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From the Editor

Hello, North Central Neighbors! This month, we are exploring the past, the present and the future of our area.

On the cover, we take a look at the Northern Avenue Safety Collaboration, a pilot program that could have implications in other Phoenix communities. We also catch up with members of the Brophy Native American Club as they set out to run 230 miles to advocate for respecting the past and the future preservation of Arizona's Oak Flat.



Also, this month, we chat with members of the Union Jack Chapter of the Daughters of the British Empire [see page 2]. Ranging in age from 14 to 98, they share their history, dating back to 1946 Phoenix, and what the future of the service organization may look like. We also provide an update on the redevelopment of the Metrocenter area [see page 26].

In this month's Café Chat, Marjorie Rice sits down with Nadia Holguin from Tacos Chiwas and explores her roots in Chihuahua, Mexico, and the flavors that inform the menu at the North Central restaurant [see page 41].

As always, you will find news from neighborhoods, community organizations, schools and businesses in the area, as well as events taking place in and around North Central.

We welcome your feedback and input on issues and stories that you feel are important to cover. In the meantime, we thank you for your readership and hope you enjoy our March issue!

All my best,
Kathryn M. Miller
Editor, *North Central News*
kathryn@northcentralnews.net

Pavement program treats 518 miles

As part of pavement maintenance efforts approved in the City of Phoenix Transportation 2050 plan, the Street Transportation Department's 2021 paving season, which began in March and ended in November, 518 miles received paving treatments (including all pavement treatments completed as part of the Accelerated Pavement Maintenance Program). Additionally, 3,724 pedestrian ramps were upgraded to current ADA standards to meet federal requirements.

As part of the Accelerated program, which was funded through \$200 million borrowed from future Transportation 2050 revenues, select major streets will receive mill and overlay treatment. The treatment involves the removal of the top layer of asphalt to accommodate a new layer of pavement. This technique is necessary when asphalt surface has reached the end of its service life or preventive treatments no longer benefit a road. Other treatments are seal coats and crack seal.

Area roads that are planned to receive mill and overlay treatment during FY 2022 include Indian School Road, from 7th Street to SR-51;

Missouri Avenue, from east of 7th Street to west of 16th Street; and Central Avenue, from south of Northern Avenue to south of Dunlap Avenue.

Paving will resume in spring 2022. To find out which streets are included in the five-year pavement maintenance program, visit the interactive dashboard at www.phoenix.gov/pavement.

Assistance League will host 51st Gala

The nonprofit Assistance League of Phoenix's 51st Annual Celebration of Caring Gala will be held Friday, March 25, 5:30–10 p.m., at the Chateau Luxe, 1175 E. Lone Cactus Dr. in Phoenix.

The evening, themed "Once Upon a Time," will raise funds to benefit Phoenix area children in need. Operation School Bell, the nonprofit's signature program, provides school uniforms, shoes and other necessary items for thousands of children living in poverty. This year's honoree is Jeff Meshey, CEO of Desert Financial Credit Union.

Individual tickets are \$250 per person. To purchase tickets, visit www.aesaz.co/elp/alp2022. To inquire about sponsorship, email Michelle Peralta at michelle@alphx.org.



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COMMUNITY

DBE members share memories, wisdom

By Kathryn M. Miller

In January, the Union Jack Chapter of the Daughters of the British Empire (DBE) installed its youngest member, 14-year-old Millie Walker.

DBE member Mary Baker shared that Millie, the granddaughter of member Helen Walker, was installed as the group's first "junior member" by the chapter's oldest and longest standing member, Coral Ayraud, who will be 99 in July and first joined DBE in 1946.

Originally from Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Coral came to the U.S. in 1946. She was a "war bride" who met her future husband, Frank Ayraud, a native of Phoenix, when he was stationed in Brisbane during World War II. After a year-long courtship, the couple married in 1943. They enjoyed a 10-day honeymoon, after which Frank shipped out to Northern Australia and then on to New Guinea and the Philippines. Coral kept busy in his absence, singing for the troops at camps and hospitals across Queensland three



Members of the Union Jack Chapter of the Daughters of the British Empire, including 98-year-old Coral Ayraud (picture center left) welcome their youngest member, Millie Walker (submitted photo).

to four times a week. She also served as an Air Raid Warden when home, working at the family furniture shop.

Although they wrote each other every day, the couple did not see one another again until after the war. It was three years later when Coral landed in San Francisco and was met by Frank.

"It was good to see him," Coral said. "I hadn't seen him in few years, so he looked a little different. We had to get reacquainted, you know," she laughed.

The couple then made the trek across the desert to Phoenix. It was quite an experience for Coral, who had never seen the desert before, and she

found herself homesick for Brisbane. Thankfully, her friend Libby McGuire had seen an article in the newspaper about the DBE. The Union Jack Chapter had been established in 1939, but a new chapter, the Overseas Chapter, was formed in '46, comprised mostly of Australian war brides. Coral credits the group with helping save many marriages.

"We were all very homesick, you know," she reminisced laughingly. "And we'd go once a month and commiserate together and then we could stick it out for another month."

Fast forward seven decades, and the

group is still meeting regularly, now once again as the Union Jack Chapter, which was reformed in 1988. Coral's daughter, Carol, who is now regent for the group, said that they are still doing fundraising in the community. They hold an annual garden tea fundraiser and support organizations such as the Arizona Friends of Foster Children, Pawsitive Friendships and the British Home in California.

And they are passing on that sense of comradery and service to the younger generation.

"I've always seen my grandma work so hard for this organization," Millie said. "I thought I could do the same."

It seems as though the future is secure in Millie's hands, who encourages people of all ages to become a part of a service organization. "You'll learn a lot about service and how to help others," she added.

And Coral still has plenty of wisdom to pass on. When asked her advice for living through turbulent times, she shared, "Just take one day at a time. Because that's all we get the strength for. Just one day at a time."

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An advertisement for VELUX Roof Windows and Skylights. At the top is the VELUX logo in a red box, with the text "ROOF WINDOWS AND SKYLIGHTS" below it. The word "TITAN" is written in a large, stylized serif font. Below it, the text "SECURITY SCREEN DOORS" is displayed next to a small image of a screen door. A large blue arrow points from the screen door towards a target graphic in the center of the page.



An advertisement for THERMA TRU DOORS. The text "THERMA TRU DOORS" is prominently displayed, with the tagline "THE DOOR SYSTEM YOU CAN BELIEVE IN" underneath. Below the text is a photograph of a red entry door with glass inserts, set in a stone surround.



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SAFETY continued from page 1

“I think people see it, but they don’t know what it is. They call it, ‘that’s homelessness,’ ‘that’s a hobo.’ They’ll have lots of different names for it. But what we’re seeing are people who are in the midst of illegal drug activity. Whether they’re selling, whether they’re buying, whether they’re using, that’s what’s happening on our bus stops and on the corners and the people that are sleeping in the area, there’s addiction issues.”

According to the Desert Horizon Police Precinct, along 19th Avenue from Camelback to Peoria, the number-one person offense was assault (and related crimes) at 1,728 during 2021. The same area saw 4,406 property related offenses to include burglary, criminal damage, trespassing, and other thefts in 2021.

And what about drug-related crimes? While Desert Horizon did not have specific statistics for the 19North area, Precinct Commander Brian Issitt stated that the precinct as a whole (which runs as far north as the Loop

101, south to Campbell Avenue, west to the I-17 and east to Scottsdale Road) has seen a 53.6 percent increase in narcotic offenses between 2020 and 2021. He added that the main factor they have identified driving this increase is the prevalence of the continued sale/possession/usage of fentanyl.

One of the sponsors of the pilot program, Town West Realty, says that some of the biggest concerns they are hearing from their tenants is vagrancy and crime, which they also largely attribute to drug activity, “And they don’t want that to affect their patrons and customers,” shared Jim Horvath, president.

“So that’s the catalyst,” McBride said. “How do we make our community safer? That’s what this pilot is about.”

Northern Avenue businesses and property owners, the Phoenix Police Department, various city of Phoenix departments and addiction specialists are coming together to form the collaboration. Under the pilot program Omega Protective Services will provide an armed, uniformed guard in a

marked car who will patrol along a stretch of Northern Avenue (as well as north to Butler Drive and south to Hayward Avenue), from 17th Avenue to the I-17, seven days a week, seven hours per day, for three months.

According to the Omega service agreement, “the collaboration is attempting to impact and combat the drug trafficking, vandalism, and addicts on Northern Avenue.”

In addition to signing the service agreement, businesses participating in the pilot program would be asked to follow the 19North Crime Prevention Checklist, which includes posting “No Trespassing” signs and updating their “Authority to Arrest” (ATA) with the city, as well as posting “referral cards” to encourage people to seek help. These cards include contact information for organizations that work in the area, including Community Bridges, Inc., Community Medical Services and Phoenix Rescue Mission.

The patrol aspect, with a \$36,000 price tag, is key to the pilot program and is being funded by donations from area developers, property owners and individual businesses. Those on board so far include Town West Realty, which owns the Sprout’s 19th/Northern Marketplace property; Trillium, which is developing the former El Caro Golf Course; Westcoast Capital; and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, headquartered within the patrol area.

The signed patrol agreement would allow Omega to enforce “No Trespassing” signs during day hours and the ATA during closed hours, as well as provide 24-hour support.

Issitt explained the enforcement aspect of the pilot.

“The Phoenix Police Department is working in conjunction with the 19North Coalition. 19North and Shannon McBride have worked together to share their resources to provide security for the businesses involved in the coalition. The security guards will be active at all sites and if they run into people who are trespassing and refusing to leave and/or they contact someone who has already been trespassed from the property, the police will be contacted for enforcement action.”

The commander added, “In the cases of homeless people, we always try to lead with services first to get the person the help they need — whether it is mental health services, housing needs, etc.”

please see SAFETY on page 10

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Transportation is available in a 3-mile radius of the church for Sunday services and many other events. If you have made a New Year’s resolution to get back to church or if you don’t have a church home, we would love to invite you to experience our vibrant community of believers on Sunday mornings at:

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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
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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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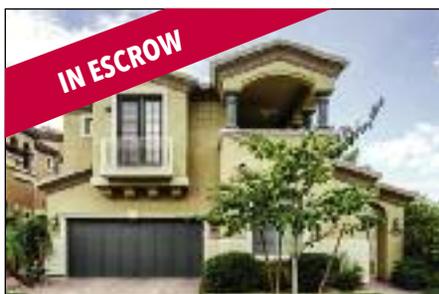
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COMMUNITY

RUNS continued from page 1

would run the 188 miles as a relay, one runner, one mile at a time, from Flagstaff to Oak Flat.

“We were originally going to be the group that ran from Phoenix, Davis said. “But the organizer for the run for Flagstaff dropped out at the last minute. A lot of our kids are Navajo and Hopi or even from tribes as far north as Alaska, so we decided it would be fitting if our group ran from the north.”

One student who was excited about the run but wondered how they would be able to make a difference, was Aidan Parr, a junior at the time.

“It was like one of those things, like, oh, well, this is gonna happen,” he said and recalled asking, “What can we do about it?”

But when he heard that there was a run to support the movement to save Oak Flat, as a member of the cross country and track team at school, he was 100 percent behind it, but he still hadn’t fully grasped the enormity of what was at stake.

“It kind of came to me like halfway

through,” he said, explaining that, as a runner, one way to distract yourself from focusing on your body is to either zone out or just look around at your surroundings. “And when I looked around me, I just saw this beautiful Arizona landscape. And then I like started to realize...it slowly came to me...people are going to destroy this.”

