



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community

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Refugee youth create mural of hope, love

By Patty Talahongva

A new type of tree now graces the courtyard at The Refuge, a coffee and wine bar located at 4727 N. 7th Ave. that is run under the auspices of Catholic Charities. This "tree of life" is actually a mural created by children who are refugees from several countries. As part of the Unaccompanied Minor Program, they were asked to draw something that represented safety to them.

Anna, a 19-year-old from Congo, drew a flag on top of a mountain. "I carved the mountain I usually hike. This is a way for me to clear my mind and get away from something."

Thirty years ago, Catholic Charities started taking in dozens of orphans, children who needed a new home and even a new country due mostly to war. Those first kids came from Vietnam; today they come from 30 countries including Afghanistan, Haiti, Liberia,

please see MURAL on page 4



Will Goble keeps time as students from Phoenix Conservatory of Music's Jazz Ensemble rehearse at The Nash in downtown Phoenix. Students include, from left: Angelina Avila and Kiernan Johnson on piano; Omar Torres on acoustic guitar; Elena Rogers on tenor sax; Jude Poorten on electric guitar; Elijah Krueger on bass; Joshua Jacobsen on electric guitar; and North Central resident Cian Callahan on drums (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

Music students perform at The Nash

By Amy Pantea

The Nash and Phoenix Conservatory of Music (PCM) have partnered to create a student Jazz Ensemble for the 2014-2015 year, giving students a chance to perform in the esteemed downtown jazz venue as well as learn from some of the people who play there.

The students, as young as 11, auditioned for the opportunity to learn and rehearse jazz in the newly established Jazz Ensemble, as well as play at The Nash in a true jazz environment.

Regina Nixon, executive director of PCM, said, "It's one thing to learn to play an instrument in a classroom. It's quite another to play in an actual venue, where jazz musicians live and breathe. This opportunity for students to learn and play in The Nash will allow them to absorb jazz through their skin, breathe the air of an actual jazz club, and feel the way jazz should be played."

Fifteen-year-old North Central resident Cian Callahan, drummer of the ensemble, said playing live at The Nash was different than what he is normally used to.

"Your crowd is either really energetic or for some reason it's a really formal event so they can't quite be that energetic. You can still tell these people enjoy the

music even if they aren't necessarily shaking their hair having a good time," Cian said. "It gives you a reason why you're playing jazz every Tuesday night for two and a half hours."

The year-long program is being led by instructors Will Goble, with the help of Ross Lewicki. Both perform on a regular basis at The Nash, located at 1st and Roosevelt streets. Goble works at both The Nash and PCM as an instructor, and is also the City Music coordinator at The Nash, helping to create the new student jazz ensemble program.

On Oct. 26, the PCM Jazz Ensemble played three opening songs to start off The Nash's Sunday night jam session. After the student jazz ensemble opened

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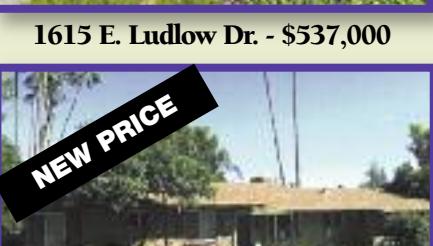

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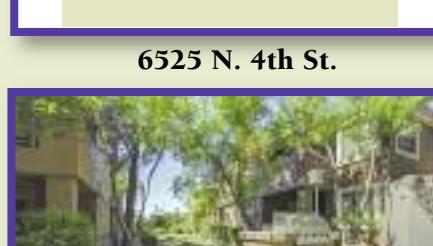

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COMMUNITY



Don Tapia, left, a longtime supporter of the Foundation for Blind Children, and the non-profit's CEO Marc Ashton celebrate the campus' \$10 million expansion with some of the children who attend FBC (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

FBC looks to future with growing campus

By Teri Carnicelli

The Foundation for Blind Children, 1235 E. Harmont Drive, on Oct. 31 hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for its new 35,000-square-foot school and gymnasium, which extends the campus all the way to Northern Avenue.

"This building is not only an addition to our campus, but a step in building for our next generation of students to receive the quality education they require and deserve," said Marc Ashton, CEO of Foundation for Blind Children.

Ashton's son, Max, has peripheral vision and little central vision. For many years he was a regular visitor to the FBC. Both father and son are graduates of Brophy College Preparatory.

Ashton, who was a former board member for the FBC before becoming its CEO, is passionate about the work the FBC does, not just for sight-impaired teens like his son, but for all visually challenged youth in the state.

"We are a national leader in the blind community, and we have the largest preschool for the blind in the country. We became the biggest because of our drive, our courage, and

please see FBC on page 10

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COMMUNITY

MURAL continued from page 1

Rwanda and Sudan. Catholic Charities is currently serving 66 kids today.

The tree represents support and nourishment for personal growth and the leaves represent support for the kids through foster families, teachers, counselors and friends. The River of Life in the mural represents healing and new opportunities for adventure and growth. Another tile shows a camera drawn by 18-year-old Adiel from Rwanda.

"I created a camera which means movies ... because most of the time when I'm watching movies they really cool me down, because they keep me entertained and for me it seems like a safe place. They make me forget bad things that passed and put me in a good mood so I won't keep being scared of harm that might come."

The mural project came together with the help of Elizabeth "Libby" Noble of the nonprofit Free Arts of Arizona. She worked with Nancy Dang, a teacher with the UMP. The result was the mural to celebrate 30 years of service for the UMP and also the one-year anniversary of The Refuge.

"I look at the mural and I see why we, as a program, exist," says Dang. "Every young person desires to be surrounded by adults that will love and protect them, to help them feel safe and to instill hope for a future. For whatever reason, these children aren't able to find this in their homelands and they are forced to seek refuge elsewhere."

Perhaps 19-year-old Paul from Ecuador sums up the project best saying the island with a palm tree he painted shows how he is far away from the bad choices he faced in his homelands. Now he's in a place where people want to help him, and he feels safe.



Elizabeth "Libby" Noble, professional artist and volunteer mentor with Free Arts of Arizona, and Bei Chhasa, a refugee unaccompanied minor from Burma, admire the ceramic tile he created for a new mural on the wall at The Refuge café and wine bar (submitted photo).

"This place has changed me into a better person with positive ideas to build my future. They became my family. The little island is Catholic Charities."

Catholic Charities works with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, the United States Council of Catholic Bishops and the Office of Refugee Resettlement to identify and bring children to the United States, explains Aileen Moore, senior program manager with Catholic Charities.

"Through the support of these organizations, we have the privilege to work with these children. All of the children who come to us do not have a parent or guardian to care for them when they enter the United States."

For this reason, Catholic Charities is always looking for foster families. For information, visit www.catholiccharitiesaz.org or call 602-285-1999. Iliana Rodriguez and Diana Stickney handle international children.



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COMMUNITY**MUSIC STUDENTS continued from page 1**

with their three songs, the stage was opened to jazz performers of all talents to play, and the ensemble members were able to stay and watch the performances.

"Maybe they'll get to play with some more experienced players and see what it's like to play with people they've never met before, in an informal, but structured setting," Goble pointed out. "They sort of learn the etiquette and customs and unspoken rules."

Goble said most of the students in the ensemble are very new to playing, so he gets to help the students discover if playing jazz is something they really love, or at least try something new. "A lot of [students] are discovering if they really like jazz, or want to play another kind of music, which is also cool. The best part of it is they have the chance to have more information at their disposal as they decide what music is going to be for them in their future, immediate and far away."

Cian has been studying the drums for eight years, and admits that he'd much rather be playing rock or hard rock instead of jazz. It doesn't stop him from wanting to learn as much as he can, though.

"I've come to learn that I really have to be well rehearsed in everything I do," he said. "Switching genres is really important ... If I have to play jazz, I'll play jazz. If I have to play Latin, I'll play Latin."

Enrolling in the Phoenix Conservatory of Music, which is located in Metrocenter Mall, was a "turning point in music" for Cian. "No pun intended, but it really has been instrumental in taking [Cian] to a new level in not just playing, but listening to music, appreciating music, understand-

ing all the thought behind music," Sean Callahan, Cian's father, said.

The Jazz Ensemble will perform a free concert at Metrocenter Mall at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14.

The Phoenix Conservatory of Music, a nonprofit organization that provides quality music education that is affordable and accessible, is affiliated with the Berklee City Music Network. For more information, visit www.PCMrocks.org.

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

Teens sought for summer exchange

Do you know a high school sophomore or junior with a sense of adventure? The deadline to apply for the Phoenix Sister Cities Youth Ambassador Exchange Program is 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19.

The Youth Ambassador Exchange Program, sponsored by Phoenix Sister Cities, offers Phoenix teens an opportunity to learn firsthand about another culture through a reciprocal summer student exchange program. High school sophomores and juniors are selected based on their communication skills, maturity, flexibility, leadership and self-confidence. The students live with a host family in their designated sister cities for three weeks during the early summer and then open their homes to their international counterparts when they visit Phoenix in late July. The program is privately funded and no city tax dollars are used.

All applicants can apply for scholarships. Applications are available at www.phoenixsistercities.org. For more information, call 602-534-3751 or e-mail Bethany Bennick at bennick@phoenix.gov.



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COMMUNITY

Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation created a "Keys to Success" program last summer to help teens prepare to successfully age out of the foster care system. The program is funded by public donations (submitted photo).

Program helps youth who age out of system

By Susie Timm

Amber Lepur survived a devastating childhood marked by abuse and abandonment and fell into the state's foster care system as a teenager. Adrift without any career or education goals, she entered the Keys to Success program, developed by the Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (AFFCF) last summer.

Through the program, Lepur found a job at a Scottsdale law firm and enrolled in Gateway Community College. Now, the Camelback High School graduate has big dreams for the future.

Lepur's story is a common one. More than 800 young men and women will turn 18 and age out of foster care in Arizona this year. Without added support to help them find jobs or pursue their education, far too many fall through the cracks. But there is a life-line—the Keys to Success program.

The pilot program already has changed the lives of a dozen young men and women, who completed the program over the summer and are working, volunteering and planning for the future.

For youth in foster care, the future is not statistically bright, said Kris Jacober, director of the Phoenix-based AFFCF.

"As youth in foster care approach the age of 18, they must make the transition to adulthood without family relationships to support them, and with few financial resources," Jacober said. "The Keys to Success program is our way of bridging the gap and helping

these youth have the best possible start when they leave foster care."

AFFCF hopes to grow the Keys to Success program, to serve more young adults like Lepur. The organization, which receives no state funding, currently is seeking funding for the program. All Arizona taxpayers can qualify for a tax credit by making a contribution to AFFCF by Dec. 31. Contributions can be made in any amount, up to \$400 for people filing single and \$800 for couples filing jointly. For information, visit affcf.org or call 602-252-9445.

