27

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

On the Town

Check out these events happening around town in February and March!

A Soldier's Play

Feb. 4–20
Black Theatre Troupe
www.blacktheatretroupe.org
602-258-8128

Inspired by Vincent

Feb. 4–27
Herberger Theater Center
www.herbergertheater.org
602-252-8497



(Photo by Tim Trumble)

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show

Feb. 5 – March 13
Childsplay at Herberger Theater Center
www.childsplayaz.org
480-921-5700

Arizona Renaissance Festival & Artisan Marketplace

Feb. 5 – April 3
Gold Canyon
www.arizona.renfestinfo.com
520-463-2600



(Rosalie O'Connor Photography)

Romeo & Juliet

Feb. 10–13
Ballet Arizona
www.balletaz.org
602-381-1096

Women in Jeopardy!

Feb. 10–27
Arizona Theatre Company
www.arizonatheatre.org
602-256-6995

The Stakes

Feb. 11
The Nash
www.thenash.org
602-795-0464

John Primer/Bob Corritore CD Release Party

Feb. 18
The Rhythm Room
www.rhythmroom.com
602-612-4981

ZuZu African Acrobats

Feb. 18–20
The Madison Center for the Arts
www.themadison.org



(Submitted photo)

Sandra Bassett

Feb. 19
The Nash
www.thenash.org
602-795-0464

The Sugar Thieves

Feb. 25
The Rhythm Room
www.rhythmroom.com
602-612-4981

Mardi Gras Party hosted by NOLAZ Band

March 1
The Rhythm Room
www.rhythmroom.com
602-612-4981

Melrose Street Fair

March 5
7th Avenue Indian School to Camelback
https://melrosemerchantsassociation.com/

Landscapes of Extraction: The Art of Mining in the American West

Through March 6
Phoenix Art Museum
www.phxart.org
602-257-1880



(Photo by J. David Levy for Opera Theatre of St. Louis)

A Little Night Music

March 4–6
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www.azopera.org
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Event dates are current at time of publication. Check with individual venues for up-to-date show and safety information.

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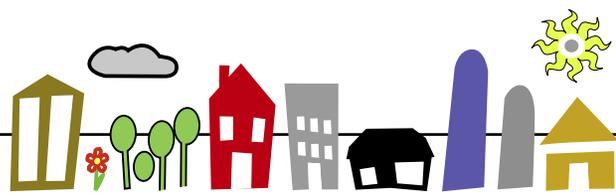
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Husband-and-wife team Christopher Banham and Adriana Gamboa Olalde are celebrating the first anniversary of their Banham's Cheesecake shop. Customer favorites include the Oreo and strawberry cakes, pictured (photo by Marjorie Rice).

Café Chat
Say 'cheesecake' at family owned shop

By Marjorie Rice

Husband-and-wife team Christopher Banham and Adriana Gamboa Olalde opened a tiny cheesecake shop a year ago in January, offering a luscious line of cakes and coffee.

Nothing unusual about that, except neither had a day of experience in the food service business. And neither was professionally trained in baking or other food preparation. Banham had worked in finance and liked to bake cheesecake, and Olalde was a nurse from Mexico who hadn't even tasted cheesecake before she met her husband.

"It was definitely a high dive," she said. "And it's going swimmingly."

Their shop, Banham's Cheesecake at 28th Street and Indian School Road, next to a Sprouts market, is a neighborhood favorite, also drawing customers throughout the Valley and as far as Tucson, Olalde said.

It's a tiny place, light and airy, with a large cold case packed with whole and sliced cakes, a couple of small bistro tables and a wall-size line drawing of Paris rooftops with the Eiffel Tower in the background.

The décor reflects the couple's love of Paris — especially the city's casual-chic culinary culture — dating from their honeymoon there four years ago.

When Banham left the finance world more than a year ago, the couple decided to open a shop like ones they enjoyed in Paris, this one specializing in cheesecake.

Banham comes from a family of avid bakers.

"My dad is a very successful Silicon Valley professional, but he's always wanted to career-switch and build a bakery around his famous carrot cake," he said. "By same token, I had always had that in the back of my heart, if I ever did something, cheesecake has got to be it."

"I always had made traditional cheesecake, with a classic graham cracker crust. We like to keep our recipes really simple and direct with a very well-balanced flavor. We pulled back on the sugar so it's not so sweet and allows the cream cheese and additional ingredients to be the star."

The result is a light, fluffy texture, with a tangy undertone.

"A lot of times, cheesecake is slightly off-putting because it's so dense," Banham said. "Some people aren't so keen on that."

Banham also takes pride that he doesn't add food coloring or other additives to his cakes and prepares them with all-natural ingredients and toppings made from scratch.

The menu offers customer favorites — strawberry, key lime and Oreo — along with other seasonal fruit toppings
please see CHEESECAKE on page 36

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

CHEESECAKE *continued from page 35*

pings, dulce de leche, lemon curd, coconut, brownie and more. In February they'll add red velvet cheesecake for Valentine's Day. It's a bow to his sister, who, Banham said, makes a "killer" red velvet cake.

They're also planning to add his father's "super delicious" carrot cake, Olalde said, taking their first turn from an all-cheesecake menu. And they're perfecting a banana cheesecake.

In addition to their airy, piquant departure from the usual dense cake, they added another twist, deciding to stay open till 10 at night on weekdays, 11 on weekends.

That decision stemmed from Olalde's experience growing up in Eastern Mexico, where businesses stay open until 9 or 10 at night, and from their own frustration late one night when they had a craving for dessert and couldn't find a place that was open.

The couple is looking at additional locations in the West Valley, possibly Glendale, and in Gilbert in the East Valley, but plans are flexible right now.

Wherever they decide to open next, their aim will be to maintain the level of quality and service they're setting with this original location.