As the group ran the final leg of the journey together, Aidan had an unexpectedly emotional response when they entered Oak Flat.

“There’s an area with four crosses, with all four directions there...” and Aidan broke down crying, which was “kind of gross, a little embarrassing,” he said. But that moment he could only describe as “spiritual.”

Another student, Andrew Reed, had a similar experience. A sophomore at the time, he wasn’t in any running clubs and a run from Flagstaff in the middle of winter felt pretty daunting.

“I was freezing,” he recalled, laughing. “At first, I was like, ‘Do we really have to run through the mountains in the snow like this?’”

But he was determined, and as the

miles passed, he found that it wasn’t so bad after all, and by the middle of the first day, “I was like, this is awesome!”

When they reached Oak Flat, and the group ran together in solidarity, Andrew said that it was a really touching experience to meet the people of the land that they were running to protect, and something clicked into place.

“It kind of felt like the end of a journey but it was more like the start of a new one.

“Beforehand, I hadn’t really been involved in my native identity, but after this...it’s been something I’ve tapped into and embraced. I think I have this club to thank.”

He added, “In history, a lot of people have always been about the money, but at some point, you just gotta focus on the dignity of people, and respecting what they believe in.”

As for other young people who might want to get involved in causes that speak to them, Andrew offers this advice: “I think one of the biggest things is, like, take that first step. Even if you think it isn’t gonna do anything.”

Since their run in 2021, the club has

remained engaged by protesting outside of the Ninth District Court of Appeals in solidarity with Apache Stronghold, and actively engaging with their senators and representatives. This year, the club ran again, beginning the journey on Feb. 17, once again from the north, and finishing in Oak Flat Feb. 20. But this year, the journey was 230 miles, and they were joined by more runners. Both Aidan and Andrew participated again. Aidan even challenged Davis to a full marathon (26.2 miles) within the run.

While the primary focus of the event is the prayer run aspect, Davis says that another big part of participating is to raise awareness, and to give the students an opportunity for their voices to be heard.

“We have a history in this country of not listening to native people when they speak out about issues affecting them and we have a history in this country of not listening to young people when they speak out, and I think this is a really unique opportunity to let, you know, some youth, some indigenous youth, kind of guide us and

please see RUNS on page 10



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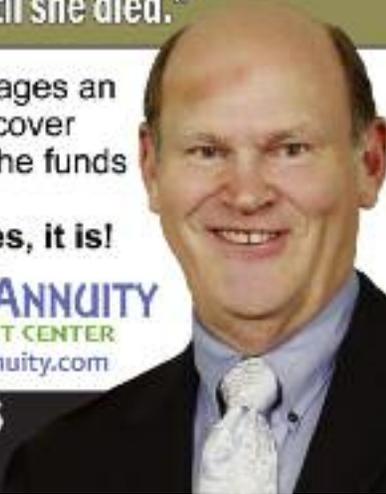


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COMMUNITY

Royal Palm seeks community sponsors

The Royal Palm Neighborhood, which encompasses more than 1,400 homes in North Central Phoenix, holds a variety of special events throughout the year and 2022 is no exception. Upcoming events include Spring Movie in the Park, featuring “A League of Their Own,” March 26, 6–9 p.m.; the 2022 Royal Palm Eggstravaganza, April 16, 9 a.m.–noon; and the Earth Day Community Clean up, April 23, 6 a.m.– 6 p.m.

Neighborhood organizers are actively seeking sponsors to support their events and other neighborhood efforts. Nearly all of their special events and program are free and rely on donations. There are a number of sponsorship opportunities (financial assistance or in-kind donations) available for businesses.

“With the generous support of sponsors, we can continue to host events that bring neighbors together to connect, have fun and make memories,” shared Andrea Libey, the special events chair for the Royal Palm Neighborhood. “Interested businesses can visit our new Royal Palm Neighborhood website to learn more and contact info@royalpalm-neighborhoodphx.com to request the 2022 Royal Palm Neighborhood Special Events Sponsorship Guide and Calendar.”

For additional information, visit www.royalpalmneighborhoodphx.com.

RUNS continued from page 8

show us...what issues they care about for their future.

“By the time this mine’s impacts are going to be seen, we’re going to probably be dead and gone, but these are the kids that are going to be living with the legacy here and they’re speaking up now in defense of their future, which I find inspirational.”

H.R. 1884 Save Oak Flat Act, introduced in 2021 by Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-AZ, and an identical bill introduced in the Senate by Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-VT, currently await further action in Congress. And so, the members of Brophy Native American Club continue to push for legislative relief, they continue to pray, and they continue to run.

Learn more: @brophynac; www.apache-stronghold.com; www.resolutioncopper.com.

SAFETY continued from page 6

Another key aspect of the pilot: the 19North Community would be named as a victim in any drug related crimes in the area, with the goal of “creating stiffer penalties.” While the community cannot be named victim of trespassing infractions (only the business) this would apply to possession and use charges, as well as any other drug-related crimes.

McBride said that including the 19North community as a victim will be a learning experience.

“This is something they’ve done in year’s past, but we’re pulling it back out of the files of options for communities. And so, we’re going to learn.”

What kind of cases will be charged will be up to the city prosecutor’s office, McBride says, “But our whole point is, even if it’s, let’s say possession of a big amount, I’d like to go before a judge and still say, ‘This isn’t a little deal. In our community, this is adding up to be a big deal in our community.’”

“The neighborhood is really going through some great regentrification,” Horvath added. “There’s some positives...one of the partners in the pilot program is a developer that’s building, I think, 250 condos and apartments right behind our shopping center and there’s a lot of interest and activity. Some of the apartment buildings are being renovated.

“We’d like to do a renovation at our shopping center. So, for this to happen now, we have to have a safe environment. We can’t have our patrons that visit our property or residences, being hassled or affected by a criminal element. So, we have to clean up the neighborhood, or help clean up the neighborhood and we think that this pilot program will work, and we’re willing to give it a try.”

McBride shared that, as of February, the funding for the pilot program is in place, and as soon as “permission slips” from the area businesses are in hand, the Northern Avenue Safety Collaboration pilot program will be underway.

Learn more: www.19north.org; www.phoenix.gov/police/precincts/desert-horizon; www.omegaprotectivesvcs.com.

Look for additional coverage on some of the issues facing 19North and other North Central communities in our April issue. In the meantime, let us know what you think: editor@northcentralnews.net.

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COMMUNITY



This colorful dish is the work of Mimi Leiper Glass Art, just one of the vendors that will participate in this year's Sunday Off Central event (submitted photo).

Midtown set to host Sunday Off Central

The Midtown Neighborhood Association will host its 11th Annual Sunday Off Central event Sunday, March 13.

The association is an organization committed to building community for people who work, live and play in Midtown Phoenix, which runs from Hance Park to Indian School Road, between 3rd Avenue and 3rd Street.

The event will be held off of Central Avenue on East Vernon Avenue from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is open to the public and will offer vendors, food trucks, a kids' zone, live music and more.

Learn more about the organization at www.midtownphx.org or find them on Facebook: @MidtownPHX.

'SlopeFest returns April 2 after hiatus

After a two-year hiatus, 'SlopeFest, which is Sunnyslope's largest annual signature event, will bring family-friendly community fun to Palma Park Saturday, April 2.

The event runs from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and includes family entertainment, arts and crafts, demonstrations, food vendors, community services information and more.

"Slope Fest has not been held the last two years because of COVID," shared Jeff Tisot, president of the East Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association & Block Watch, which coordinates the event. "This year we are doing it and it is going nuts. There are so many people that want to get involved."

The East Sunnyslope group will be joined by neighborhood associations and block watch groups from across the area.

The Tour de Sunnyslope will be held in conjunction with 'SlopeFest 2022. The Phoenix Police Bike Squad will head up this all-ages bike ride on a pre-designated route through Sunnyslope. The ride will be escorted by patrol cars with flashing lights to add a bit of excitement, and safety, to the event.

Registration for the Tour de Sunnyslope is required and begins at 8:30 a.m. The ride begins at Palma Park at 9 a.m. Appropriate dress, helmets and closed-toe shoes are requested.

Palma Park is located at 1135 E. Dunlap Ave. in Phoenix. For more information, visit www.eastsunnyslope.com.

Valley writers can find inspiration online

The Writer's Inspiration Group (WIG) is a fun and creative group of writers who meet each Tuesday, currently via Zoom. Each week they spend an hour or so writing from prompts.

Prompts are as simple as "write about your favorite food." Or "tell us what spring looks like in your neighborhood." Prompts are meant to be simple and inspirational. There are no right or wrong answers. The goal is to just let the writing flow. Keep the pen, or computer keys, moving. The group will write for five to 10 minutes on each prompt. Writers can choose whether to read work aloud. Organizers say that in time, it becomes easier and more fun.

The Writer's Inspiration Group meets 3-4:30 p.m. each Tuesday via Zoom. There is no fee to participate. Those interested in joining should contact Susanne Brent at susanholly@cox.net, who can provide answers to any questions.



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COMMUNITY

Home Tour returns to Encanto Palmcroft

After taking 2021 off, the Encanto Palmcroft Home Tour and Street Fair is back. Presented by Waymo, the event will take place Sunday, March 20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Located in downtown Phoenix — bounded by McDowell Road on the south, Encanto Boulevard on the north, 7th Avenue on the east and 15th Avenue on the west — the Encanto Palmcroft neighborhood is one of the most notable historic neighborhoods in Arizona. The tour offers the perfect opportunity for residents to explore the history and homes of the neighborhood.

The event includes the opportunity to enjoy the area's winding palm-tree-lined streets and get a glimpse of some of the neighborhood's 330 homes.

Guests can buy tour tickets (\$25) and refreshments at Holly Street and 12th Avenue where the Association is hosting a street fair with live music, food vendors and a beer and wine garden. On an old-fashioned trolley ride, attendees can listen to a tour guide pro-



This charming 1930 English Cottage has been lovingly cared for while preserving the original character and charm. It is just one of the homes on the 2022 Home Tour (submitted photo).

vide a fascinating commentary on the history of the neighborhood. The ticket booklet will provide information about each specific house, its history, famous people who may have lived in it, interesting architectural features, and more.

For more information or to purchase tickets at a discounted price, \$18, visit www.encantopalmcroft.org.

Church will host two community events

Desert Christian Fellowship Church will host two events for the community to enjoy this month.

First up is a free senior's luncheon and potluck, scheduled for Thursday, March 10, at noon. The St. Patrick's

Day themed event will provide corned beef, cabbage and potatoes; attendees may bring their favorite potluck creation.

The luncheon will also include a guest speaker, Celina Shuh, who will speak on the topic "Decluttering and getting in the right frame of mind."

Later in the month, Saturday, March 26, is the Spring Fling children's event.

Held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. the free family event will include bounce houses, games, food, music and more. Desert Christian Fellowship Church is located at 1445 W. Northern Ave., Phoenix. For additional information, call 602-861-4008 or visit www.dcf-phx.com.

Older adults sought to serve as peers

The Area Agency on Aging is looking for people to provide social support to older adults in Maricopa County.

Since 2010, the organization has engaged AmeriCorps members to meet the unmet needs of older adults living in Maricopa County. The Agency's AmeriCorps program is especially unique. As an Encore program, it recruits only individuals 55 and older to serve. The "Seniors Serving Seniors" model benefits clients who like working with someone from their same age group. It also benefits the AmeriCorps members as many older adults are now retired and looking for meaningful ways to give back to their community.