Paint your cazuela and eat enchiladas

Spicy food meets artsy fun at the Practical Art studio in Phoenix, where they are pairing with Gadzooks Enchiladas & Soup to host a festive, food-filled painting party from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Held inside this local-artist-only gallery located at 5070 N. Central Ave., guests are invited to hand paint their own custom-made cazuela, or Mexican-style clay cooking pot, similar to the cazuelas served with Gadzooks signature cooked-to-order enchiladas. And for extra inspiration, Gadzooks will cater the event.

Each cazuela will be created ahead of time by local artist Jillian Schimmel of Lafayette Avenue Kitchen Pottery & Ceramics. After the event, each cazuela will be hand-fired, and be available for pick up the following week.

Tickets to the party are \$15. To purchase tickets, contact Lisa Olson of Practical Art at 602-264-1414.

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Thank you for 2014!

Unfortunately for all of you out there in North Central land, I expanded this column for just this one month. I PROMISE I will not do this again ... but I've got lots of thanks to shout out.



First and foremost, I want to thank all of my loyal clients who allowed me to sell more than 150 homes in 2014. In 35 of those sales, I represented both the buyers and the sellers, which can sometimes be a little challenging. Because I really enjoy what I do, it makes it fun even though it takes working crazy hours to be organized and to do all that is necessary to help my clients through a sale.

I am very appreciative of the North Central sellers who trusted me to list 167 homes this year. Thank you to **Porchlight Homes** for hiring me to list and sell two gated new home subdivisions. Claremont Estates, with 15 new homes is located on 7th Avenue between Maryland and Bethany Home Road. Sendero Villas with 10 new homes is located on Central Avenue, just north of Northern. I am proud to say that we closed out both subdivisions and the reaction and demand for new homes was incredible.

For many years my North Central clients have asked me expand my business into the **Biltmore**, whether it be North Central friends or clients who have decided to downsize, upsize or are just looking for a change and want to stay in the same general area or have family members who want to sell their **Biltmore** homes. I appreciate their trust and have been willing to help them. In fact, I've sold more than 50 homes in the **Biltmore** ranging from a \$200,000 patio home to a \$5.8 million dollar sale on the **Biltmore Estates** golf course. Thanks to your encouragement, I am excited to be making the **Biltmore** part of my 'hood beginning in 2015. Take a look at my new website that highlights the **Biltmore**:

www.biltmoreazagent.com. I will continue to have my North Central website at www.centralphx.com. **Terri and Alan Bandler**, who have lived in North Central for many years, are my first clients to support me in my business expansion. They are buying a home that I listed in **The Biltmore Hillside Villas**, located on Glendale/Lincoln just west of 32nd Street. The beautiful guard-gated home was owned by **Mary**

DeConcini. Once **Mrs. Bandler** works her magic, the home will look brand new. Thanks also to **Lisa Walker**, the Bandler's family member who also decided to move from a beautiful North Central home that I sold a few years ago. She also trusted me to find her new home in **The Biltmore Hillside Villas**. Look for the **Bandler's** trophy home located on West Frier to go on the market in the first quarter of 2015.

I also want to thank **Leslie Phillips** for allowing me to sell her parents' **Biltmore** home, located at 5048 N 25th Place, which I sold to them nearly 14 years ago. Many thanks as well to the **PATTERSONS** for allowing me to sell their **Biltmore** home at 3039 E. Stella Lane (sold in five days). The support from my North Central friends and clients has been overwhelming as I embark on this exciting expansion opportunity!

I want to also thank **Patty Johnson of Connections Marketing & Communications** for guiding and structuring the **Biltmore** expansion for me. Patty and her husband, former Phoenix Mayor Paul Johnson, have been long-time friends and clients of mine. She is the best person to organize the marketing of The **Biltmore**.

Thanks to the 26 North Central and **Biltmore** area businesses who allowed me to place my sports magnets (**D-Backs, Cardinals and Suns**) in their stores. We are all so lucky to have such an eclectic and supportive mix of retail, restaurants and specialty stores. Just look around. There is lots of construction and expansion of more new businesses that plan to open in 2015. Why live anywhere else? If you would like to have the magnets in your stores, please give me a ring.

Another thank you goes to the incredible **HomeSmart** agents — not only those in our Central and **Biltmore** offices but each of you throughout the Valley (we have nearly 5000 **HomeSmart** agents here in Arizona). I was reminded how amazing our entire team is about three months ago when I received a call that one of our agents almost lost his wife during a scary and tragic incident. He let me know that as his wife was getting into her parked car in their own driveway, she was shockingly yanked out of the car in a car-jacking. Unfortunately, her head hit the concrete. She was in the hospital with severe brain and head injuries for weeks and although she is now back at home, she will never be physically the same again. Hearing the story, I felt the need to try to help the family defer some medical costs but the husband said all he wanted was some good old Italian food because he had been eating McDonalds for three straight weeks. With help from **HomeSmart's** own **Carol Perry**, we brought him some of his favorite Italian food

and we launched a non-profit charity called **We Care HomeSmart**. Through **We Care HomeSmart**, the funds we raise help **HomeSmart** agents whose immediate family members have suffered a serious medical setback and the family needs a little help. At our various **HomeSmart** regional meetings, we collected \$13,000 in just four weeks. This is an amazing testimony to the camaraderie that our **HomeSmart** agents and partners share. Thank you to the many generous people at **HomeSmart** and thank you to our chairman, **Matt Widdows**, for matching a significant portion of our donations. Anyone who would like to donate is also welcome to participate. Just let me know.

I certainly cannot end this year without thanking this paper, the **North Central News**. I have been advertising here since it was founded 15 years ago and it has been an incredible boost for my business. The circulation is 22,000 issues mailed to North Central residents and businesses and another 4,000 copies that are distributed in area news racks. There is no better vehicle to reach all of you with important community information, whether it's about the new companies, real estate or community activities. Please do not tell the **North Central News** how much I appreciate them or they might increase my advertising fees!

I want to thank my family beginning with my two dogs — Jakki, a 13 year old Weimeraner and Layla, a 3-year old Boxer rescue. Oh yeah ... I also want to thank my 23-year-old daughter, **Juliann**, a Xavier High School grad, who graduated from Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University with freakin' HON-ORS and just began her master's in sports psychology, and my 25-year-old son, **Sean**, a Brophy grad, who recently started with one of **HomeSmart's** partners, **Homewners Financial**

Group. Sean is a marketing and business partner and will soon be a loan originator. I look forward to referring business to him and working together. Congratulations also to **Jesse Milleson**, who just graduated from the University of Memphis

And, finally, my former disc jockey at the **Jockey Club**, who never listened to her boss (ME) for five years (sometimes even cussed at me when I asked her to play certain songs or to turn the volume down) ... my beautiful wife of 28 years, **MaryAnn**. She often tells me how lucky I am for having to put up with my family for so long ... and you know? She is right!

I also truly appreciate my assistant, **Kathy Wright**, who has tolerated me for 15 years. I owe a lot of my success to her hard work.

Thanks to my family and thanks to all of you for making 2014 such a successful and healthy year. I cannot believe another year is just around the corner. Cheers to 2015.

Bobby Lieb

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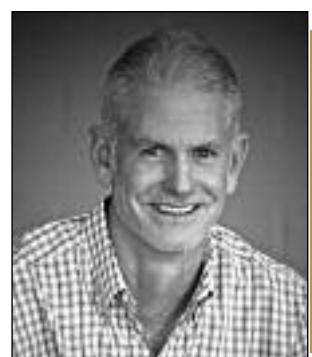
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COMMUNITY



Jennifer Hecker DuVal reads her book, "Monte and the Magnificent Star," to the inspiration for the book—her 6-year-old son, Monte—while Vanilla the cat looks on (submitted photo).

Local woman pens kids' book highlighting AZ

By Karolina Jaron

North Central resident Jennifer Hecker DuVal can add another title to her list of accomplishments that include mother, clinical social worker and wife. That new title is "author."

Hecker DuVal recently published her first children's book, titled "Monte and the Magnificent Star: An Arizona Tale."

"Somebody wrote me an e-mail and said their son never knew what the Arizona flag was or what it looked like, and after reading my book, he now always calls it the magnificent star," Hecker DuVal said. "It gives me chills that my book is affecting people."

Hecker DuVal said she thought the hardest part would be finding an illustrator and bringing her book to life, but that turned out to be the easiest part because of her vision about what she wanted her book to be like. Illustrator Sara Ruhe's ability to immediately compose what Hecker DuVal had envisioned was "phenomenal," she said.

"I'd like it to be like Christopher Robin and Winnie the Pooh," Hecker DuVal recalled telling Ruhe in a phone conversation. "I want the adventure with Dog-dog like that."

The main characters are Monte and his best pal, Dog-dog, who turn readers into explorers by taking them on their journey across Arizona.

Hecker DuVal wrote the book last summer. She found a voice and purpose for the character of Monte through her 6-year-old son of the same name. Her

goal was to convey her love, pride and appreciation for her home state through the eyes of a 5-year-old boy.

"What I really had in mind was to inspire children through Monte," Hecker DuVal said. "How great would it be for his generation to feel excited about where they come from and to be able to talk about it?"

This book is for anyone who has love for the outdoors, exploration and adventure. It sparks adventure within hearts and makes you fall in love with a state that is much more than just a desert, Hecker DuVal said.

Hecker DuVal found a way to get the book published without having to give away any rights. She and her husband, 2014 Democratic gubernatorial candidate Fred DuVal, aim to get "Monte and the Magnificent Star: An Arizona Tale" into every single public school and library in the state.

"Our main push is to provide every child with access to the book so that they can learn about the state and be proud," Hecker DuVal said. "We published it the way we did so that we can get it to anyone we want to have it."

She has ideas for future books in which Monte and Dog-dog explore other states, but she wants to enjoy the presence of this one first.

Changing Hands Bookstore at 300 W. Camelback Road carries the book as well as Write-Ons at 7th Street and Rose Lane. The book also can be purchased at Amazon.com.

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

COMMUNITY**Don't let loud parties ruin your evening**

If you're worried that some of your neighbors might have loud holiday parties this year that go on into the wee hours and disrupt your sleep, fear not: the city of Phoenix has your back.

The city of Phoenix has an ordinance related to "threats to the public peace" which includes loud parties. Sometimes these parties can lead to not only excessive noise, but also obstruction of public streets (too many parked cars), public drunkenness, underage drinking, fights, and littering.

There are no "allowable" times during the day or night for any event that is considered a threat to the peace, health, safety and general welfare of the public. So if you want to call at 9 p.m., you surely can. However, you should be aware that these types of call are generally ranked lowest in priority (unless you are reporting gunshots with them). So it may take a bit for a police officer to respond. The officer has the option to give the party hosts a warning, or to immediately assess

them a "police response service fee" of up to \$1,000. The fee includes the salaries of the police officers who responded, based on time spent at the event, and may include any damage to city equipment.

For juvenile violators, the juvenile's parents will be responsible for all fees and violations.

To report a loud party, illegal fireworks, numerous vehicles causing traffic hazards or blocking driveways, underage drinking, etc., call Crime Stop at 602-262-6151.