"Our priority is freshness and the quality of the product," Olalde said. "I want people to know that we're a small business and we are giving our customers everything that we have."

"We want to build a café where, when you walk in, you're taken to another place," Banham added. "We want to have a place that's an elegant but casual place to have a fantastic dessert."

Banham's Cheesecake, at 2836 E. Indian School Rd., is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday. For more information, call 602-824-8657 or visit www.banham-cheesecake.com.

Dining Briefs

Devour Week showcases local dining at its best

One of the Valley's most popular culinary events returns in February with two opportunities to indulge the senses.

The 13th annual Devour Week will begin with the Seven Chefs dinner in-person at The Gladly in Phoenix, Sunday, Feb. 20, and end with the return of Devour at Home. Proceeds



Devour At Home, part of this month's Devour Week event, will take place Saturday, Feb. 26, and gives Phoenix foodies the opportunity to indulge in a Devour-like meal right in their own homes (submitted photo).

from both events will benefit the participating restaurants. Last year, more than 430 Devour At Home orders were placed, raising \$74,400 for the participating restaurants.

This year, Devour At Home is consolidated to one day, Saturday, Feb. 26, and gives Phoenix foodies the opportunity to indulge in a Devour-like meal right in their own homes. Fully prepared, three-course meals for two people (\$95) or four people (\$200) can be pre-ordered through Feb. 18. Patrons can then pick up their meals at their selected restaurant in a commemorative 2022 Devour at Home tote (stuffed full of swag) Feb. 26. Menus will be available in limited quantities, so patrons are encouraged to place orders early.

For a list of this year's participating restaurants and to purchase tickets, visit www.devourphoenix.com.

Urban Beans moves to cloud kitchen in Melrose

After 12 years at its 7th Street and Mitchell location in midtown Phoenix, Urban Beans has moved to the heart of the Melrose District at 7th Avenue and Highland. The local vegan café also is moving on from its traditional physical coffee shop model to a cloud kitchen restaurant hub.

For those who are new to the concept of cloud kitchens, co-owner Nathaniel Burns explained that a cloud

kitchen utilizes a commercial kitchen for the purpose of preparing food for delivery or takeout only, with no dine-in customers. Cloud kitchens enable restaurateurs to expand an existing restaurant or start a virtual brand at minimal cost. He said that the format will allow the restaurant to concentrate on elevating food quality, adding that kitchen and equipment are not shared, so there is no potential for cross contamination with non-vegan food.

Burns added, "People want delivery, they want a greater focus on food quality, and they want parking! So with the behemoth development and national chain drive through to the south, and the new tenants planned for 2022 in our own already cramped complex, we decided it was time to pivot and evaluate what we could do to best meet all the needs and wants of our community."

Diners can order online and pick up food at the new location at 720 W. Highland Ave., or order delivery through their favorite service. For more information, visit www.urbanbeans.com.

Arizona Cocktail Weekend offers three signature events

Arizona Cocktail Weekend returns President's Day weekend, Feb. 19–21, to celebrate its 10th anniversary event.

This year's festivities include three signature evening events: Cocktail Carnival on Feb. 19 at Walter Where?House, 702 N. 21st Ave.; Top Bar on Feb. 20 at The Croft Downtown, 22 E. Buchanan St.; and Last Slinger Standing on Feb. 21 at Republic National Distributing Company.

For additional information or to purchase tickets to any of the events, visit www.arizonacocktailweekend.com.

Romantic retreat offers Valentine's special

Valley couples are invited to celebrate Valentine's Day at one of the most romantic properties in Phoenix.

Located at the foot of Camelback Mountain, Royal Palms Resort and Spa combines the graciousness and sophistication of a Mediterranean villa with the intimacy and privacy of a secluded retreat.

This year, couples can celebrate with the Royal Romance Package, which includes a two-night stay, daily full breakfast at T. Cook's with \$100 dining credit, rose petal turndown service, a welcome amenity and a 2 p.m. late

check-out. To enhance the romantic ambiance of Royal Palms Resort and Spa is Via Cappello, a romantic dining experience in a magical desert setting that provides private "lovers' corners" for personalized dining throughout the resort.

Royal Palms Resort and Spa is located at 5200 E. Camelback Rd. in Phoenix. For additional information, call 602-283-1234 or visit www.royal-palmshotel.com.

Peter Piper says goodbye to tokens and tickets

Game tokens and paper prize tickets will soon be a thing of the past at Phoenix Peter Piper Pizza locations.

The family-friendly restaurant chain is rolling out technology upgrades this year that include a new funpass game card, replacing traditional game tokens and paper prize tickets, starting with its Phoenix and Albuquerque locations. The funpass allows guests to purchase and reload cards directly from a kiosk to play games in Peter Piper's "Game On" arcade area. Cards can also accumulate points to redeem for additional playing time or prizes either that same day or on a subsequent visit.

Other changes include upgrades to the restaurants' online ordering and birthday party scheduling process.

Learn more at www.peterpiperpizza.com.

Sanctuary introduces new culinary team

After 23 years as executive chef, Beau MacMillan has transitioned his role at Sanctuary Camelback Mountain to culinary advisor. Stepping into the executive chef role is former catering chef Landon Post, a fixture in the Sanctuary dining experience since 2014, while chef de cuisine Samantha Sanz has become the new face of the resort's signature restaurant, elements.

Post is responsible for the resort's day-to-day culinary operations in his new role as executive chef. Sanz, a two-time James Beard award nominee, continues to serve as chef de cuisine, a position she has held for more than a year, while taking on a more public profile at elements with MacMillan's departure.

Sanctuary Camelback Mountain is located at 5700 E. McDonald Dr. in Paradise Valley. For additional information, visit www.sanctuaryoncamelback.com.

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