Members receive a monthly stipend and commit to serving approximately 10-15 hours per week. They are eligible for an education award, which can be gifted to a child or grandchild. For many older adults on a low to moderate income, this additional stipend is a great help.

Area Agency's current AmeriCorps program, Caring Circles, is looking for more members to provide social support to older adults in Maricopa County through visits, telephone check-in, grocery shopping, prescription pick-up, transportation to medical appointments and assisting with technology to reduce social isolation. Members also participate in national days of service such as September 11 and Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Those interested in joining the Area Agency on Aging AmeriCorps team may call 602-283-5704 or visit www.aaaphx.org for more information.

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AmeriCorps

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Join the Area Agency's AmeriCorps team today and help older adults!

Must be 55 and older and serve 10 to 15 hours per week. **A monthly stipend and other benefits are provided to Members.**



Call us at **602-283-5704** or visit **aaaphx.org** to learn more!

COMMUNITY

Pet of the Month

'Old soul' tabby seeks quiet, calm home

Adorable Cleo is a four-year-old brown domestic shorthair tabby that was originally brought to the Arizona Humane Society after her owner died in September of last year and she had nowhere else to go. This sweet kitty's story is a great reminder to always have a plan in place for your pets in case an emergency or unexpected turn of events happens and affects your ability to care for them.

After undergoing dental surgery in AHS' Second Chance Animal Trauma Hospital, Cleo was quickly adopted but unfortunately returned recently due allergies in the home. Since this beautiful girl can be a bit shy at times, she would greatly benefit from going to a cat savvy home that allows her to go at her own pace and is patient with her while she adjusts.

A calm, quiet home may be best for little Cleo as she is an old soul and prefers the calm. Additionally, she may do better having other kitties in the



A calm, quiet home would be best for four-year-old Cleo, a domestic shorthair tabby described as an "old soul" (photo courtesy of Arizona Humane Society).

home to help make her feel more comfortable and have other outlets for comfort and friendship.

Cleo's animal number is 676546. AHS' Virtual Adoption Matchmaking Program by appointment is available to place pets like Cleo with their forever families. While she may have already been adopted by the time of a match-making appointment, AHS has dozens of other wonderful pets who 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.

Event will support local pit bull rescue

The 10th annual Rethinc Advertising Rescue Rinse event, being held this month, will take on a more personal note for the company.

"We started the agency back in 2008," shared principal Stephanie Olsen, "and after a year in business we really wanted to do something to give back. We had an office in Old Town Scottsdale with a carpet cleaning company next door so had easy access to water. We got together to try to find something that was near and dear to all of our hearts, and we all agreed...dogs. We decided to turn the parking lot into a dog wash to raises money for local, small shelters that sometimes miss out on the large charity events, galas, black tie events.

"Each year we try to pick a new partner to try and spread the love (and funds) as much as possible."

This past year, the company lost its beloved office dog, Zona, and are hon-



This year's Rescue Rinse will raise funds in memory of a beloved office dog, Zona, to support One Love Pit Bull Rescue (photo courtesy of Rethinc Advertising).

oring her this year by partnering with One Love Pit Bull Rescue.

The 10th annual Rescue Rinse will be held at the company's Phoenix office at 4714 N. 44th St. on Saturday, March 12, from 9 a.m. to noon. Pups will receive a wash, shampoo and towel dry. Washes are donation based, with a \$20 donation earning participants a free gift. A silent auction, food and drinks will round out the day's activities, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to One Love.

For more information, visit www.rescuerinse.com.

Salon to raise funds for local rescue efforts

Mane Attraction Salon will join forces with nonprofit PACC911 for the 22nd Annual Beauty to the Rescue fundraiser. This year's event will be held the first Sunday in March with donations benefitting the local animal rescue organization.

PACC911 brings together the many animal welfare organizations throughout Arizona, providing four key resources: large outdoor adoption events, ongoing fundraising, educational outreach and medical assistance to soften the high-cost veterinary care.

Mane Attraction Salon will open Sunday, March 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to offer select services for a minimum donation, a raffle, silent auction, boutique vendors and adoptable animals. Proceeds from the salon services, raffle and silent auction, along with a percentage of vendor sales, will go directly to PACC911's Critical Care Program.

Mane Attraction Salon is located at 3156 E. Camelback Road. For details, call 602-956-2996 or visit www.maneattractionsalon.com. Learn more about PACC911 at www.pacc911.org.

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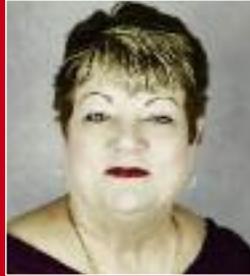
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COMMUNITY

Phoenix names new fire chief

City Manager Jeff Barton announced in January the selection of Michael Duran as the new chief of the Phoenix Fire Department. Duran took over as Fire Chief after the retirement of Chief Kara Kalkbrenner, Feb. 22.

A married father of three, Chief Duran is a Phoenix native and second-generation firefighter.

Duran has spent 27 years with the department. Prior to assuming the role of chief, he was assistant chief, supervising the Medical and Support Service Division. The division accounts for roughly 85 percent of all Fire Department dispatches.

He also is leading the implementation of the Community Assistance Program (CAP). The CAP, approved by Mayor Kate Gallego and the Phoenix City Council, sets aside \$15 million



Chief Michael Duran

dollars for the first-of-its kind program to improve the crisis response for behavioral and mental health calls in the community.

Prior to his role as assistant chief, Duran was deputy chief of the Central Division and a division chief of Facilities Management and Homeland Defense Bureaus.

He spent the early years of his career in the field as a firefighter, engineer and captain, where he developed a deep understanding of the fire service, emergency response models, and how best to serve a diverse community. As a member of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) AZ Task Force-1, he has provided service in high profile events such as Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Florence and has provided public safety planning for the Super Bowl and College Football Playoffs.

“As the Fire Chief, I will prioritize innovative opportunities to improve the safety and services of our system,” said Duran. “I am committed to creating a positive and equitable environment while promoting the development and sustainability of our organization.”

Local resident named CEO of ‘Welcome’

North Central resident Kate Thoene has been named CEO of the Welcome to America Project.

The Tempe-based organization is celebrating 20 years of creating meaningful interactions and providing needed resources to refugees becoming new Phoenix neighbors. In that time, the organization has welcomed more than 15,000 refugees from more than 40 countries, helping them find community and flourish. In the coming year, they will assist more than 2,000 incoming Afghan refugees.

Thoene was previously executive director of Waste Not, a food rescue organization, and brings more than 20 years of fundraising, collaboration and nonprofit leadership experience to help the Welcome to America Project



Kate Thoene

increase their community impact for years to come. She takes on the role of CEO after the departure of Agency Director Mike Sullivan.

New director joins Rosie’s House team

Darcy Hill has joined the staff of the nonprofit Rosie’s House as the organization’s director of Development and Communications.

With a degree from Columbia College Chicago in Theatre directing and a lifelong passion for music and performance, Hill brings her expertise to Rosie’s House to expand its work to provide music education for underserved students. Rosie’s House is recognized as one of the largest free after-school music programs in the United States.

Prior to joining Rosie’s House, Hill, served as development manager for the Desert Botanical Garden, overseeing their capital campaign which raised over \$18 million to fund new trails, projects and significant investment for their endowment fund.



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Traditional dishes from Chihuahua lead the menu at Tacos Chiwas, where co-owner and chef Nadia Holguin serves up gorditas, bottom left, filled with chile Colorado, rapas and picadillo; quesadillas (this filled with pork pastor) and of course, tacos, from right: pastor, tacos Chiwas and barbacoa (photo by Marjorie Rice).

Café Chat

Tacos Chiwas takes diners to Mexico, Chihuahua style

By Marjorie Rice

After years working in other people's restaurants, Nadia Holguin wanted to open one of her own, where guests could learn about the flavors of her home, Chihuahua. In 2016, she and her husband, Armando Hernandez, opened Tacos Chiwas, with a menu reflecting the cuisine of the state in northern Mexico.

Restaurants such as Tacos Chiwas are boosting awareness in the United States that Mexico is a big, diverse country with a range of cultures and cuisines that extend far beyond the coastal and border fare many here think of as "Mexican food."

Holguin is the chef and Hernandez manages the finances and the front of the house. The couple are so intent on getting the flavors right that they travel to Chihuahua twice a year to pick up locally made asadero cheese along with 500 pounds of dried red chiles for their chile colorado.

"It's the little things," Holguin said. "We have to bring these items because they really make the difference. You can taste it in the chiles. I think it's because of the soil there."

The menu features tacos, gorditas, burritos and quesadillas, deceptively simple dishes with exceptionally deep

and nuanced flavors.

"Chihuahua is a very dry state," Holguin said. "It's landlocked, so we don't use seafood at all. We use a lot of beef and corn and beans and potatoes — and we use everything from the cattle. Our menu is simple and made with love."

"We take time with everything, like the pastor, where we marinate the meat overnight. We also hand-press our tortillas. In some parts of Mexico, mostly they use corn tortillas, but in Chihuahua flour tortillas are very traditional."

That has surprised some customers.

"We had a hard time at first with our flour tortilla gorditas," Holguin said. "Customers would say, 'I wanted corn,' but I tell them this is us, this is our culture, our menu. It's how we do it in Chihuahua."

"We had to be patient and stick to it."

Persistence paid off for the couple, who now have three locations, opening one in Chandler in 2019, and one in Mesa the next year. Last May, they moved from their original leased site at McDowell Road and 19th Street to a building they purchased at 10th Street and Indian School Road. There's a small, tree-shaded grassy area and a large walled patio, as well as the indoor restaurant/bar.

That passion for using authentic ingredients and preparation has brought national attention to Holguin.

Tacos Chiwas has been featured *please see TACOS on page 42*



Who We Are

We are a more-than-175-member-strong group of actively selling agents who have a vested interest in the community, the real estate market and North Central Phoenix. This tour is a cooperative effort among the active REALTORS of the Central Corridor. The tour has been in existence for more than 35 years and is an all-volunteer organization.

Location & Meeting

Our meetings are held on the first and third Friday of each month beginning at 9:00 am. Our meeting spot is at The Casa patio, 7878 N. 16th St., Phoenix, AZ 85020. Following the meeting, we tour up to 10 homes new to the market. We require those REALTORS who have a property on the tour to attend the meeting and then participate in the virtual tour of all houses on that day's tour. Each agent provides constructive feedback on price, condition, and key features of the home. The goal is to network with fellow REALTORS who also specialize in North Central Phoenix neighborhoods and help sell the property.

Tour Boundaries

Tour boundaries are Campbell Avenue to the south, 40th Street to the east, 19th Avenue to the west, with the northern border running south of the North Phoenix Mountain Preserve (roughly Peoria) and just north of Lincoln from 16th Street east to 40th St. The Phoenix Country Club area also is included.

Join Us!

We love working with new members. Join our team and receive news and information about new homes on the market in the North Central Region of Phoenix.

For more information or to become a member, visit our website at

<https://northcentraltour.com/>

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

TACOS *continued from page 41*

twice on Food Network's "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives," with celebrity chef Guy Fieri. They're scheduled to be featured on Netflix's "Taco Chronicles" in May, Holguin said.

One dish highlighted on Triple D was chile colorado gorditas, thick hand-made flour tortillas, split and filled with beef and potatoes simmered in red chile sauce.