The fireworks law that went into effect in April this year now regulates when you can sell, purchase and use fireworks in our state. The penalty for selling, buying or using fireworks outside the permissible dates results in a civil fine of \$1,000. To see a list of permissible fireworks for New Year's Eve, visit www.phoenix.gov/fire/prevention, and select "Fireworks" under the Permits Required section.

Use of fireworks on preservation land owned by the city of Phoenix is a Class 1 Misdemeanor punishable with a \$1,000 fine.

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We hope you can join First Church this Holiday Season for all of our Christmas celebrations! Visit www.firstchurch.church for full details.

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Sunday, December 14
9 a.m.* Children's Christmas Pageant
10 a.m.* Taste of Christmas Brunch
11 a.m.* Handel's Messiah

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24

5 p.m.* Family Service
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COMMUNITY

FBC continued from page 3

our stewardship," Ashton said.

The nonprofit started out as just seven classrooms in the 1950s and has grown substantially since then, in both space and services. FBC has 13 programs serving 2,000 students and patients from birth to 101 years old.

Ashton pointed out that each child who attends the preschool and continues on in the FBC community will grow up to enter the workforce or become a self-sufficient, productive member of society, which saves the government millions of dollars.

Ashton explains that there is just over \$1.4 million in taxpayer savings per FBC student, based on adding the disability payments a blind person starts receiving at age 18 through 67 (when retirement social security typically starts), plus the average social security and Medicare taxes the average American and their employers would pay over the course of their working lives, plus average Medicaid/Medicare benefits.

"We are preparing the next generation of visually impaired individuals to become active members of society," said Jacob Brown, FBC board president.

Other guests in attendance at the groundbreaking included Phoenix City Councilman Bill Gates and representatives of Lockton Companies and Del Webb Foundation, two major donors to the project.

Don Tapia, a longtime supporter of FBC, himself has gone through a retinal tear and subsequent surgery in each eye. "One thing we take for granted in our sight, and yet we do everything with it," Tapia pointed out.

He praised FBC for helping not only those who were born sight impaired but those who loss some or all

of their sight due to accident, disease or some other condition. Tapia also announced that he was bequeathing \$1 million to FBC.

The cost of the expansion is approximately \$10 million, and thus far FBC has raised about half. Construction should be finished by August 2015. The construction management is Kitchell, and the general contractor is Haydon Building Corp. For more information, visit www.seeitourway.org.

Free ebooks focus on AZ, local authors

Arizonans now have easy access to more than 500 books about their state, thanks to a new ebook platform hosted by the Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records. Titles range from historical fiction to academic biographies, haunted tour guides to mysteries.

The ebooks available through Reading Arizona (www.readingarizona.org) may be borrowed within the state simultaneously by multiple users. Readers get to decide how long they want to keep a title. Reading Arizona is powered by BiblioBoard, the content management system from BiblioLabs, and is available on iOS, Android, and Kindle tablets through BiblioBoard Library.

The collection includes early Arizona fiction and histories, as well as contemporary works by authors such as Jana Bommersbach, Edward Abbey, Jon Talton, and James Sallis, as well as works from the University of Arizona Press.

Patrons accessing the website inside Arizona will be able to see the collection and create a user account to download ebooks. Once patrons create an account, they can access the site even when traveling outside the state.

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**Public comment sought on plan update**

Residents are invited to review and provide public comment on PlanPHX, the Draft General Plan Update 2015, which can be downloaded at phoenix.gov/pdd/pz/general-plan-update. The General Plan is the foundation on which development decisions are based. Public comments will be accepted until Dec. 13.

"PlanPHX is the result of sharing thousands of ideas and hopes from all aspects, walks and locations of our city," said Morris A. Stein, chairman, PlanPHX Leadership Committee. "More than a code, we believe this becomes the strategic vision for managing growth and development."

Under the leadership of the City Council, the Planning & Development Department (PDD) initiated the PlanPHX project in 2012 to collaborate with residents. As a result of public feedback from thousands of ideas submitted by residents at more than 100 meetings and from the project's interactive website, the PlanPHX Leadership

Committee and PDD staff developed a draft General Plan Update with a new vision and framework based on the vision of creating a more connected city.

Key components of the draft plan are Five Core Values that will provide the policy structure for growth and development in Phoenix. The Core Values are: Connect People and Places; Strengthen the Local Economy; Celebrate Our Diverse Communities and Neighborhoods; Build the Sustainable Desert City; and Create an Even More Vibrant Downtown.

Arizona state statutes require that this plan be updated and/or readopted every 10 years by a public vote. Phoenix last updated the city's General Plan in 2002.

The Leadership Committee and PDD staff will present the plan to the Phoenix City Council in February 2015. The council will vote on the ballot language that will be included on the August 2015 ballot, when Phoenix voters will make the final decision.

Public comment on PlanPHX, the General Plan Update, can be submitted at www.myplanphx.com.

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COMMUNITY

Two locals honored by Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts—Arizona Cactus-Pine Council (GSACPC) recognized two North Central Phoenix residents who have modeled the Girl Scout promise and law in their work and their lives with its Promise Award at the 2014 Women & Young Women of Distinction luncheon, held Nov. 15 at the Arizona Biltmore Resort.



Judy Jolley Mohraz

servant whose charitable endeavors touch every sector of the community, including the Phoenix Zoo, Arizona State University, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona and GSACPC. With two daughters of his own, he is passionate about expanding and providing opportunities to all girls.

Other honorees are outstanding girls and women who are paving the way to a brighter future through their leadership and service to the community. They also share a common bond: their values and leadership got started through being a Girl Scout.

In partnership with more than 11,000 adult volunteers, GSACPC serves 24,000 girls grades k-12 in more than 90 communities across central and northern Arizona. Since 1936, GSACPC has helped girls develop leadership skills and tools for success in a rapidly changing environment. For more information, visit www.girlscoutsaz.org.



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Charlene works at staying fit. From recumbent biking to yoga, tai chi and zumba classes she says she can't quite imagine attempting elsewhere. She volunteers at Dr. Nelson's on-campus library and describes her associate librarian role as the perfect next chapter for a former teacher, prayer chaplain and hospice volunteer. Plus, being something of a social butterfly, she keeps up a lively schedule of lunches and dinners with friends, educational sessions, community events, committee meetings and the occasional "shopaholic" indulgence.

Charlene invites you to discover how living at Beatitudes Campus can enrich your life, too. Schedule a private tour: (602) 995-6100.



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COMMUNITY

Local teen awarded Peace First prize

Matthew Kaplan, 17, of North Central Phoenix, was one of five winners of the 2nd annual Peace First Prize, presented by Peace First, a national nonprofit dedicated to creating the next generation of peacemakers.

The Peace First Prize is a national award recognizing youth peacemakers, ages 8-22, who are leaders focused on making lasting social change in their communities. The five inspiring young people were selected as 2014 Peace First Fellows because through their compassion, courage and ability to collaborate with others, they have been the driving force behind positive changes in their communities.

After witnessing his brother being bullied at school, Matthew created The Be Open to New Experiences (O.N.E.) Project, a nonprofit dedicated to developing curriculum and facilitating an interactive day seminar aimed at creating a positive and inclusive school environment. The Be O.N.E. Project uses team-building activities to connect middle and

high school students to each other through the sharing of personal insecurities and past bullying experiences.

"We have been teaching peacemaking in schools for 20 years and know first-hand that young people can make a real difference in their communities. The Peace First Prize is our way of celebrating youth peacemaking in action," stated Eric D. Dawson, president and co-founder of Peace First. "We are proud to recognize our extraordinary Prize winners and are excited for them to join our growing number of young peacemakers and to invest in them as national peace leaders."

Kaplan, who attends Tesseract School in Phoenix, and the other winners received a 2-year, \$25,000 Fellowship to further their peacemaking work.

In August, Kaplan was named a regional winner in the Kohl's Cares Scholarship Program. Fifty-three youth from Arizona each received a \$50 gift card and recognition certificate from Kohl's for their volunteerism. As one of 182 regional winners, Matthew also received a \$1,000 scholarship.



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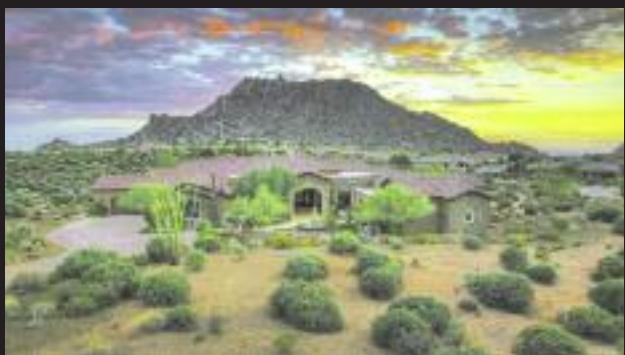
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COMMUNITY



This sweet yellow Lab is affectionate, loyal, and ready for a new home (submitted photo).

Pet of the Month

A golden opportunity with sweet Goldie

Goldie is a 1-year-old Lab who loves to swim—so get ready to be in the splash zone! After a good swim, this golden girl is ready for some affection, be it a back scratch, belly scratch, neck scratch ... any sort of scratching. When you find the itchy spot, her leg starts kicking like crazy.

Goldie is affectionate and loyal and just wants to be as close to you as possible. She is ready for her forever home.

Meet this lover today at the Arizona Humane Society's Sunnyslope Campus, 9226 N. 13th Ave. Her adoption fee is \$110 and includes her spay surgery and vaccinations. For more information, call 602-997-7585, ext. 2045 and ask for animal ID number A498813. To see all the adoptable pets in need of homes, visit www.azhumane.org.

Vets get free pet boarding in Dec.

Villa La Paws Pet Resort & Spa, a Phoenix-based, stress-free dog daycare, boarding, and grooming facility, is bringing back its annual "Operation Home for the Holidays" program during the holiday season.

The program was created to honor those who serve in the military and make the holidays easier on their families by providing free dog daycare and boarding to accommodate holiday travel.

Through December, active or retired service personnel and their immediate families can take advantage of free Villa La Paws dog daycare and overnight dog care while they travel to visit loved ones for the holidays. Each dog may stay up to five days at the resort, located at 10640 N. 32nd St.

"We created the program to help the many Arizonians coping with the stress

of a spouse, parent, child or sibling serving our country in the armed forces," said Tom Murray, CEO and president of Villa La Paws. "Making accommodations for their pets will be one less thing they have to worry about when planning holiday travel to visit their loved ones."

For information, call 602-442-7833 or visit <http://bit.ly/VLPHolidays>.

Have your pooch pose with Santa

Celebrate the season with your pooch at "Paws With Santa," benefiting Lost Our Home Pet Foundation. It takes place 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7 on the patio at Rico's American Grill, 7677 N. 16th St.