"These are just outstanding," Fieri said. "I really want 50 to go."

Her work with another restaurant led Holguin to be named a semifinalist in the 2019 James Beard Awards best chef Southwest category. The competition could be considered the Oscars for chefs.

Holguin had come to the attention of Chris Bianco, himself a Beard winner. In 2018 he and Holguin collaborated on a new venture, Roland's Market Café Bar. The restaurant received rave reviews locally and nationally for its innovative approach, but Valley diners weren't as keen. After eight months, it closed, and a few days later Holguin got a call telling her of the nomination.

"It was bittersweet because I wasn't there anymore," Holguin said, "but it was amazing."

Customers come to Tacos Chiwas especially for the tacos — pastor is a favorite (pork marinated with red chile and topped with cilantro and chopped white onion), along with namesake Tacos Chiwas (beef, ham, jalapenos, Anaheim chiles and asadero cheese).

The tacos, built on corn tortillas a bit larger than typical street tacos and stuffed to the brim with savory fillings, are a bargain at \$2.75 each. The hand-pressed tortillas are thicker than the usual fare, so they hold up to the last spicy bite without falling apart.

Holguin's "use every bit of the animal" upbringing has inspired tacos lengua (beef tongue), tripas (beef tripe) and barbacoa (shredded beef cheek), all topped with cilantro and onion.

For vegetarians, there are tacos calabacitas (Mexican squash, corn, onion and asadero cheese), and rajas gorditas (with roasted poblanos, Anaheim peppers, onion, asadero cheese and beans).

"We put a lot of love in our food," Holguin said. "We want to showcase

our culture because we have a lot of amazing food there that hasn't been recognized. That's the main reason why we opened Tacos Chiwas, because we couldn't find our food, something that would bring us our childhood like waking up to the smell of our grandma's fresh flour tortillas. It was the best!"

As if three restaurants weren't enough, they're also working with a chef friend from Sonora on Bacanora, at 13th and Grand avenues, serving grilled pollo asado and steaks, street-taco style on small fresh tortillas from Tacos Chiwas.

And they're partnering with a friend at Spiritu, a bar serving Sonora-style seafood including aguachiles (lime, chiles and cilantro poured ceviche-style over raw shrimp) and shrimp tacos.

"We have another big project coming up in May," Holguin said. "It's Cocina Chiwas, in Tempe, in Culdesac, a no-car apartment community being built in Tempe. It's going to be more upscale with big plates, a modern Mexican restaurant."

Tacos Chiwas, at 1028 E. Indian School Rd., is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.,

Monday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday. For more information, call 602-358-8830 or visit www.tacoschiwas.com.

Dining Briefs

Annual 'taco'celebration postponed until fall

In February, organizers announced that due to scheduling conflicts with Major League Baseball Spring Training, the 11th Annual Arizona Taco Festival at Salt River Fields, scheduled for April 9–10, has been postponed.

The event has been a staple on Arizona's festival calendars since its inception more than 10 years ago. The two-day event delivers a "Taco-Topia" with more than 50 top "tacomakers" from local Valley restaurants, food trucks and chefs, all assembled at one location. The Tequila Passport and VIP ticket-holders also enjoy flavorful access to the super food activations, manned with the Valley's top chefs and restaurants.

The 2022 party will be held in the fall, the dates to be announced. For updates, visit <http://aztacofestival.com>.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Nook adds al fresco dining for its Arcadia neighbors

Changes are coming to an Arcadia neighborhood favorite, Nook Kitchen.

Nook is adding a covered patio to the front/north side of the building, expanding seating capacity by nearly one-third — approximately 50 additional seats. A white rooftop covering already has been installed.

“We have always wanted a space to create a dining ‘al fresco’ experience, you could say, and also add more seating overall,” said founder and co-owner Frank Vairo.

“In the past, we could not get approval for a patio out front. Maybe the only benefit of COVID is that restrictions were lightened and the city allowed us to add the space, which will only make our business stronger and more approachable with an open-air patio. This allows us to serve more guests in an outdoor environment while maintaining safety protocols and adhering to CDC guidelines.”

The patio sits on the northeast side of the building directly in front of the existing wide sliding windows with a

footprint that overtakes three parking stalls. Vairo describes the design vision for the patio as “chic, sexy, similar to what’s indoors.”

Design elements in the works for the of the still-under-construction patio include flooring, planters and misters. The restaurant remains open during construction.

The culinary program is led by Chef Arturo Garino, who continues to add to the dining spot’s classics with his own twist, as well as new dishes, such as a wider variety of vegan and vegetarian menu options.

Nook Kitchen is located at 4231 E. Indian School Rd., Phoenix. For additional information, visit www.nookkitchen.com.

Los Sombreros is back in business

After being closed since November 2020, Los Sombreros reopened its Uptown Phoenix in early February.

The Uptown location at 3rd Street and Camelback Road was temporarily closed to focus operations on its Scottsdale location and Mesa location,



Patrons can once again sip a Steve-a-rita margarita at the Uptown Los Sombreros location, which reopened in February (submitted photo).

which opened in 2020.

“It’s great to be welcoming guests back to our Uptown location,” said Kurt Riske, Los Sombreros owner. “We’ve given our patio a refresh, just in time for spring in Arizona, and introduced some new Mezcal-inspired cocktails and shareable plates to the menu.

And of course, you can never go wrong with our Steve-a-Rita margarita.”

The restaurant features Oaxacan-inspired Mexican cuisine with deep flavors, texture and colors — all in a casual contemporary space. All Los Sombreros locations have lush spacious patios perfect for enjoying cocktails, shareable plates and signature dishes such as the Puerco en Chipotle — all-natural, hormone-free pork, marinated for six hours, slow roasted for six hours, then finished on a wood-fire grill for those charred crispy edges. Another popular dish is Riske’s favorite — the Pollo con Espinacas, grilled bone-in chicken breast in chipotle-spinach cream sauce. New to the menu are shareable plates, which give guests a chance to sample a variety of Central Mexican favorites.

For those who want to take advantage of the Phoenix weather, a refreshed patio features lush plants, a plant wall and hanging twinkling star lanterns, creating the perfect vibe for an afternoon or evening with friends.

Visit the Uptown Phoenix Los *please see REOPENED on page 44*

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

REOPENED continued from page 43

Sombreros at 322 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix. Reach them by phone at 602-601-6390. For additional information, visit www.lossombreros.com.

Zookz celebrates opening of new Biltmore location

Known for its toasted, round and sealed sandwiches, Zookz recently opened a new location in the Biltmore Plaza on the northwest corner of 32nd Street and Camelback Road.

“After losing our airport and downtown locations during COVID, we are thrilled to be growing again,” said owner, Carole Meyer.

“Although the pandemic dealt us quite a blow, our flagship location in Uptown Plaza at Central and Camelback has done more than survive. Its dynamic growth over the past 12 months gave us the confidence to launch our new Biltmore location. We could not be more excited.”

Zookz sandwiches opened at Uptown Plaza in 2016, garnering rave reviews, including earning five consecutive best sandwich awards from *Phoenix Magazine*.

The sandwiches are made with a



The #15 from Zookz includes turkey, feta, parmesan, fresh tomatoes and basil, sliced cucumbers, shaved red onions, shredded lettuce and Zookz lemon aioli sauce (photo courtesy of Zookz; via Facebook).

special press designed and patented by Meyer. This unique press enables multiple ingredients to be carefully layered inside a round sandwich with a toasted, crunchy exterior and a warm interior full of ingredients with a variety of flavors and textures.

The owners said that two of the more popular items are #33, a breakfast sandwich that features two poached eggs, Parmesan and feta cheeses, fresh spinach, basil and tomatoes; and #10, a turkey

sandwich with apples, cranberries, roasted almonds and sweet mustard sauce.

A desert sandwich is even offered and includes Nutella, peanut butter, bananas and roasted almonds. Gluten-free, vegetarian and vegan options also are available, and all salads are freshly prepared and come with a variety of proprietary, house-made dressings.

Zookz Biltmore, located at 3164 E. Camelback Road, is open daily from 7 a.m.–3 p.m. for dine-in, take-out,

curbside and catering. Four take-out parking spaces are located within feet of the front entrance.

For more information, call 602-825-1912 or visit www.zookzsandwiches.com.

Save the date for Plated & Staged

The Herberger Theater invites residents to the seventh annual Plated & Staged, scheduled for Sunday, May 1.

The annual dining experience benefits the Herberger Theater’s youth education and community outreach programs, which engage participants through diverse arts experiences that ignite emotion, stimulate conversation, and inspire connections with the arts.

The evening begins at the Herberger Theater with cocktails, silent auction, wine pull and entertainment. Dinner will follow but guests won’t know which fabulous Valley restaurant they are going to until after celebrating at the Herberger Theater. Each fine dining restaurant will host a table of eight, so guests are encouraged to bring along friends, family or co-workers for a specially prepared three-course meal with wine.

For tickets and more information, visit www.herbergertheater.org/calendar.

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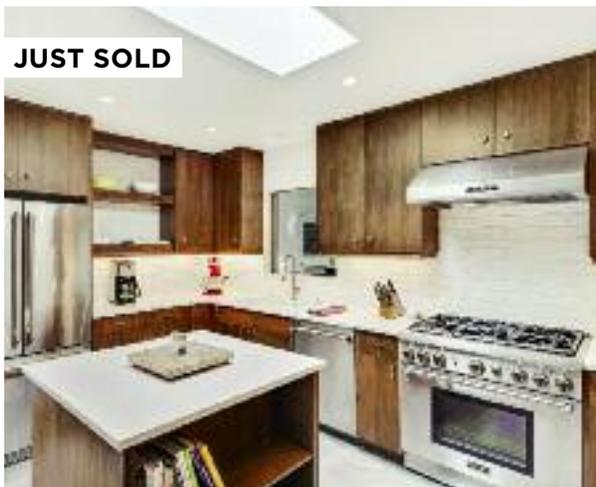
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COMMUNITY

AAHA! event to benefit Hospice of the Valley

Hospice of the Valley will bring back its signature fundraiser, AAHA! Art. Food. Wine, in March.

In 45 years, no one in need of care has been turned away by the not-for-profit agency, and that is largely due to community generosity.

The donations by local businesses and individuals make this event shine with beautiful pieces of art and memorable experiences ranging from a fabulous trip in Greece (Athens, Crete, Santorini) to a private dinner for friends prepared by local chefs.

This year's art selection is extensive with more than 70 pieces, including an elegant, fiery-red enamelwork horse sculpture from Carl Dahl's private collection. Among other favorites is a stunning statement piece by artist Judy Tuwaletstiwa, a huge canvas painting adorned with hundreds of delicate feathers — bold and ethereal at the same time.

The evening, at the JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn on March 12, features a spectacular dinner, raffle, a silent auction and live auctions conducted by auctiontainer Letitia Frye. This year's honoree is Arizona chef Mark Tarbell, in recognition of his charitable work in the community.