Pups and their owners can pose with Mr. Claus himself for a festive holiday portrait, mix and mingle over "yappy" hour food and drink specials, and enjoy complimentary pet goody bags provided by Noble Beast. A \$10 cash donation is suggested, with 100 percent of all donations benefitting Lost Our Home Pet Foundation's mission to keep pets in loving homes when their families face major life challenges, and to provide compassionate alternatives when Realtors and the community find an abandoned pet.

If you can't make it by for this event, then head over to Metrocenter Mall for Pet Photos With Santa, which are scheduled for 6-8 p.m. Dec. 7, 14 & 21. They will take place on the lower level of the mall in the court area outside of Dillard's.

Ugly sweaters highlight adoption event Dec. 3

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control (MCACC) will hold an Ugly Holiday Sweater dog adoption event featuring dogs from Chi Town (Chihuahua Town), 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3 at O.H.S.O. Eatery + nanoBrewery, 4900 E. Indian School Road.

The pet-friendly establishment has offered up its patio to the Chihuahuas and Chi-mixes, who will be wearing their most festive (and ugliest) holiday sweaters. The dogs will be ready to go home straight from the event. Adoption fees range from \$20 to \$75. Every dog will be spayed/neutered, rabies vaccinated and goes home with his/her county license tag.

For more information, call 602-506-7387.

COMMUNITY

Community Calendar

Phoenix Corral Westerners International Fall Meeting

6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 3
Spoke & Wheel Tavern
8525 N. Central Ave.
602-242-3022

Westerners are those interested in learning about and promoting the history of the western United States. Socializing begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and a program. Guest speaker is G. G. George, who will talk about Phoenix's Greater Encanto-Palmcroft Neighborhood. The cost of dinner is \$20. Reservations requested.

Guild Library Book Sale & Treasure Market

Dec. 5-7
The Heard Museum Shops
2301 N. Central Ave.

Choose from thousands of titles in nearly six dozen genres along with a selection of unique art and collectibles, including American Indian and vintage jewelry, katsina dolls, prints, pottery and ceramic vessels. Free admission (museum admission additional). Hours are 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Visit www.heard.org/booksale.

Sunnyslope Historical Society Meeting

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6
Sunnyslope History Museum
737 E. Hatcher Road
602-331-3150

Wanda Sartain of New River will speak about the USS Arizona and what happened when Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese. Visitors will have a chance to see a replica of the ship. The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

'Earthescope'

7-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11
Burton Barr Library,
Fourth Floor MACH1 Room
1221 N. Central Ave.
602-262-4636

Education and Outreach Program Manager Sarah Robinson of ASU's School of Earth and Space Exploration will discuss the Earthscope program with an overview of earthquakes and plate tectonics. Enjoy complimentary coffee during this free Science Café program.

Dance Showcase & Benefit

7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12
Arthur Murray Dance Studio
1210 E. Indian School Road
602-264-4612

The evening includes dinner and a show. Open to Arthur Murray students, their friends and families, and the general public. Tickets are \$85 per person, with \$10 from each ticket going to the Jasmine Fund, which provides new toys to the St. Vincent De Paul's Family Center annual Christmas Party. For more information or to RSVP by Dec. 5, call or e-mail hollymeekin@cox.net.

Interact Club

Golf Tournament

12 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13
Encanto 9 Golf Course
2300 N. 17th Ave.

Central High School's Interact Club host this annual fundraising golf event. The format is a two-player scramble off the tee, and alternating shots to the hole. Each player can only carry one club and a putter. The entry fee is \$40. There will be a shotgun start. For more information, contact Global Studies Magnet manager John Gerace at 602-764-7568 or centralgolf@cox.net.

Focus on Women Veterans

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16
Beatitudes Luther Life Center
1616 W. Glendale Ave.
602-992-8145

The Phoenix Branch of AAUW hosts Joan Cisco, CEO and founder of Veterans First, a 15-bed facility for homeless women veterans. Attendees are encouraged to bring items such as new grooming products, prepaid Visa cards, and gift certificates to Walmart, CVS, and Walgreens for women veterans. An optional dinner (\$15) will be served at 5:30 p.m. RSVP for the dinner to Sue at 602-992-8145 by Dec. 12. Members of the public are welcome.

Phoenix Writers Club

12-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 20
Bluewater Grill
1720 E. Camelback Road

Join the Phoenix Writers Club for lunch and its annual holiday party. Cost is \$15 members and \$20 for guests. Reservations must be made by Dec 17. RSVP to neeliepubl@aol.com with Phoenix Writers Club in the subject line. Members and the public are welcome.

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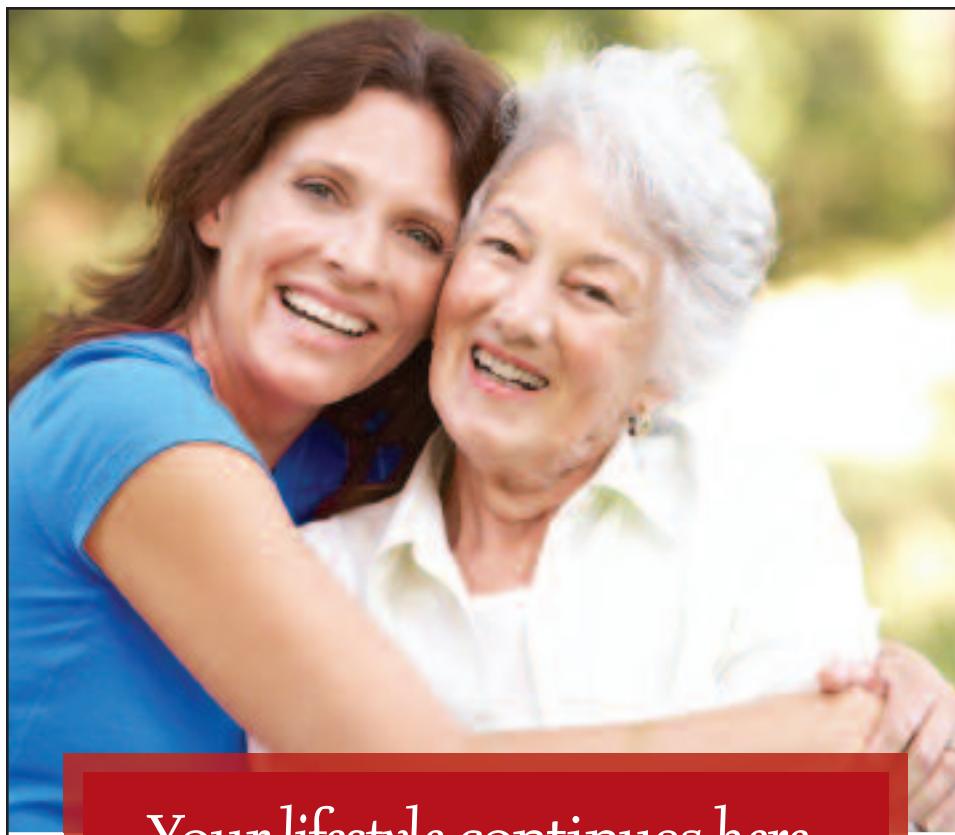
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COMMUNITY



Children can frost and decorate their own holiday cookies during Holiday Festival At The Falls on Dec. 11 at Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort (submitted photo).

Holiday Festivals

Tree Lighting Celebration

5:30-7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 5

Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort
7677 N. 16th St.

Celebrate the season with a holiday tree lighting ceremony and celebration. The resort's mountainside holiday tree will be lit with festive glowing lights during the celebration, featuring holiday carolers, complimentary hot cocoa and cookies, a visit from Mrs. Claus, and a variety of activities and crafts for all ages. The celebration is free and open to the public.

village of cabanas featuring holiday-themed activities, treats and more. Just for the little ones, there will be a special cabana where children can share their holiday wishes with, and get a photo with, Santa Claus. Kids' cookie decorating, putt-putt golf and other arts and crafts will also be offered. To enter the event, guests are asked to bring two cans of food or make a donation of \$5 per person to benefit the St. Mary's Food Bank.

Phoenix Festival of the Arts

Dec. 12-14

Margaret T. Hance Park
1202 N. 3rd St.
602-254-3100

Presented by Phoenix Center for the Arts, this festival brings together Valley artists, musicians, writers, students, and scholars to create a weekend-long cultural celebration sure to excite the whole family. Enjoy a variety of entertainers, purchase holiday gifts, snack on a variety of enticing edibles from food trucks, participate in hands-on art activities, and more. Admission is free. Hours are 12-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday. Visit www.phoenixfestivalofthearts.org.

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11 a.m.-5 p.m. Dec. 20-21

Enchanted Island, Encanto Park
1202 W. Encanto Blvd.

602-254-1200

Ride the Holiday Train to a snow-filled Enchanted Island (4 tickets or unlimited ride wristbands apply). Play **please see HOLIDAY on page 20**

Holiday Festival At The Falls

5-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11

Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort,
Falls Water Village
1111 N. 7th St.
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Enjoy holiday sweets and warm hot chocolate while strolling through a festive



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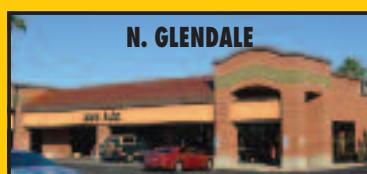
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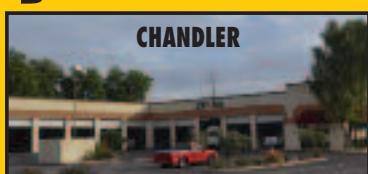
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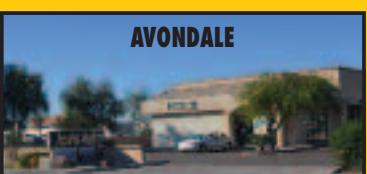
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Sunday, December 28 at 9:30 am

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1212 E Glendale Ave
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www.oslconline.org

COMMUNITY

HOLIDAY continued from page 18

in tons of fresh snow and try out some sled riding. Visit with Santa Claus for free at the North Pole and enjoy a free cup of hot cocoa and free candy canes. Regular admission charges apply. Visit www.enchantedisland.com.

Winter Solstice Celebrations

4 p.m.-? Sunday, Dec. 21

Irish Cultural Center
1106 N. Central Ave.
www.azirish.org

Solstice, now as in ancient times, marks the longest night of the year, whereby the sun is at its lowest elevation in the sky. The return of the sun from its most southern position on the horizon has always been of great ceremonial significance, in addition to serving as a celestial clock. At the IRC, the occasion is marked by music and poetry, an on-site parade, bonfire, and other traditions. Admission is \$5. This year, the customary special Irish dinner (\$10) will be served starting at 6 p.m. Dinner reservations are required; call 602-258-0109. Outside ceremonies start 5 p.m. Inside the Great Hall there will be traditional Irish Music following. Also, hot dogs, apple cider and hot chocolate will be available for purchase.

Holidays at the Heard

Dec. 26-31

Heard Museum
2301 N. Central Ave.

Exciting performances and artist demonstrations introduce visitors to tra-

ditional and contemporary American Indian music, dance and art throughout the week. Included in general museum admission. Hours are 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. except Sunday, which is 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit www.heard.org/ holidays.