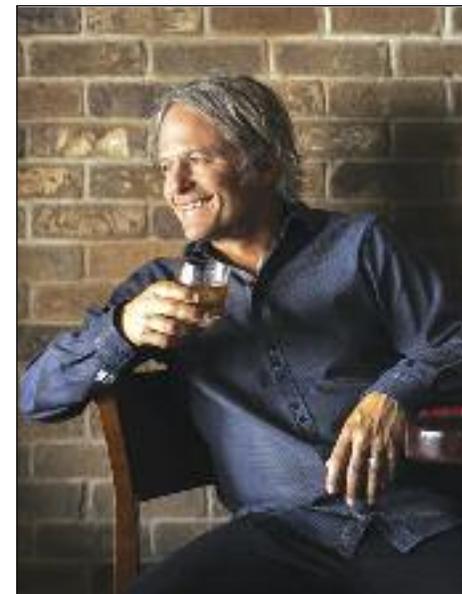
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Visitor center is your 'desert home'

The North Mountain Visitor Center gives guests an up-close-and-personal tour of the Phoenix Mountain Preserve and the plants and animals that make up the beautiful area surrounding the center.

The all-volunteer operated center is located at 12950 N. 7th St. in Phoenix. Visitors can explore the Exhibit Hall, which offers interpretive information on the preservation of the Phoenix Mountains, local geology, archaeology, Sonoran Desert plants and animals, the cycle of the Arizona sun, and likenesses



Arizona chef Mark Tarbell will be recognized for his charitable work in the community at the 2022 AAHA! Art. Food. Wine event (photo courtesy of Hospice of the Valley).

of a Gila monster, a coyote, and a javelina.

The Phoenix Mountains preserve system is rich with history. There are centuries-old Hohokam petroglyphs, evidence of turn of the century campgrounds and abandoned mines. A series of trails adjacent to the center mean that desert exploration is just a hiking step away.

Coffee House Saturdays have returned on the third Saturday of each month. Residents can stop by between 9 and 11 a.m. to enjoy local musicians who donate their time and talent, and free coffee and treats.

The center is a good stop for those planning a hike. Experienced volunteers can assist with finding the right trail for your skill and interest level. Admission is free.

The North Mountain Visitor Center is currently open from 8 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Thursdays, and most Saturdays. All other days, the center is open 8–10 a.m.

For additional information, call 602-343-5125 or visit www.northmountainvisitorcenter.org.

Find treasures at community yard sale

A one-day, community-wide yard sale will be held Saturday, March 5, from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m., at Holiday Spa Mobile Home Community, 10401 N. Cave Creek Rd., in North Phoenix.

All gates at the community will be open for anyone wishing to attend its yard sale. The cross streets are East Cheryl Drive and East Peoria Avenue.

CHANGE NOTHING AND NOTHING CHANGES...



Arizona and its cities are stunning, not just because of the weather, but also because of the wide-open highways and numerous sights and activities to enjoy. Nonetheless, we have flaws that we have had to live with as residents. There is no such thing as a perfect city or state, and no single person has ideal driving skills.

We have a tendency as drivers to keep doing what we do every day until we fall off like hamsters on a hamster wheel and falling for drivers means getting into a horrible vehicle accident that can have life-changing consequences.

I'm sure as most Phoenix residents, if you're driving around central Phoenix and happen to be on 7th Street or 7th Avenue, you'll notice no entry reverse lane signs between McDowell and Dunlap Roads and if you've lived in Phoenix long enough, you've probably heard these reverse lanes referred to as "suicide lane," which doesn't exactly conjure up an image of safety. It's more correctly referred to as a "universal turn lane," but it's still a major road hazard if not used properly. The majority of the time, these lanes should only be utilized for left turns.

In Phoenix, however, the universal turn lane can be used as a stop sign for automobiles merging into their intended traffic flow direction. The lane is not intended to be used as a "speed up" lane.

Now, For Just for a Moment, Let's Sit Crooked and Talk Straight...

It's not that the reverse lanes are entirely to blame; they've been in existence on 7th Avenue and 7th Street between 1979 and 1982, helping to moderate traffic congestion and for the most part, have served well.

Do they pose a threat? Yes, but not because they don't work, but because we aren't using them in the way they were intended. I've been operating Mazvo car care center for 26 years and have witnessed an average of 3-4 accidents monthly, all of which were caused by drivers who either didn't understand how it worked or were purposefully using it incorrectly. Yes, navigating these reversible lanes can be dangerous if you aren't familiar with the regulations of the road. It all comes down to execution and

knowing when to turn and when not to turn; this is what makes things flow.

Even if you know what you're doing, driving in the reverse lanes may be nerve-wracking, with automobiles speeding by in the opposite direction just feet away with no barrier between you and them.

For a quick recap, here are the rules, as clearly displayed on the signs above the lane:

-6-9 a.m.: Southbound traffic can use the lane as a travel lane.

-4-6 p.m.: Northbound traffic can use the lane as a travel lane.

-At all other times, the lane is for left turns only (and per above, a merge point).

So, what exactly is permissible? According to the City of Phoenix's website, making left turns into driveways and parking lots is permissible as long as a clear zone is maintained.

People who turn left whenever and wherever they choose to appear to be unaffected by these regulations. The most pressing question is whether the Phoenix Police Department keeps track of who is properly using these lanes, and this is a great question to pose to them.

It's difficult to estimate traffic flow, and I'm certain that if they noticed something illegal, they would address it. However, this does not give drivers carte blanche if law enforcement missed it for whatever reason. Simply said, the system is broken; however, why is that?

There are several reasons why accidents in the reverse lanes continue to occur, but driver error accounts for 80% of them, and 55% of drivers admit to driving aggressively because they are late.

Here are some straightforward reasons why reverse lanes are dangerous, as well as what you can do to keep yourself and other drivers safe:

1. We mistakenly believe that using the center reverse lanes allows you to drive quicker; nevertheless, this is not the case! In the reverse lane, the average speed is 58 mph. The average

regulated speed limit in this area is 35-40 mph. Think about that for a moment. Please, Slow Down! Leave early but arrive safe and alive!

2. We believe we are not permitted to turn at any point. False! You have the legal right to turn as long as you are not stopped at a traffic light or market intersection. Turning is permissible at all other junctions and side streets. Learn the rules and save lives, yours included!
3. We are impatient! I see it all the time when someone is making a legal turn; their constant honking, yelling, and aggression only serves to make the person performing the turn feel as if they are doing something wrong, when they are not. Guess what they do when they're scared? They speed up and collide with oncoming traffic, causing a big accident that may potentially be fatal. Relax and Embrace Empathy like your life depends on it!
4. It's critical that we make these reverse lanes known to our out-of-state visitors, friends, family, and loved ones. The majority of visitors arrive and rent a car without being informed of the dangers of reversing lanes. We wouldn't be decent hosts or compassionate family members if we let them drive into danger, would we?
- 5- Make sure to set a buffer time for yourself, which is the interval between when the lane ends and begins. When commuting, keep an eye on the time and give yourself a 15-minute buffer to determine when to exit or enter the lane. Pushing the time restriction to the last minute will result in a you said, he said discussion if you end up in an accident or conflict, especially when the other driver's clock is off by 10 minutes. Simply exit the reverse lane during your buffer period to avoid any unnecessary accidents.

Let's take some time to make sure to learn and comprehend the legal regulations, exercise your own judgment, pay attention, and most importantly, be cautious. **YOU DON'T HAVE TO STOP OBEYING THE LAW JUST BECAUSE THE SYSTEM IS DYSFUNCTIONAL.**

Equanimity develops when we don't expect things to be the way they are



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- 7011 N Wilder Rd In Escrow 7581SF 7BR/7.5BA \$1,999,000
- 3229 E Sells Dr New Price 2533SF 4BR/3BA \$1,565,000
- 9411 S 13th Way In Escrow 4625SF 4BR/3.5BA \$1,199,500
- 7517 N 3rd Ave In Escrow 3800SF 4BR/2.5BA \$1,250,000
- 1146 E Royal Palm Rd In Escrow 3080SF 4BR/3.5BA \$1,000,000
- 1033 E Kaler Dr In Escrow 3136SF 4BR/3BA \$ 899,000
- 10251 N Central Ave In Escrow 2364SF 3BR/2BA \$ 895,000
- 1509 E McLellan Blvd 2215SF 3BR/2.5BA \$ 640,000
- 310 S 4th St #905 Just Listed 1463SF 2BR/2.5BA \$ 449,000
- 903 W Glendale Ave #3 In Escrow 1501SF 2BR/BA \$ 439,500



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77 E Missouri Ave #17 • \$520,000



903 W Glendale Ave #3 • \$439,500



1509 E McLellan Blvd • \$640,000



10251 N Central Ave • \$895,000



310 S 4th St #905 \$449,000



605 E Royal Palm Sq • \$435,000 **represented buyer*



1324 E Lupine Ave • \$975,000 **represented both buyer and seller*



7730 N 2nd Ave • \$900,000 **represented both buyer and seller*



1146 W Royal Palm Rd • \$1,000,000 **represented both buyer and seller*

106 homes SOLD in 2021 and 10 properties currently in escrow. Call me to discuss your real estate needs and the value of your home. 602.376.1341. I work 7 days a week and am always available to help.

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6035 N Central Ave.....	\$3,500,000
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8421 N Diller Grove	\$1,029,049
8634 N 52nd St.....	\$2,395,000
5706 N Central Ave.....	\$2,112,000
1527 W Caribbean Ln	\$2,000,000
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
3010 E Whitton Ave	\$975,000
1324 E Lupine Ave*.....	\$975,000
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
7730 N 2nd Ave*	\$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
77 E Missouri Ave #17	\$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

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After sitting vacant for nearly two years, Metrocenter Mall stands boarded up, waiting for demolition. The mall will be replaced by a residential and mixed-use development project that will span the entire property (photo by Kathryn K. Miller).

Major changes coming to Metrocenter Mall

By Kathryn M. Miller

Nothing lasts forever, but the iconic Metrocenter Mall in North Phoenix had a pretty good run. Now, after sitting vacant for nearly two years, the mall will be demolished this year. In its place, The Village, a residential and mixed-use community spanning the 68-acre property.

A shopping and entertainment mainstay for area residents for more than three decades, Metrocenter Mall opened in 1973. The mall had experienced years of decline before finally closing permanently in summer 2020. Then, in early December 2021, Concord Wilshire Capital and TLG Investment Partners announced that they had contracted to acquire the North Phoenix mall and planned to invest roughly \$750 million to redevelop and repurpose the property. The transaction is scheduled to close in the second half of 2022.

Described as a community-driven walkable village, the new development will bring another 100,000 square feet of new retail stores and restaurants to complement existing amenities such as Harkins Theatres, Life Storage and Walmart Supercenter, which will all remain in place. Other adjacent amenities already in place include the Cholla Branch Library and Castles & Coasters.

The plans also call for 2,600 multi-family units that will be “attainably priced rental apartments,” according to

the developers, who say they believe that far too much of the housing that is being built today is unattainable.

“Both for sale and for rent housing are being built at prices that people can’t afford; that the real workers in this area can’t afford,” said Steven Betts, counsel to Concord-Wilshire and the development team.

Betts added that the planned rental units will offer different configurations to meet various housing needs — from individuals to larger families — but that all will be “quality housing in an urban village, much like you would see in a European village,” with the kind of density found in an urban core at four and five stories in scale, and an attainable price point.

The goal to create a walkable community, connecting The Village to the Arizona Canal and Rose Mofford Park, on the east side of I-17, includes Phase II of the Valley Light Rail Northwest Extension. Slated to be completed in 2024, which will closely coincide with the first phase of the new development, the light rail brings another element of accessible transportation to the area, and visitors to the development.

Phase II connects Valley Metro’s light rail system from 19th and Dunlap avenues and extending it 1.6 miles to a park-and-ride transit center at the former Metrocenter Mall. It includes three new stations, including the system’s first elevated station (adjacent to The Village), and public art.