Holiday Hike and Sing-Along

The North Mountain Visitor Center, 12950 N. 7th St., hosts volunteer-led, family-friendly hikes for all ages toward the base of Shaw Butte, beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13.

Some of the hikes will go only as far as the dam north of Shaw Butte and for young children only as far as the wetland area west of the Visitor Center. One hike will go to the top of Shaw Butte. Volunteers from the center will lead the hikes. Register at the front desk earlier in the week or by 8:15 a.m. the morning of; hikes leave from the Exhibit Hall.

Afterward, gather in the Exhibit Hall at 10 a.m. and enjoy a sing-along of favorite holiday tunes, featuring the musical talents of Eric Laubach with harmonica player Linda Bedore.

Other activities will include a surprise visit from Santa Claus for the little hikers at the center starting at 11 a.m.

For more information about the center or future events, visit www.northmountainvisitorcenter.org.

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HOME & GARDEN



Tiera Allen of Recycled City stands inside a community garden that the company has created at 4th Avenue and Lincoln Street using compost produced by Recycled City. Allen points out that the okra is just about ready to harvest (photo by Amy Pantea).

Turning food scraps into food for garden

By Amy Pantea

"It stinks." "It's not worth it." "I don't really garden." These are a few common reactions when the subject of composting is discussed.

However, composting has evolved and become more convenient—and popular—in recent years. Phoenix is no exception.

The composting process itself occurs naturally just by dead vegetation falling to the ground and decomposing back into the soil. Practicing this same natural decomposition process in the home allows organic matter to transform into compost, reducing landfill waste and recycling rich nutrients back into the soil.

"There is more bio-diversity in your soil. More active microbes. More concentrated nutrients," explains Tiera Allen, co-owner of Recycled City, a new and unique pick-up composting service in the Valley. "Basically, it's just healthier and your plants are going to get more of what they need."

Allen said composting is a great way to revitalize Phoenix soil for growing local, fresh produce.

"People are always talking about wanting local, organic food, but you just can't have that without the right soil," Allen points out. "If you don't take care of your soil, you won't receive the results."

Composting at home can be as sim-

ple as you make it, or at least to homeowner Elizabeth Alonzo it is. She and her husband live in the Woodlea/Melrose neighborhood and have been composting for almost two years, without needing to change much of their normal daily routine.

Under her sink in a small steel container with holes and a filter attached to the lid. Alonzo stores her food waste and dumps it into her outdoor compost bin weekly.

In her backyard is a new style of compost bin—a turn-style, so turning and aerating the food waste becomes as simple as turning the handle a few times, and watering only when necessary.

Alonzo's advice: choose the right bin. There are a variety of styles on the market now. Some require manual turning, others make it easier to do so. The size will also factor in the smell that compost may produce.

The city of Phoenix also sells composting buckets for \$5, which were made from old curbside trash containers. The city's composting webpage, located off of the Public Works page, also gives an easy to follow run-down on how to begin composting.

Depending on how much work and effort you want to put in, composting can be as involved or uninvolved as you want. And there are pick-up composting services such as Recycled City, which offer close to no involvement necessary.

Recycled City (www.recycledcity.com) only began charging for its

please see COMPOSTING on page 22

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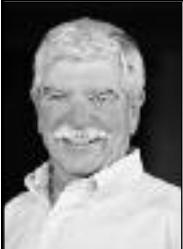
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HOME & GARDEN

COMPOSTING continued from page 21

composting service in January, and as it reaches its business anniversary, it continues to expand both with residential and commercial clients. For residents who don't want compost in return and just choose to compost to reduce landfill waste, Recycled City uses whatever leftover compost to grow fresh produce for the neighboring low-income community.

"We just want to replenish the soil and build a local food economy," Allen says.

Multiple restaurants around the Valley use Recycled City's services to compost within the workplace, including Gallo Blanco, located inside the boutique Clarendon Hotel. The restaurant owners incorporated composting into their restaurant just two months ago.

Denise Robson, co-owner of Gallo Blanco, says, "We realized just how much waste is in the restaurant industry, and how much food waste gets thrown out from the prep side of it to the post-consumer side of it."

The restaurant requires multiple pick-ups on a weekly basis of the bright blue, 55-gallon compost bin stationed just outside the restaurant. The owners are now looking to begin composting at Otro Cafe, a sister restaurant of Gallo Blanco located on 7th Street just north of Bethany Home Road.

Even for those who don't garden, compost reduces landfill waste and can help create enriched soil even in this dry desert.

As Alonzo says, "When it's so easy, you have to ask yourself, 'Why not?'"

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

Only evening home tour returns Dec. 6-7

The F.Q. Story neighborhood celebrates its 30th Annual Home Tour Dec. 6-7. The Story neighborhood is near the heart of downtown Phoenix where homes dating from the 1920s boast architectural styles such as English Tudor, bungalow, pueblo and Spanish revival, to name a few.

The F.Q. Story historic district was founded in 1982 to protect the heritage of the neighborhood. The tour will feature several homes available for viewing inside and out.

An evening tour including luminar-

ias and strolling carolers, takes place 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, while the Sunday tour hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday also includes gift, craft and food booths. A street trolley will be available for those with limited mobility on Sunday.

Cost is \$15, with a \$1 discount offered with the donation of a can of food or non-perishable food item. Tickets are available online and each day of the tour at 9th Avenue and Culver, which is three blocks south of McDowell Road. For more information, call 602-258-9282 or visit <http://hometour.fqstory.org>.

Farm fresh produce livens up fall dishes

Fall and winter are the ripening season for some of Arizona's wonderful locally grown crops, like squash, peppers, carrots and sweet corn.

Want to know where to find them fresh out of the garden? Check out some of the Farmers Markets located in convenient proximity to the North Central community by visiting our website at www.northcentralnews.net and selecting the "Farmers Markets" tab on the Home & Garden page.

Among the list you'll notice a brand-new market, which opened Nov. 1 in the North Central community. The Uptown Farmers Market will take place 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays at North Phoenix Baptist Church, located at the southeast corner of Central Avenue and Bethany Home Road.

This is a food-based farmers market and gathering place dedicated to inspiring and educating home cooks through Arizona local produce, handmade foods and handcrafted goods.

Look for popular food vendors, including: Taste of Paradise, McClendon's Select, John's Amish Country, Chile Acres Farm, Horny Toad Farms, Arizona Microgreens, Noble Bread, Superstition Farm Dairy, Udder Delights, Mediterra Bakehouse, Great Harvest Bread Co, Cake Pops by Sal, Holistic Earth Remedies, Jan's Baked Goods, Absolutely Delightful Honey, Chef Sergio's Catering Kitchen, Sierra Bonita Catering, Classico Italiano, DeCio Pasta, Don's Cutting Edge and more.

Learn more about this new market at www.uptownmarketaz.com. Send questions to bo@uptownmarketaz.com or jen@uptownmarketaz.com.

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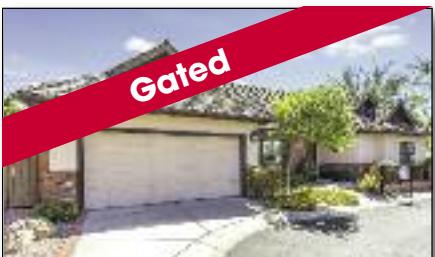
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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



Joe LaBrie, left, and his dad, Jim LaBrie, set out some of Bug & Weed Mart's popular fall items, including rodent traps. The fall season in the Valley sees a typical increase in both rodents and termites for homeowners (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

Business helps you do it yourself

By Kelcie Johnson

He had a pest problem, but could not afford a quality exterminator while supporting his growing family. He tried the department store, but the products didn't eradicate the vermin. The problem continued. He knew there had to be a better way ... and that is how the business started.

Now, 35 years later, Jim LaBrie owns Bug & Weed Mart, a company that offers professional-grade products, equipment and guidance for do-it-yourself pest control.

"We developed a protocol that people can follow easily and do the exact same thing as a good professional," LaBrie said. "We give each customer a prescription, in a sense. We write a specific formula of stuff they need based on their size of home or whatever their problem is so they have the exact dosage to use written right on the product. If they follow the written instructions, the results are pretty predictable."

With temperatures in the 70s, fall is the perfect time to get out in the yard and eliminate and prevent weeds and pests yourself, and save some money by not using a service company. LaBrie said the most important thing to do is remove debris and clutter, including piles of leaves or wood and citrus. Clutter and objects that don't move serve as shelter for pests while citrus is a food source, particularly for rodents.

"Some of the things that people can

do that doesn't cost anything but a little energy, is to keep the back yard and front yard and the shrubbery and everything cleaned up," LaBrie explained.

In the fall the most common pests are termites and rodents like rats or mice. Bug & Weed Mart sells products to eliminate these pests. The most popular technique to exterminate rats are traps where the enclosed box holds a deadly trick inside, like poison or electricity, making it lethal for the rat, but child and pet safe.

Termites also are active in the fall and winter. They thrive near a water source, like a leaky faucet or hose valve. To prevent termite activity a two-year granule can be applied at the base of the house.

There are fewer weeds to pluck in the fall and winter. The trick is to apply a special chemical called pre-emergent during these months to prevent seeds from germinating later.

In all, pest control and weed control requires a few things: quality products, knowledge and consistency. Bug & Weed Mart provides customers with products and knowledge.

"I attribute our success to our personal service and the education we provide our customers, delivering affordable DIY solutions," LaBrie said. "We show people how to do this stuff and, by golly, it works."

This unique service and guided approach to pest control supported Bug & Weed Mart through the recession. In fact, there are now five Valley locations, including on Central Avenue just north

please see DIY on page 26



GREATER PHOENIX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE **IMPACT AWARDS** CELEBRATING BUSINESS

2014 Business of the Year
IMPACT Recipients:
Risas Dental and Braces (left)
Sundt Construction, Inc. (right)



2015 IMPACT AWARD **NOMINATIONS**

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phoenixchamber.com/IMPACT

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 9, 2015

Questions? 602.495.2182 or events@phoenixchamber.com

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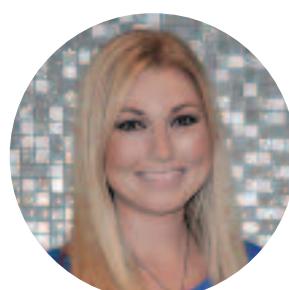
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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

DIY continued from page 24

of Camelback Road. That location opened in 2010. LaBrie or his son, Joe, can often be found manning the counter at the Central Phoenix shop. Bug & Weed Mart is open Monday through Saturday. For more information, call 602-265-0046 or visit www.bugweedmart.com.

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

**Nominate a business
for IMPACT Award**

The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce (GPCC) seeks nominations for its 2015 IMPACT Awards, which honor the accomplishments of outstanding Valley businesses and the positive impact they've made on the Greater Phoenix business community.