Under construction since late 2020,



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Valley Metro completed a major milestone in the project in mid-January this year with the installation of steel tub girders for the rail-only bridge that spans 250 feet over the I-17.

After witnessing the downturn that has taken place in recent years, many residents are anxious for the re-development of the area to succeed, but there is still some lingering nostalgia for what the mall once was.

Betts addressed whether some of the aesthetic from the former mall would be included in the new development, stating, “Everything is on the table right now for discussion, but we would like to make sure that we do pay respect to what was a remarkable asset for our community for so long.”

Business Briefs

Tea ‘N Lace now open at Biltmore

A local clothing designer’s private brand, Tea ‘N Lace BY: Lauren Sky, now has a storefront location at Biltmore Fashion Square at 24th Street and Camelback.

The designer says that her vintage-inspired women’s clothing line expresses and enhances feminine beauty with European flair. Her limited-edition collections aim to make a “refreshing feminine fashion statement” through her creative use of lace, layers, pearls and buttons. Sky designs jewelry with unique collections of pearls and semi-precious stones that accompany her shabby chic styles.

She is also an herbalist and has been a tea connoisseur since 1992. The shop offers a variety of organic teas and botanicals for sale.

For additional information, call 480-809-7737, visit www.teanlace.com

New company offers math tutoring for kids

A brother-and-sister team, Kevin Kemper and Jessie Kemper, has launched My Math Experts in North Central Phoenix.

Kevin owned and operated a Mathnasium math learning center in North Central Phoenix for nearly a decade before he sold that business and entered the private equity world in

2016. Jessie has spent her career as a child life specialist at Phoenix Children’s hospital. The pair said that they opened My Math Experts and created the My Math Experts system and platform because they know what works and they know how to help students succeed. For them, this business is a way to serve others.

“We are here to help students and families take math stress out of their lives. With our system, we know we’ll have great outcomes so we even offer grade guarantees in many cases. Our tutors are truly excellent, the instruction is one on one, and we provide oversight of a unified plan with accountability, and it works,” Kevin Kemper said.

The company has set out to differentiate themselves from competitors by offering online, one-on-one classes with subject experts. Every tutor is a former classroom math teacher or they possess 10-plus years of verified math tutoring experience. The program is also outcome-oriented, so they focus almost exclusively on homework and standardized test prep materials.

My Math Experts is accepting new

students. An initial meeting with the director and a subsequent Success Plan currently are free with no commitment required. For additional information, visit <http://mymathexperts.com>.

Section 8 landlords to get increase in incentives

At its formal meeting Wednesday, Feb. 16, the Phoenix City Council voted 9-0 to increase the incentive amount from \$500 to \$2,000 for landlords who enter into a Section 8 Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contract.

The Landlord Incentive Program was first authorized by City Council in 2020. It used \$500,000 of federal CARES Act funding to incentivize landlords to make more affordable housing units available to Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) holders. The program offered a one-time payment of \$500 to property owners for each housing unit they signed into a Section 8 HAP contract. The initial half-million dollars was exhausted in October 2021, and City Council then

please see INCENTIVES on page 28

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

INCENTIVES continued from page 27

approved an additional \$1 million from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to continue the program.

Since then, the city says that it has disbursed a total of \$148,500 of the new funds to secure 297 housing units for Section 8 voucher holders. The incentives were paid to 165 landlords, of which 32 were first-time Section 8 landlords. In January 2022, members of the Economic Development and Equity subcommittee discussed the idea of raising the incentive amount in order to quickly attract more landlords to the program.

Landlords or residents who would like to learn more about Section 8 housing in Phoenix may visit www.phoenix.gov/housing/section-8-resources.

Liquid Mobile IV signs 2-year lease at Optima

A clinical lead physician, nurse practitioner and nurse organization delivering 24/7 wellness-based IV hydration and nutrition to the customer's front

door, signed a two-term lease at the Optima Biltmore Towers Condominium first-floor commercial space.

NAI Horizon associate Lori Kahn represented the tenant, Liquid Mobile IV. The 2,033-square-foot space at 4808 N. 24th St., will be home to more than 20 nurses and clinicians.

Liquid Mobile IV offers on-demand nutrition, hydration and COVID tests. Nurses go to homes or businesses, providing convenience and limiting the risk of exposure to other viruses and illnesses that might occur in a clinical setting.

Find small business help at March open house

The 19North Community Alliance is teaming up with area partners to present a free Small Business Resource/Assistance Open House event.

The event will be held Wednesday, March 23, from 2–7 p.m., in the atrium at 1717 W. Northern Ave.

All area entrepreneurs and small business owners are invited to stop by and meet organizations that want to help businesses thrive by offering infor-

mation on small business grants, technical support, website development, startup funding, workshops and other resources and guidance.

For additional information, email shannon@19north.org or visit www.19north.org.

Canadian investor buys light-rail area apartments

The Urban 188 and Urban 96 apartment communities have been purchased by a Canadian investor for \$52 million.

Located at 1601 and 1545 W. Camelback Rd., the properties are located side by side and operated as one. According to a press release, the new ownership plans to continue making Urban 188 and 96 a “desirable community by further enhancing the unit interiors and operations.”

Epic Investment Services purchased the properties from Urban 1601 Property, LLC of Phoenix for its Epic Multifamily Real Estate Fund I LP. Urban 96, built in 1967 and located at 1545 W. Camelback Rd., sold for \$17 million. Urban 188, built in 1970 and

located at 1601 W. Camelback Rd., sold for \$35 million.

The two properties combined contain 284 apartment units totaling 132,675 square feet. The properties offer a mix of studio, one- and two-bedroom units averaging 467 square feet each, and were approximately 98 percent leased at the time of the sale.

R&B music venue reopens as Char's Live

The space occupied by Char's Has the Blues, which closed its doors in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, reopened Feb. 4 with new ownership, a renovated interior, a rotating cocktail menu and a new name: Char's Live.

The reincarnation of the 2,245-square-foot club brought with it not only new management but a new musical vibe as well. The spot will offer live blues music, but will add new genres to the lineup, including DJs, reggae bands and ska.

Char's Live is located 4631 N. 7th Ave. in Phoenix. For additional information, visit www.charslive.com.

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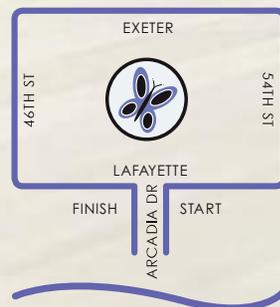
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Sunnyslope student Kaden Thomas works on one of five 12-foot high "Ks" for the inaugural Sunnyslope Scamper 5K run (submitted photo).

SHS parents to offer 'Scamper' event

The Sunnyslope High School Viking Parents Club will host its inaugural Sunnyslope Scamper event, Saturday, April 9.

The 5K run event will begin and end at the high school, with most of the course along the Salt River Project canal.

The theme of the inaugural run is "Run Now — Run for Life," and encourages students and others to run their first 5K. Participants running their first race will receive white headbands and people who have run a prior 5K or longer will get a green headband.

At the awards ceremony, after the first, second and third place for the various age groups are awarded, the participants with white head bands will present Craig Davidson a lifetime achievement award. Davidson, who was inducted into the Arizona Running Hall of Fame in November 2018 and works at Runner's Den in North Central Phoenix, has run 255 marathons (26.2 miles each) — that is a marathon every other month for 42 years. He has run a total of 217,000 miles.

The inaugural Scamper is enlisting the support of the school's students. The Sunnyslope Marching Band will be playing at the start and finish line; the Art department hosted a competition for the creation of the event logo and chose the design by student Sophia Mendivil; and the wood shop students are making five, 12-foot high "Ks" for kilometer markers on the course.

The entire community is encouraged to participate in the event, and all proceeds will benefit the Viking Parents Club, which in turn supports Sunnyslope High School.

For more information or to register, visit www.vikingparentclub.com/sunnyslope-scamper.

School Briefs

GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Enrollment is open for the 2022-23 school year

Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) offers nine nationally recognized high schools in the Phoenix area, which are ranked among America's best high schools by *U.S. News & World Report*. GUHSD provides championship athletics, extracurricular activities, cutting-edge STEM opportunities, career and technical education options and more.

Students can enroll for the 2022-23 school year online at <https://bit.ly/3DvyXTZ>.

WHS seniors will play junior college football

Four student-athletes at Washington High School recently signed letters of intent to play football at a local junior college. Demetrius "Meech" Harmon, Isaiah Cortez, Gilbert Calderon and Jose Contreras all signed letters of intent to Salt River Scorpions Junior College Football program.

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SCHOOL DAYS

SHS 'Above All' winners honored at board meeting

Sunnyslope senior Henry Calkins, a National Merit Finalist and a member of the top 1 percent of his class, was honored as Student of the Year as part of the high school's Achievement Above All recognition.

Calkins has taken 12 Advanced Placement high school classes during and has never earned a B. He serves as student body president, founder and president of the Mountain Bike Club, and captain of the cross country team. Calkins is involved in the Student Council, National Honor Society, Speech and Debate, Future Business Leaders of America, and Spanish Honor Society. Outside of school, Calkins has earned distinction as a Boy Scout, an Irish dancer, and a bagpipe player.

His goal for the future is to study mechanical engineering in college.

Music teacher Tamara Krause was named Teacher of the Year; the boys basketball team, which won last year's 6A State Championship title, received Student Group of the Year honors; school nurse and district alumna



Senior Henry Calkins was named Sunnyslope High School's "Achievement Above All" Student of the Year (photo courtesy of Glendale Union High School District).

Josephine Sardinha was recognized as Support Staff of the Year; and Sunnyslope alumna and parent Robin Cotto was named Volunteer of the Year.

The Sunnyslope winners were honored at a Glendale Union High School Governing Board meeting in February.

Sunnyslope seniors sign letters of intent

Sunnyslope High School seniors Xander Georgoulis and Colby Raffel

recently signed letters of intent to play sports at the collegiate level.

Georgoulis signed his letter of intent with Washington University in St. Louis. He will not only be furthering his academic career but also play football for the university. Raffel has signed to compete on the swim team at the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

Thunderbird students commit to collegiate sports

Two Thunderbird High School seniors have signed letters of intent to play collegiate sports. Moriah Mills has committed to Arizona Christian University to play volleyball. Kyler McConnaughy is going to Hamline Piper outside of Minneapolis to play football.

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Madison to host job fair March 9

The Madison School District will hold its spring job fair March 9 from 4–6 p.m. at the Madison Center for the Arts, located at 5601 N. 16th St.

The district is hiring teachers, bus drivers, before and after school employees, food service employees, and more, with full and part-time positions available.

Benefits offered include paid time off, professional development opportunities and more. The district says that it makes a conscious effort to positively support the health and wellbeing of its employees, families and communities, and recently received the Healthy Arizona Worksite Award.

For more information, and to view current openings, visit www.madison-az.org/jobs.

All-electric bus coming to Madison

Madison School District is among the first school districts in Arizona to receive a grant to purchase a 2022 zero-emissions all-electric school bus.