Nominations—which can come from anyone in the community—are open from now until Jan. 9, 2015, and can be submitted through the Chamber's website at www.phoenixchamber.com/impact.

Two businesses—one with fewer than 250 employees and one with 250 or more employees—will be honored in each of the four categories: Community Champion, Economic Driver, Entrepreneurial Excellence and Response to Adversity.

For more information, contact Janelle Tassart at 602-495-6480 or jtassart@phoenixchamber.com.

**White Dove marks
10th anniversary**

The White Dove Thrift Shoppe marks its 10th anniversary with a storewide sale and celebration, set for 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 at the

store, located at 5035 N. 7th Ave.

Shoppers will find the lowest prices of the year on all merchandise in the store and warehouse, including artwork, furniture, clothing, jewelry, books, housewares and more. The event also includes raffle prizes, drawings for White Dove gift certificates and light refreshments.

The White Dove is operated by not-for-profit Hospice of the Valley. Sale proceeds fund many specialized and innovative patient-care programs and help lower the cost of charity care. The Phoenix White Dove is open 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Donations of gently used items are always welcome, and volunteers always are needed. To volunteer, donate and see the latest merchandise finds, visit www.whitedovethrift.org.

**Funkhouser joins
GPEC committee**

North Central resident David E. Funkhouser III, a partner in the Phoenix office of the law firm Quarles & Brady LLP, has been appointed to the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) Ambassador Steering Committee, which is focused on ensuring GPEC's Ambassador Program aligns with the organization's key objectives and mission.

Members of the Steering Committee advise on the strategic direction of GPEC's Ambassador Program, serve as a sounding board for emerging initiatives and support implementation of programs, and design activities relevant to and in support of GPEC's mission.

In related news, Diane Haller, also a partner in the firm's Phoenix office, has been named among the top real estate attorneys in Arizona by People to Know in Commercial Real Estate (PTK).

PTK is an annual resource guide

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that profiles the most influential and successful commercial real estate professionals—including attorneys, developers, investors, engineers, contractors, architects, brokers, city planners, and economic developers—across the state.

Glow joins team at Florence Crittenton

Lisa Glow has been named Chief Development Officer at Florence Crittenton, a Phoenix-area nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster the recovery of girls and young women who have endured periods of physical and/or sexual victimization, chronic neglect, homelessness, poverty, teen pregnancy, drug abuse and/or mental instability.

Glow brings more than two decades of experience to Florence Crittenton, including executive-level work with non-profit organizations, foundations, government entities and political campaigns. A resident of Arizona for most of her life, Glow has served on a number of nonprofit boards, as well as volunteering as a youth mentor.

Glow was director of former Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano's Office for Children, Youth and Families.

Two added to Insurance team

Lowell Williams has joined Hester Heitel and Associates as a producer. Lowell has many years' experience as a direct writer agent. He will specialize in writing property management and HOA insurance contracts.

Erick Johnson, CPCU, ARM & AFSB, joined the agency on Oct. 1. Johnson was Dell Webb's risk manager and then became a top producer at Wells Fargo Insurance for many years. He has vast experience and knowledge in home

building insurance coverage as well as shopping centers and large HOAs.

Hester Heitel and Associates is located at 6122 N. 7th St. For more information, call 602-230-7726 or visit www.hesterheitel.com.

Levine makes Hall of Fame

Susan Levine, executive director of Hospice of the Valley, was inducted into the Hall of Fame for the National Association of Home Care and Hospice (NAHC) in October during the association's annual convention in Phoenix.

Levine joined not-for-profit Hospice of the Valley in 1994 as executive director. The agency is the state's largest hospice, caring each year for nearly 17,000 patients and families in central Arizona.

She is prominent in shaping national health care policy as a member of Harvard Medical School's Health Care Policy Advisory Council; NAHC's advisory board; and an advisory group to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission in addition to various local boards and professional groups.

NMBA presents its Holiday Open House

North Mountain Business Alliance (NMBA) hosts its Holiday Open House 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 4 at Ping Golf World Headquarters, 2200 W. Peoria Ave. Attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to the Desert Mission Food Bank.

Learn more about NMBA by coming to the open house, or visiting www.nmballiance.org.

RSVP for the Holiday Open House to KenK@ping.com or LaurieM@ping.com. A picture ID is required for building access.

Check out the best kept secret in the North Central area ... The North Mountain Visitor Center!

The NMVC offers rooms for rent, tours, outdoor picnic areas and trail maps.

The Exhibit Hall offers lots of displays and is a great place to relax, listen to music, and savor the scenery.

Plus, the Gift Shoppe has a 50% discount table for the smart shopper!



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The Center is open seven days a week from 8 A.M. to 1 P.M. in the fall and winter.



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**FOR MORE INFORMATION: PHOENIXCOUNTRYCLUB.COM
602.636.9823 or mgrass@phoenixcountryclub.com**



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Phoenix Business Journal

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Broker/Agent Magazine
**Realtor of the Year
in 2003**

Winner
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2005, 2006,
2007, 2008,
2009 and 2010**

Winner
Diamond Club
1999 - 2002

Kathy Wright
Licensed Assistant
100% CLUB
Award Winner
2001 - 2010
Diamond Award Winner
2012, 2013

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Current Listings/Escrows

(North Central homes in bold)

7152 N. 23rd Pl.	4891 SF	4BR/4.5BA	\$1,750,000
6033 N. 20th St.	.....	5342 SF	.....	5BR/6BA	.....	\$1,600,000
34 E. Cactus Wren	.....	5198 SF	.....	5BR/4.5BA	.....	\$1,250,000
2211 E. Camelback Rd. #302	.....	3000 SF	.....	3BR/3BA	.....	\$ 999,000
7602 N Central Ave.	.....	4064 SF	.....	4BR/3.5BA	.....	\$ 895,000
14838 N. 15th Ave.	.....	3968 SF	.....	4BR/3.5BA	.....	\$ 869,900
41 W. Marlette	.....	5640 SF	.....	6BR/5.5BA	.....	\$ 795,000
6854 N. Hillside Dr. Lot 52	.....	View lot	.....		.....	\$ 795,000
1117 W. Tuckey Ln.	.....	3253 SF	.....	4BR/2.5BA	.....	\$ 789,900
405 E. Montebello Ave.	.....	3399 SF	.....	4BR/3.5BA	.....	\$ 749,900
6833 N. Central Ave.	.....	3411 SF	.....	4BR/3.75BA	.....	\$ 699,000
5506 N. 2nd St.	.....	3069 SF	.....	4BR/3BA	.....	\$ 669,900
8420 N. 15th Ave.	.....	3069 SF	.....	4BR/3BA	.....	\$ 649,900
5302 N. 6th St.	.....	2789 SF	.....	4BR/3BA	.....	\$ 649,000
9139 N. 82nd St.	.....	2820 SF	.....	4BR/2BA	.....	\$ 629,000
331 E. Tuckey Ln.	.....	2975 SF	.....	4BR/3BA	.....	\$ 599,000
3845 E. Glenrosa Ave.	.....	2278 SF	.....	4BR/2BA	.....	\$ 484,900
7916 N. 16th Dr.	.....	2483 SF	.....	3BR/3.5BA	.....	\$ 499,000
7919 N. 16th Dr.	.....	2483 SF	.....	3BR/3.5BA	.....	\$ 469,900
7210 N. 17th Ave.	.....	2770 SF	.....	4BR/3BA	.....	\$ 460,000
2524 E. Vogel Ave.	.....	2449 SF	.....	2BR/2BA	.....	\$ 459,000
77 E. Missouri Ave #54	.....	3184 SF	.....	4BR/3BA	.....	\$ 445,000
5838 N. 16th Pl.	.....	2250 SF	.....	4BR/3BA	.....	\$ 429,000
7533 N. 8th St.	.....	2728 SF	.....	5BR/3BA	.....	\$ 425,000
6317 N. 10th Pl.	.....	2894 SF	.....	4BR/3BA	.....	\$ 419,000
77 E. Missouri Ave. #5	.....	3700 SF	.....	3BR/2.5BA	.....	\$ 400,000
1124 W. Orangewood Ave.	.....	2353 SF	.....	5BR/3BA	.....	\$ 399,000
2735 S. Kenneth Pl.	.....	2451 SF	.....	4BR/2.5BA	.....	\$ 389,000
9409 N. 17th Way	.....	2447 SF	.....	3BR/2BA	.....	\$ 374,900
9433 N. 19th St.	.....	3209 SF	.....	4BR/3.5BA	.....	\$ 355,000
8007 N 5th St.	.....	1601 SF	.....	3BR/2BA	.....	\$ 325,000
1133 E. Gardenia Dr.	.....	1916 SF	.....	3BR/2BA	.....	\$ 275,000
5508 N 5th Ln.	.....	2338 SF	.....	3BR/2BA	.....	\$ 274,000
514 W. Townley	.....	1568 SF	.....	3BR/2BA	.....	\$ 258,000
540 W. Georgia Ave.	.....	1004 SF	.....	2BR/1.5BA	.....	\$ 249,000
3017 W. Glendale Ave.	.....	Land	.....		.....	\$ 245,000
7222 N. 16th Dr.	.....	1489 SF	.....	3BR/2BA	.....	\$ 220,000
13257 N. 38th St.	.....	1384 SF	.....	4BR/2BA	.....	\$ 173,500
14007 N. 38th St.	.....	1280 SF	.....	3BR/2BA	.....	\$ 169,900
207 W. Clarendon #15F	1542 SF	2BR/2BA	\$ 164,900
1145 E. Orangewood Ave. Lot 1	Vacant land	\$ 100,000

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2014 Sales

6500 E. Cheney Dr.	\$1,825,000
5752 N. 2nd Ave.	\$1,325,000
5401 E. Calle Del Media	\$1,200,000
2109 E. Kaler Dr.	\$1,050,000
5726 N. Central Ave.	\$1,050,000

2011 Sales

12234 S. Honahlee	\$3,250,000
79 Biltmore Estates	\$2,750,000
7110 N. Central Ave.	\$1,800,000
5000 E. Desert Park	\$1,185,000
13297 E. Summit	\$1,050,000

2008 Sales

6920 E. Hummingbird	\$3,500,000
815 E. Orangewood	\$1,925,000
48 W. Foothill	\$1,125,000
4307 E. North Ln.	\$1,100,000
27 W. Montebello	\$1,032,000
37 W. Sierra Vista	\$1,000,000

2013 Sales

5225 N. 23rd St.	\$1,914,320
3920 E. Mountain View	\$1,670,000
3958 E. Northridge Cr.	\$1,350,000
4438 N. 47th Pl.	\$1,065,000

2010 Sales

307 W. Lamar	\$1,375,000
5902 E. Lafayette	\$1,350,000
8344 N. Sendero Tres	\$1,050,000
5600 N. 4TH St.	\$1,000,000

2007 Sales

30 Biltmore Estate	\$5,860,000
7110 N. Central Ave.	\$3,200,000
4117 E. Fanfol	\$1,615,000
4954 E. Lafayette	\$1,380,000
36 E. State	\$1,300,000
324 W. Rose Ln.	\$1,100,000
6428 N. 30th Pl.	\$1,050,000
15730 E. Eagle Crest	\$1,030,000
7716 N. 1st Ave.	\$1,000,000
146 E. Claremont St.	\$1,000,000