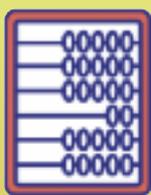
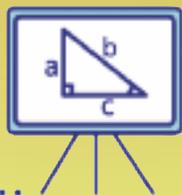
The Maricopa County Air Quality Department 2021 State Clean Diesel Grant Program will provide Madison up to \$205,886 in funds to replace one 2005 diesel school bus with one 2022

please see BUS on page 32



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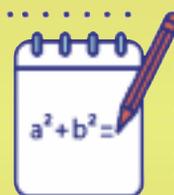
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SCHOOL DAYS

BUS continued from page 31

zero-emissions all-electric school bus. Matching funds of 55 percent will be provided by the district. The State Clean Diesel Grant Program is part of the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) funded through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).

The district is one of three organizations in the state to receive this year's grant and the only organization to obtain an electric vehicle with the funding.

Learn more at www.madisonaz.org or www.maricopa.gov/4509/clean-diesel-program.

OSBORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Teacher residency program comes to Osborn

The Osborn Elementary School District is one of three districts to partner with Northern Arizona University and the Arizona K12 Center in the launch of the Arizona Teacher



The Camelback High School cross country team, under new head coach Torunn Anderson Randich (kneeling in the front), built back from challenges in 2020, earning several medals during its 2021 season (photo courtesy of the Phoenix High School District).

Residency Program (AZTR).

Teacher candidates will spend one year post-bachelor's degree working in the district doing student teaching and engaging in coursework toward their certificates. Upon earning their teaching certificate, they will work for a minimum of three years in the district, while also completing their classwork

for their master's degrees.

Applications are available at www.azk12.org/aztr.

Nominations sought for 'Teachers of the Year'

The Osborn School District Educational Foundation supports education in the Osborn School District by

providing direct funds to teachers, principals and the superintendent every year. The group also sponsors the "Teachers of the Year" awards and will begin accepting nominations for the fifth annual Celebration of Excellence March 1.

Nominations will be accepted March 1–28, and the awards ceremony will be held Saturday Oct. 22, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Phoenix North. For additional information about the Foundation or to nominate a teacher, visit www.osbornfoundation.org.

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Rebuilt cross country team see steady success

The new cross country coach at Camelback High School says that distance runners tend to be successful.

"If you know someone who is dogged and determined, who talks about five miles as a short distance, who can delay gratification endure pain, you probably know a distance runner," said head coach Torunn Anderson Randich.

She added that distance runners tend to be unique and distinct, and in the high school cross country circuits, both academically high achieving, and a little intimidating.

"What teenager willingly will pry themselves out of bed at 4:30 a.m. to go on an hour run? Will glide over grass, mud, pavement, sand and concrete; through flies and trees and brush, past soaring golf balls, in wind and rain and science fiction level heat?"

These challenges were a small part of the reason that Camelback cross country ended the 2020 season with only a handful of athletes.

But in 2021, under new head coach Randich, the team rebuilt, bringing in six seniors, five freshmen and a handful of soccer players; but only five of the 17 had ever run distance before. The team has students of all grade levels, ethnicities and origins and functions as a school family: everyone looks out for and supports each other, and this has led them to slow and steady success.

Randich shared that, in the course of a season, almost all of the members won medals at their various meets, with sophomore Cadence Cachola placing third in the PXU District Championships at Varsity level, and freshmen Mario Macias fourth in JV. The girls team placed seventh overall



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SCHOOL DAYS



Washington Elementary School students sent handcrafted messages of love to area senior centers this Valentine's Day (photo courtesy of WESD via Facebook).

in their section, and had two athletes qualify for state: Cachola and junior Carrie Dashee.

To help further its efforts, the Camelback cross country team received a donation from Brooks Running Company's Booster Club Program, which provided \$12,400 worth of gear and \$2,000 in cash.

Newly outfitted and equipped, the team continues to recruit, train, and strengthen and is looking forward to a competitive and dynamic spring track season. Follow the team on Instagram, @camelbackxcountry, for information on meets and how to support the team.

Metro Tech recognized with 'Excellence' award

Last month, Metro Tech High School announced that the school has earned the 2022 A+ School of Excellence™ award.

The A+ School of Excellence Award is given by the Arizona Educational Foundation (AEF). The award program has been in existence

since 1983 and is the highest state-level honor an Arizona public school may receive. A+ School of Excellence™ is also the only statewide school award program that identifies and recognizes schools for achieving overall excellence.

In addition to recognition of the school's efforts, the award also includes \$500, which may be used as schools deem appropriate.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students create cards for seniors, veterans

Washington Elementary School District (WESD) students used their creativity to spread some love this year on Valentine's Day.

In partnership with Representative Greg Stanton's office, students in the WESD KidSpace and After School Academy programs created hundreds of handmade valentines to brighten the days of older adults in the community.

Stanton and his team conducted a *please see VALENTINES on page 34*

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SCHOOL DAYS

VALENTINES *continued from page 33*

contactless delivery of valentines to senior centers and assisted living facilities throughout the district.

The district says that a few extra valentines were even posted throughout the WESD Administrative Center, “brightening the day for employees in the building.”

Fourth grades share love with rescue animals

A group of fourth graders at Desert View Elementary showed the animals at Foothills Animal Rescue some love on Valentine’s Day. They made valentines for the animals in the shelter and helped spread some love to the staff there, as well.

WESD names January Employees of the Month

The Washington Elementary School recognized eight individuals who exemplify the district’s mission, vision and values as January Employees of the Month.

The employees are Maricarmen Atilano Castillo, facilities manager at the Administrative Center; Blanca Hernandez, support instructor, WESD Head Start Program – Moon Mountain Elementary; James Lewis, CCB Program coach, Manzanita Elementary School; Tim McGloin, security officer, Maryland School; Suzanne Niezgodzki, school social worker, Arroyo School; Sherrie Pemberton, kindergarten teacher, Sweetwater School; Jennifer



Five Xavier students signed national letters of intent to play collegiate sports, including (L-R) Jayme Brown, Ansley Burns, Tatum Goforth, Tiffany Tellez and Clair Douglas (photo courtesy of Xavier College Preparatory).

Selmo, instructional assistant, John Jacobs Elementary; and Mary Ellen Yaghmourian, resource teacher, Tumbleweed Elementary.

PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS Five student-athletes sign letters of intent

In the culmination of many years of hard work and commitment to their respective sports, five Xavier student-athletes signed national letters of intent at a February ceremony.

This was the 21st year that the ceremony was held for student-athletes, and Xavier was the first school in Arizona to hold the event for girls’ sports.

Xavier seniors signing letters of intent on Feb. 9 include Jayme Brown, Soccer, Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts; Ansley Burns, Soccer, Williams College, Williamstown, Massachusetts; Tatum Goforth, Cross Country/Track & Field, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri; Tiffany Tellez, Volleyball, St. Catherine University, St. Paul, Minnesota; and Clair Douglas, Water Polo, St. Francis University, Loretto, Pennsylvania.

Brophy presents ‘Generous Service’ award

In February, Brophy College Preparatory honored the leadership team at Xavier College Preparatory, Sister Joan Fitzgerald, BVM, President,

Sister Joan Nuckols, BVM, Principal, and Sister Lynn Winsor, BWM, Director of Student Activities and Athletic Director, with The Inés Pascual Award for Generous Service.

Brophy established the award in 2017 and it is presented annually at the Mother-Son Communion Breakfast. The award recognizes a woman in Brophy’s community who models the compassion and commitment of Inés Pascual, a Spanish noblewoman, who saw that St. Ignatius received food, shelter and medical care. The recipient of the Inés Pascual Award for Generous Service is recognized for the generous ways she works to animate the values and ideals of St. Ignatius.

This year’s award recognizes the years of collaboration, partnership and support between Brophy and Xavier, the all-girls school next door.

Brophy’s president, Adria Renke, said, “The friendships and relationships that have formed between the schools and their students have enriched us for generations, and for generations to come.”

Xavier student plays on Brophy ice hockey team

A figure skater since she was seven years old, Xavier College Prep senior Marissa White is now playing forward for the Brophy College Preparatory Bronco Hockey team.

White says that during the last few years, while things slowed down, she yearned to do something different. That thing ended up being ice hockey.





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SCHOOL DAYS

Just one year ago she learned how to skate, handle a stick and play the game of ice hockey.

“I loved it the first time I was on the ice with a puck” Marissa said.

The hockey skates took some getting used to — Marissa found herself face-first on the ice a few times. Shortly after that, though, she joined the Kachinas, an all-girls club ice hockey team. And since her school does not have an ice hockey team, Xavier’s Athletic Director, Sr. Lynn Winsor, got Marissa in contact with Brophy.

She went to Brophy’s practice, and they offered her a spot on their team right away. She plays forward, both left and right wing. As of press time, their team is number one.

Asked if she felt different being the only girl on the team, Marissa said, “Everyone has been great. There hasn’t been any pushback, and I’m having fun.”

She’s been hit hard a few times, some games are more physical than others, but they all wear protective gear. Her only regret is not joining the team earlier — since she graduates this May, this will be her last year on the team.

Marissa’s advice for other girls: “Don’t be afraid to try new things. It’s better to take a risk and find something you love.”



Xavier senior Marissa White is the only girl playing on the Brophy ice hockey team (photo courtesy of XPress).

million people in computing occupations. Computing jobs are the number one source of new wages in the U.S., although 67 percent of all new jobs in STEM are in computing, only 11 percent of STEM bachelor’s degrees are in computer science.

All of Xavier’s students take Computer Science Essentials, which is an introduction to Java. Many go on and to take AP Computer Science classes.

Xavier recognized for female representation

Xavier College Preparatory has earned the College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science A (CSA) and AP Computer Science Principles (CSP) for the fifth year in a row.

Schools honored with this award have expanded girls’ access to AP computer science courses.

In 2021, Xavier College Prep was one of only 61 schools nationwide recognized for closing the gender gap in both AP computer science courses.

“We’re thrilled to congratulate our female AP computer science students and their teachers on this step toward gender parity in computer science education,” said Xavier principal, Sister Joanie Nuckols, BVM. “We’re honored that our school earned this distinction and look forward to seeing these young women pursue and achieve success in computer science education and careers.”

A code.org analysis of 2017 Bureau of Labor Statistics data finds women represent just 24 percent of the five

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GENERATIONS

Senior Living Clarendale Arcadia gears up for summer opening

A new senior residential community currently under construction is scheduled to open this summer in the Camelback Corridor.

Clarendale Arcadia has opened its information center and named Stefanie Smith as executive director and Michelle Kiel director of Sales and Marketing.

“It’s exciting to see Clarendale Arcadia come to life,” said Smith. “Construction has been moving smoothly, and with the information center now open, I am looking forward to introducing Phoenix-area retirees and their families to an all-new luxury senior lifestyle.”

Offering panoramic mountain views, the residential community will provide independent living, assisted living and memory care options designed to keep residents connected to friends and family in the area.

Clarendale Arcadia is located at 2720 E. Camelback Rd., Suite 280, in Phoenix. For additional information, call 480-573-3700 or visit www.clarendalearcadia.com.

Free series offers strategies for caregivers

Duet is offering a free online series for those who are caring for a family member with Dementia.

“Finding Meaning and Hope” is a free discussion series for family members caring for someone with Alzheimer’s or dementia. The 10-week,

series offers effective strategies for managing on-going stress and grief associated with caregiving, while regaining hope and building resiliency.

The series will be led by trained facilitators and feature videos of Dr. Pauline Boss, author of the book “Loving Someone Who Has Dementia: How to Find Hope While Coping with Stress and Grief.” Family caregivers will discuss specific challenges and techniques to stay healthy, strong and positive.