2012 Sales

5302 N. 47th St.	\$2,600,000
450 E. Ocotillo Rd.	\$1,350,000
6014 E. Jenan Dr.	\$1,248,000
6622 N. 31ST Pl.	\$1,170,000
5856 N. Echo Canyon	\$1,125,000

2009 Sales

5320 E. Palo Verde	\$2,600,000
6518 E. BAR Z	\$2,225,000
7315 N. 4TH Dr.	\$1,380,000
5580 E. Royal Palm	\$1,300,000
4743 N. 54th St.	\$1,249,000
5015 E. Doubletree	\$1,225,000
5302 E. Mercer Ln.	\$1,000,000

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6500 E. Cheney Dr.	\$1,825,000	5844 N. 2nd Ave.	\$ 725,000	8702 N. 11th Ave.	\$ 535,000	1338 W. Hayward Ave.	\$ 425,000	6610 N. 11th Pl.	\$ 365,000	701 W. Northview	\$ 273,000	3646 N. 38th St. B.	\$ 185,000
5752 N. 2nd Ave.	\$1,325,000	5640 N. 3rd Ave.	\$ 722,000	1147 W. Northview Ave.	\$ 520,000	5426 E. Campo Bello	\$ 425,000	1042 E. Myrtle Ave.	\$ 365,000	114 W. Interlachen Dr.	\$ 270,000	6533 N. Maryland Cr.	\$ 185,000
5401 E. Calle Del Medio	\$1,200,500	6502 N. 1st Pl.	\$ 720,000	7212 N. 15th Ave.	\$ 520,000	8205 N. 3rd Ave.	\$ 424,000	15 E. Laurie Ln.	\$ 364,403	1732 E. Belmont Ave.	\$ 265,000	1401 W. Glenrose	\$ 185,000
5726 N. Central Ave.	\$1,095,000	804 W. Claremont	\$ 690,131	141 E. Kaler Dr.	\$ 520,000	5426 E. Campo Bello	\$ 421,750	6807 N. 4th Pl.	\$ 364,000	1533 E. Montebello Ave.	\$ 259,100	323 E. Camelback Rd. #207	\$ 180,000
2109 E. Kaler Dr.	\$1,050,000	813 E. Claremont St.	\$ 688,582	3039 E. Stella Ln.	\$ 517,500	10 E. Laurie Ln.	\$ 419,900	11434 E. Stanton Cr.	\$ 350,000	740 E. Belmont Ave.	\$ 255,000	6803 N. 17th St.	\$ 180,000
6611 N. Central Ave.	\$ 930,000	727 W. Seldon Ln.	\$ 670,000	340 E. Rose Ln.	\$ 500,000	34 E. Canterbury Ct.	\$ 415,000	3115 E. Sells Dr.	\$ 347,000	9712 N. 3rd Dr.	\$ 249,000	1613 W. Verde Ln.	\$ 179,900
7151 N. 3rd St.	\$ 882,000	714 W. Claremont St.	\$ 665,000	515 E. Georgia Ave.	\$ 499,000	903 W. Claremont St.	\$ 405,000	322 E. Pierson	\$ 343,750	6612 N. 7th Dr.	\$ 241,500	6223 N. 21st Dr.	\$ 160,000
3500 E. Lincoln Dr. #19	\$ 850,000	723 W. Claremont St.	\$ 660,000	2121 E. Palo Verde	\$ 492,000	22 E. Laurie Ln.	\$ 400,000	7 W. Cheryl Ln.	\$ 340,000	113 E. Glenn Dr.	\$ 234,500	7003 N. 11th Way	\$ 158,000
8534 N. 16th Pl.	\$ 840,000	812 W. Claremont	\$ 640,000	5048 N. 25th Pl.	\$ 480,000	6119 N. 5th Pl.	\$ 392,500	5303 N. 6th St.	\$ 337,000	4149 N. 42nd St.	\$ 230,000	10617 N. 37th Ave.	\$ 153,000
322 W. Berridge	\$ 825,000	22 E. Marshall Ave.	\$ 625,000	1652 E. Rose Ln.	\$ 475,000	23 E. Laurie Ln.	\$ 395,027	1202 N. Stella Ln.	\$ 333,000	7718 N. 15th Ave.	\$ 225,000	3221 N. 37th St. #26	\$ 142,000
6411 N. 27th St.	\$ 812,000	808 W. Calremont St.	\$ 625,000	7825 N. 16th Ln.	\$ 475,000	14 E. Laurie Ln.	\$ 382,739	4240 N. 9th Ave.	\$ 330,000	18410 N. 12th Pl.	\$ 215,000	8755 W. Ocotillo Rd.	\$ 142,000
6111 N. 2nd Pl.	\$ 810,000	718 W. Claremont St.	\$ 625,000	77 E. Missouri #19	\$ 470,000	4702 E. Beverly Ln.	\$ 380,000	77 E. Missouri Ave. #44	\$ 329,500	819 E. Audrey Ln.	\$ 214,900	1009 E. Weldon Ave.	\$ 140,000
2 E. Northview Ave.	\$ 799,000	719 W. Claremont St.	\$ 580,000	7801 N. 6th St.	\$ 469,000	702 E. Northview Ave.	\$ 376,000	5559 N. 16th St. #122	\$ 327,500	610 E. Royal Palm Sq.	\$ 212,500	5704 E. Aire Libre #1067	\$ 133,000
722 W. Claremont	\$ 784,710	710 W. Claremont	\$ 574,461	719 E. Circle Rd.	\$ 466,500	2838 E. Campbell	\$ 375,000	1301 E. Tuckey Ln.	\$ 327,000	1902 E. Whittton Ave.	\$ 209,000	7009 N. 14th Dr.	\$ 130,000
5102 N. 22nd St.	\$ 755,000	302 E. Marlette Ave.	\$ 566,200	6135 N. 16th Pl.	\$ 453,000	5107 E. Juniper	\$ 375,000	7001 N. 2nd St.	\$ 325,000	702 E. State Ave.	\$ 205,000	1927 E. 8th St.	\$ 126,500
7219 N. 1st Pl.	\$ 755,000	8434 N. 7th Ave.	\$ 550,000	502 E. Kaler	\$ 450,000	740 W. Tuckey Ln.	\$ 371,000	7045 N. 15th Ave.	\$ 325,000	10616 N. 10th Dr.	\$ 205,000	2422 E. Villa Maria	\$ 125,000
150 E. Wagon Wheel	\$ 749,500	4800 S. Nevada	\$ 547,500	6125 N. 5th Pl.	\$ 440,000	7144 N. 15th Pl.	\$ 370,000	6330 N. 7th Ave.	\$ 320,000	2605 E. Dragoon	\$ 201,000	1722 W. Cochise Dr.	\$ 101,500
816 W. Claremont St.	\$ 747,412	711 W. Claremont	\$ 540,000	50 E. Maryland	\$ 430,000	19 E. Laurie Ln.	\$ 370,000	5513 W. Windsor	\$ 315,000	7231 N. 6th Way	\$ 200,000	724 E. Devonshire #203	\$ 82,500
809 W. Claremont St.	\$ 739,582	7212 N. 15th Ave.	\$ 539,500	18 E. Laurie Ln.	\$ 435,239	6807 N. 4th Pl.	\$ 370,000	44 E. Vernon	\$ 315,000	6012 N. 4th Pl.	\$ 197,500	2023 N. 22nd Pl.	\$ 85,000
		810 E. Harmont	\$ 539,500	1545 E. Frier	\$ 435,000	6 E. Laurie Ln.	\$ 368,400	202 W. Turney Ave.	\$ 295,000	1629 E. Montebello Ave.	\$ 190,000		

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Health Briefs

Free seminars navigate healthcare marketplace

Abrazo Health last month launched its Path to Health education series aimed at helping Arizonans get affordable insurance coverage.

The new enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act's Health Insurance Marketplace, a one-stop shop to more affordable and accessible health care, is Nov. 15-Feb. 15.

Abrazo Health will hold free Path to Health seminars through February to present information about the potential benefits to individuals and families regarding the Affordable Care Act, Health Insurance Marketplace and Medicaid Expansion.

In Arizona, about 8 out of 10 people qualified for financial assistance and cost reductions for 2014 coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. The Marketplace's health insurance plans offer lower costs on

out-of-pocket expenses and premiums based on income while private plans do not. Federal tax credits, which can be used to lower premiums, are available to those who qualify.

Abrazo Health's Path to Health sessions include:

- 6-7 p.m. Dec. 2 and Jan. 27 at the Arizona Heart Hospital, 1930 E. Thomas Road
- 6-7 p.m. Dec. 6 and Feb. 3 at Phoenix Baptist Hospital, 2000 W. Bethany Home Road.

To register for a Path to Health seminar, call 866-893-8446. Individual appointments also can be made with Certified Application Counselors to receive help in signing up for health insurance on the Health Insurance Marketplace. Coverage can begin Jan. 1 if enrollment is completed by Dec. 15.

Take a free barre class on Dec. 11

Athleta Scottsdale is joining BellaBody Pilates for a fun, free, 55-minute barre class from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11. BellaBody Barre is fun, fast-paced full body toning at the barre that combines the best of ballet and pilates to help create a long, lean and healthy body.

All attendees will receive discount coupons, there will be raffle prizes and other surprises, too. Get a jump on your holiday calorie burning and celebrate the holiday season with a healthier you. Reservations are a must as this event will fill up fast.

BellaBody Pilates is located at 13825 N. 7th St., Suite E. For more information, call 602-318-5068 or visit www.bellabodypilates.com.

Using science to perform better yoga

Yoga therapist and exercise scientist, Jules Mitchell, M.S., ERYT 500, is coming to Kinesphere Center for Movement Education on Saturday, Dec. 6 to share her knowledge of biomechanics. Usually, her workshops are offered to professional yoga instructors. However, in this upcoming workshop, she is inviting all movers to come experience her skill-based approach toward moving better.

Mitchell's two-part session begins at 10 a.m. with Stretching: Myth vs. Fact,

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a 2.5-hour discussion that highlights some of the most recent research on stretching, which changes the way we understand the mechanics and adaptive processes of both muscle and connective tissues. Cost is \$45.

Following at 2 p.m. is "Variation Nation: An Evidence-Based Approach to Asana," a 2-hour yoga class that applies the concepts presented in the first session. Cost is \$35. Explore the use of props and bend classical alignment rules for optimal tissue loading and motor control. Mitchell cues her classes based on science-evidence that challenges the anecdotal instruction pervasive in typical yoga classes.

Session 1 is not a pre-requisite, but highly recommended, as time for Q&A during practice will be limited. CEC and CEC hours are available. Sign up for both and save \$10.