Two programs kick off in March. An in-person class will be held the first and third Mondays, March 7–Aug. 1, from 2–3:30 p.m. at 7601 E. Shea Blvd., Room D103, in Scottsdale. A virtual class for LGBTQ+ Family Caregivers will be held via Zoom, 10:30 a.m.–noon, Tuesdays, March 22–May 24.

For more information, visit www.duetaz.org or call 602-274-5022.

Exercise, socialize and more with JFCS in March

Jewish Family & Children’s Service (JFCS) will kick off “The Unscripted Life: Improve Your Life with Improv” with Kareen King on March 7 and running weekly through April 25. Presented Mondays from 3–4 p.m. via Zoom, this program explores how developing improvisational skills can lead to increased positivity, creativity, attentiveness, flexibility, playfulness, decision-making ability and enjoyment in being in the moment.

JFCS also will offer “The Irish in America” with Ken Sorenson from 1–2 p.m., Wednesday, March 23. This program presents the story of the Irish immigration, including the potato

blight of the 1840s that drove thousands here. Who were they? What have they become? Hear the history of those migrants and see how they have impacted our history and our culture.

Registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

Other classes offered in March and beyond include Afternoon Chair Yoga with Susan Bendix; Nutrition Lunch and Learn with Zoe; Explore Flamenco with Film, Storytelling & Movement with Angelina Ramirez; Adventures in Great Symphonic Music with Bruce Pulk; and more.

To register or learn about all of the classes presented by JFCS, visit www.jfcsaz.org and click on the “Older Adult Services” link under “Our Services.” For more information contact Jennifer Brauner, CSE director, at senior-center@jfcsaz.org or 602-343-0192.

Kids & Families

Virtual fitness ‘party’ series runs through April

Families are invited to join Virtual – Energized By Exercise, FitPHX and AARP AZ as they present the return of their award-winning, as-seen-on syndicated television, live and interactive free virtual fitness “party” series.

The free online fitness classes, which kicked off in February, take place every Tuesday at 6 p.m. through April 26. Fitness professionals teach students of all fitness levels and lead a wide variety of workouts impossible to access within one big-box gym.

No gym equipment is needed. Participants receive coaching and moti-

vation without anyone (besides their teacher) seeing them and will get a completely adaptable-to-their-needs, total-body workout from the comfort, convenience and privacy of their own home.

All classes are free, but pre-registration is required. Register online at www.tinyurl.com/4aypwyty.

VYT opens registration for musical theater camps

Valley Youth Theatre (VYT) invites young campers ages 5 and up to register for workshops during its spring and summer break musical theater camps.

Participants will have the opportunity to work with professional teaching artists specializing in acting, singing and dance, creating an imaginative and immersive experience during Spring Break Camp. On the last day of camp, students will showcase their stage presence, confidence and creativity before family and friends in a special showcase performance, created by the ensemble.

Spring camps will be separated into age groups — ages 5–8; 9–12; and 12 and older — and will run Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., daily. Session 1 will run March 7–11; Session 2 runs March 14–18. The cost is \$300.

A four-week Musical Theatre Summer Camp for ages 7–15 will also be offered during June and July. Campers will experience what it takes to create a full musical production from audition to performance, alongside professional teaching artists who will provide foundational training in acting, singing and dance. Family and friends will applaud their hard work on the final day of camp with a perfor-



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GENERATIONS



The city of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department is seeking lifeguards for the 2022 pool season. As many as 400 lifeguards are needed in order to open Phoenix pools for summer (photo courtesy of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department).

mance where all are welcomed.

Both camps will be held at Valley Youth Theatre, 525 N. 1st St., in Phoenix. For additional information, call 602-253-8188 or visit www.vyt.com/education/camps.

City of Phoenix in need of summer lifeguards

The Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department is looking to hire summer lifeguards ahead of the 2022 pool season. Currently, Phoenix needs to hire more than 400 lifeguards to safely open the city's 29 public pools for this summer.

"If we cannot hire the number of Lifeguards we need, we cannot open all 29 pools and that means less people will have access to a pool where they can cool off and less children will learn to swim," said Aquatics Director Becky

Hulett. "Being a lifeguard is the best summer job. You're taught valuable life skills and meet friends that will last a lifetime."

Benefits of being a lifeguard include \$14.02 an hour, learning lifesaving skills, working in your neighborhood and flexible summer shifts, which can be ideal for students.

StarGuard Training for lifeguard certification is required to become a lifeguard with the City of Phoenix. Those interested in becoming a lifeguard should register as soon as possible. Certification classes (\$20) began in February and are available through March 28. Applicants must be at least 15-years-old.

Apply to be a lifeguard at www.phoenix.gov/parks/pools/lifeguard.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Sunnyslope artists host Art Detour 34 event

Art Detour 34 has an outpost in Sunnyslope.

Larry and Sandra Ortega launched Obliq Art in downtown Phoenix as a brick-and-mortar gallery. Then they played with the idea of working with other artists and launched Sunnyslope Open Studio and the Slope Plein Air fest. When the pandemic closed gallery events, pop-ups created options for creatives to show work and connect.

As the couple continued to convert their secluded studio/home in the mountains of the “Slope” into gallery space, they launched a series of private events called Soirees to connect creatives from all over the Valley.

“We added additional areas for display in our ‘hidden in the hills’ location,” Larry said. “Part gallery, part studio, part urban farm, just seemed like a fabulous way of showing work.”

This year marks their second year



Larry and Sandra Ortega will host an Open Studio Tour at their “part gallery, part studio, part urban farm” home on Sunday, March 27, during Art Detour 34 (photo by Larry Ortega).

participating in Art Detour at their home studio, and they have organized an Open Studio Tour. It’s their first shared gallery opening, and they will be joined by Hector Ortega and Joey Melinda Morgan.

The Open Studio Tour will be held Sunday, March 27, from noon until “the golden hour,” at the home studio,

1844 E. Cinnabar Ave., Phoenix. Attendees can meet the artists and view their work, most of which will be available for purchase.

If you go, Ortega asks that people park on the street; the road to the home is private and narrow. For more information, visit www.larryjortega.com and click on the “Art Detour 34” link.

Beatitudes to feature Tom Wakeling Trio

The Church of the Beatitudes will host the Tom Wakeling Trio and special guest this month as part of its Jazz Concert Series.

The performance will feature four Valley jazz artists: Tom Wakeling, bass; Brice Winston, saxophone; Mike Kocour, piano; and a very special guest on drums.

The versatile and talented artists will perform live from the Worship Center at Church of the Beatitudes at 6 p.m. March 20, with two 45-minute sets and a 30-minute intermission. Guests can attend the live performance in-person (masks are required) or watch the livestream from the Beatitudes website www.beatitudeschurch.org/live.

All are welcome at this family-friendly event. Those attending in person are encouraged to make a \$10 suggested donation. For more information, visit www.beatitudeschurch.org or call 602-264-1221.

“Dancing Around the World”

~ *Owliver's Travels* ~
A Dance Variety Show



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Madison Center for the Arts

5601 N. 16th Street, Phoenix AZ 85016

Saturday, April 16, 2022 | 7:00 pm



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Arts celebration returns in March

Art Detour will return as a month-long celebration of the Arizona arts and culture community in March.

Running March 1–31, the event gives art lovers a broad range of ways to engage with artists and destinations throughout the state. Now celebrating its 34th year, Art Detour will highlight a broad spectrum of art forms that include the visual, performing and culinary arts, fashion design, public art and more.

Hosted by Artlink, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to connect artists, businesses and the community, Art Detour 34 will include the signature Art d'Core Gala, taking place this year March 11 at Park Central in Midtown Phoenix.

Art d'Core attendees will be immersed in an array of visual, performance, fashion, culinary and musical works in a never-before-seen 80,000-square-foot venue designed to celebrate the thriving arts and culture community's contributions of creativity, beauty, ingenuity and vitality.

Additional Art Detour highlights include On Central Fashion + Art, Downtown Chamber Series, Creative City Symposium as well hundreds of arts and culture activities scheduled throughout the month.

For details and updates, visit www.artdetour.com. To learn more about Artlink, visit www.artlinkphx.org.

On the Town

Check out these events happening around town in March and April.



(photo: Desert Botanical Garden)

Dog Days in the Garden

Sundays in March
Desert Botanical Garden
www.dbg.org; 480-941-1225

Bob Dylan

March 3
Arizona Federal Theatre
www.arizonafederaltheatre.com;
602-379-2800



Phoenix Afrobeat Orchestra

March 4
Crescent Ballroom
www.crescentphx.com; 602-716-2222

'A Little Night Music'

March 4–6
Arizona Opera
www.azopera.org; 602-266-7464

Tig Notaro

March 5
Celebrity Theatre
www.celebritytheatre.com;
602-267-1600

Superstition Jazz Orchestra: Rosewood

March 9
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464



Judy Collins

March 10
Celebrity Theatre
www.celebritytheatre.com;
602-267-1600

Memphis Jookin'

Madison Center for the Arts
March 10
www.themadison.org; 602-664-7777

'Broadway Showstoppers'

March 11–13
The Phoenix Symphony
www.phoenixsymphony.org;
602-495-1999

39th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade & Irish Faire

March 12
www.stpatricksdaysphoenix.org



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 EXPERIENCE VIERNE'S MESSE SOLENNELLE
 Phoenix Boys Choir
 March 19 & 20, 2022
 www.boyschoir.org or 602.264.5328

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Josiel Perez's MambAZ All-Stars

March 12
 The Nash
 www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

'Dear 2020'

Thru March 13
 Valley Youth Theatre
 www.vyt.com; 602-253-8188

Local Music and Art Show

March 16
 The Rhythm Room
 www.rhythmroom.com; 602-612-4981

re:Birth

March 18-20
 Phoenix Chorale
 Various locations
 www.phoenixchorale.org

'Glorious Reverberation'

March 20
 The Phoenix boys Choir
 First United Methodist Church
 www.boyschoir.org; 602-469-0480

We Were Promised Jetpacks

March 21
 The Rebel Lounge
 www.therebellounge.com;
 602-296-7013

The Airborne Toxic Event

March 22
 The Van Buren
 www.thevanburenphx.com

Final Fantasy VII Remake Orchestra

March 23
 Orpheum Theatre
 www.phoenixconventioncenter.com

'All Balanchine'

March 24-27
 Ballet Arizona
 www.balletaz.org; 602-381-1096

'Nina Simone: Four Women'

March 24 – April 10
 Arizona Theatre Company
 www.arizonatheatre.org;
 602-256-6995

'Ain't Misbehavin''

March 25 – April 10
 Black Theatre Troupe
 www.blacktheatretroupe.org;
 602-258-8128

Melissa Aldana with SCC Jazz Orchestra

March 26
 The Nash
 www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464



(photo: Heard Museum)

World Championship Hoop Dance Contest

March 26-27
 Heard Museum
 www.heard.org; 602-252-8840

Modern English

March 27
 The Rebel Lounge
 www.therebellounge.com; 602-296-7013



'Rent' 25th Anniversary Farewell Tour

March 31 - April 3
 Madison Center for the Arts
 www.themadison.org; 602-664-7777

'Singin' in the Rain'

Through April 3
 The Phoenix Theatre Company
 www.phoenixtheatre.com;
 602-254-2151

'Owliver's Travels: Dancing Around the World'

April 16
 DanceWise Dance Showcase
 Madison Center for the Arts
 www.themadison.org; 602-664-7777

All event dates are current at time of publication. Check with individual venues for the most up-to-date show and safety information.