The workshop is held at Kinesphere Center for Movement Education, 711 E. Missouri Ave., Suite 180. To learn more, call 602-532-3111 or visit www.kcme-az.com.

Desert Rose adds new chiropractor

Desert Rose Chiropractic recently welcomed Andrea Kurelowech, D.C. to its staff. She is a graduate of Logan University in St. Louis, Mo., with additional certifications in Applied Kinesiology, Kinesiotaping, and Internal Health with Enzyme Nutrition.

She grew up in Glendale and is excited to return back to Arizona to serve the community.

With Kurelowech on staff, Desert Rose Chiropractic now offers a variety of new chiropractic techniques that involve both instrument and manual adjusting as well as soft tissue work, Kinesiotaping, and nutritional Enzyme Therapy to promote healing from the inside-out as well as the outside-in.

With chiropractic care coupled with the unique approach of Enzyme Nutrition, a person can eliminate two of the three contributors to stress. Signs that a person is in need of dietary modification includes; stiff, sore joints, headache, insomnia, anxiety, irritability, gas, bloating, constipation, diarrhea, lack of energy, inability to concentrate, and a variety of other symptoms.

Desert Rose Chiropractic, 532 E. Maryland Ave., Ste. D, has expanded its hours to five days a week. The office is open Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m.

to 6 p.m. and Fridays by appointment. Stop by or call 602-264-6300 to set up a free consultation for Enzyme Nutrition Therapy or chiropractic care.

North Mountain in Best Hospitals list

John C. Lincoln North Mountain Hospital is included in the 2014-15 Best Regional Hospitals rankings released by U.S. News & World Report.

The hospital was recognized as high performing in geriatrics, nephrology, orthopedics, pulmonology, urology, gastroenterology and gastrointestinal (GI) surgery.

"We are honored by this recognition, which reflects our commitment to delivering high-quality, compassionate care and a satisfying healthcare experience for our patients and their families," said Maggi Griffin, CEO of North Mountain Hospital.

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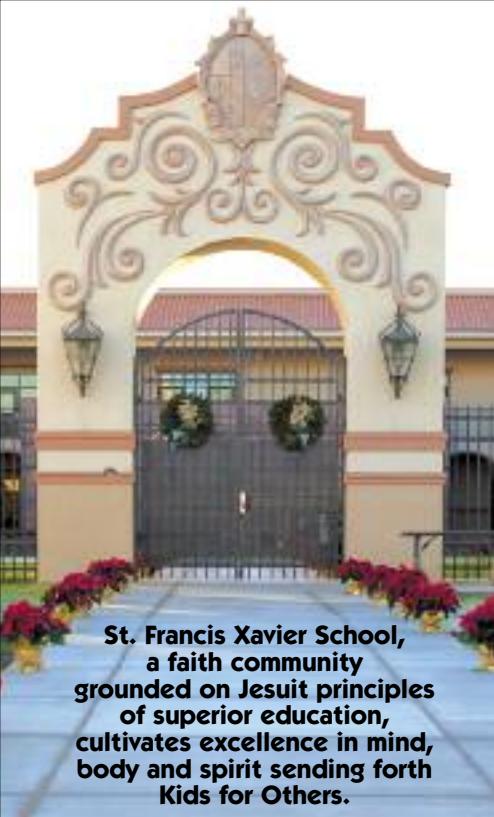
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Scanning old photos from the Madison Elementary School District for upload to a new website are Digital Media students from Madison Highland Prep, clockwise from left: Kenny Juarez, Viviana Reyes and Crystal Grier (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

Prep students work on archives for Madison

Students at Madison Highland Prep are working on an innovative historical project aimed at documenting 125 years of school district history.

Kerry Clark, principal of Madison Highland Prep, said the Madison Education Foundation sought his help in creating a website to showcase and maintain the foundation's large collection of photos, news articles, documents and memorabilia, which date back to the late 1800s.

"They wanted to digitally preserve the district's long history in a way that could be seen by people locally," Clark explained.

The digital archives project stems from the unique partnership between Madison Highland Prep, a college prep charter high school which opened this year on the campus of Madison Park Middle School, and Madison Elementary School District, a public school district established in 1890. The new science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) high school shares a similar curriculum with Park's STEM focus as well.

The collection, which was previously stored at the Madison Elementary School District office, will become the basis for a Tumblr website containing hundreds of images and video interviews of Madison alumni, faculty and staff.

"No one has organized the Madison district's history before," Clark said.

"Imagine if we can bring about first-hand experiences—stories that have never been told—and make these stories about the rich history."

Joe Kovesdy English and Digital Media instructor, is overseeing the project for Madison Highland Prep. His students first conducted inventory for several weeks on the numerous scrapbooks, photo books, framed photos and more. Those items were cataloged with dates, names, and topics/subjects. Students then began to scan the photos to ready them to upload to the site. Kovesdy estimates there are more than 1,000 photos that need to be scanned. He predicts that part alone could take a year to complete.

In the future, students will conduct oral interviews with alumni using digital cameras provided by the Madison School District.

Kovesdy's goal with the project is to teach his students "digital literacy." "I want them to be able to upload, crop and edit images, as well as record and upload videos, design and manage a website, and more," he explains. He believes the project, still in its infancy, will eventually cross other curriculum studies, including History and Social Studies.

But it's not just students who benefit from participation in this unique partnership. Leslie Feldman, director of the Madison Education Foundation, said the project will offer thousands of alumni, faculty and staff throughout the Valley an opportunity to access images and interviews.

SCHOOL DAYS

"I think the overarching goal of the documentation project is to give Madison alumni a forum for which they can explore Madison's history and also peruse photos from their time as Madison students," Feldman explains. "With additional oral history components, the website will allow the community the opportunity to share their memories and bring some of these pictures and documents to life."

Clark said inspiration for the project comes from the Northern Arizona University Colorado Plateau Archives, a collection of thousands of photographs, diaries, letters, interviews, films and maps. Clark, who contributed interviews for the digital archives while completing doctoral work at Northern Arizona University, said Madison Highland Prep's project offers students a way to accurately record oral history while developing digital literacy.

Gary Emanuel, associate professor in educational leadership at Northern Arizona University, said historical projects like the one at Madison Highland Prep teach students research methods and provide schools a pathway to donors.

For more information about Madison Highland Prep's programs and enrollment information, visit www.MadisonHighlandPrep.org.

Nominate a teacher for recognition

Fulton Homes' "Teacher of the Week" program continues to recognize Phoenix Valley schoolteachers. Throughout the school year the program showcases teachers who inspire their students.

Both students and parents can

nominate their favorite educator each week for that teacher's chance to win \$300 from Fulton Homes and other prizes. The chosen educator will be announced each Friday from 6:20 to 7:20 a.m. on KNIX's Ben and Matt in the Morning Show, heard at 102.5 FM. Students and parents can nominate their favorite teacher each week by visiting www.knixcountry.com, typing in the keyword "teacher," and submitting a brief form describing why their teacher deserves the title.

In May a "Teacher of the Year" will be chosen from the list of weekly winners, and they will be presented with a \$1,000 check at a ceremony honoring all the weekly winners. Based on the entries submitted, a panel of judges will select a winner and the teacher will be announced at the May banquet.

School Briefs MADISON ELEMENTARY

Daffe named a top art teacher

Madison Park Art Teacher Sara Daffe has been selected by the Arizona Art Teachers Education Association (AAEA) as the Outstanding Middle School Art Teacher for 2014. Daffe is in her second year at Madison Park. In addition to being an outstanding art teacher, Daffe also is the school's athletic director.

After a childhood in Wisconsin, Daffe attended college at Northern Illinois University where she studied art education. She moved to the Valley in 2006.

Daffe received her award at the AAEA banquet and awards ceremony set for the night of Friday, Nov. 7 at the Double Tree by Hilton located in Tempe.

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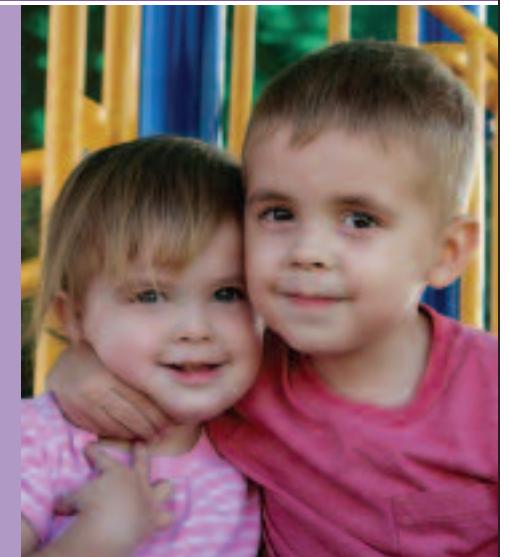
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SCHOOL DAYS**Cross country teams
repeat conference titles**

The Madison Meadows girls Cross Country team won First Place at the Valley Athletic Conference Meet, and the boys team took Second Place—for the second year in a row. David Lederman has coached the team for the past eight years.

The top seven runners from each of 16 schools in the Valley Athletic Conference were able to compete at the Championship meet. The meet was held at Trevor Browne High School on Oct. 28.

Six of the seven girls on the Meadows team finished in the top 20 runners at the championship meet. In the final meet, the top runners were seventh grader Kristen Keeble who finished first overall; eighth graders Kayla Eldred, Sarah Jacobs, Adela Diaz, and Emma Friese; sixth grader Ainsley Orozco; and eighth grader Zoe Friese.

Four of the seven Meadows boys also finished in the top 20 runners at the championship meet. The top runners were: eighth grader Archie Garcia; seventh grader Spencer Cook; eighth



The Madison Meadows girls Cross Country team won First Place at the Valley Athletic Conference Meet, held at Trevor Browne High School on Oct. 28 (submitted photo).

grader John Schantz; sixth grader Zach Hamrich; and seventh graders Calvin Graef and Eli Schacher.

The team trains on the Murphy Bridle Path along Central Avenue on weekday mornings before school starting in mid-August. More than 40 students ran with the team and competed in seven cross-country meets leading up to the Championship Meet.

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SCHOOL DAYS**Student artist gets ribbon at state fair**

Mallory Buisker, a seventh grade student at Madison Meadows, took a First Place blue ribbon at the Arizona State Fair for her charcoal drawing. Her charcoal of a squirrel is not her first win at the State Fair. Last year Mallory received a First Place blue ribbon in the sculpture category.

**OSBORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Darius Rucker visits Longview School**

While in Phoenix for a concert at the Arizona State Fair, Darius Rucker visited Longview School and brought partners who presented 204 Longview students with vouchers for free eyeglasses.

Former lead singer of the popular group Hootie and the Blowfish, Rucker is a successful country singer and ambassador for Transitions adaptive lenses. Each year Rucker and his publicist identify a high-needs school for free vision screening and vouchers for

free glasses with Transitions lenses for every child in need.

Industry partner Visionworks conducted the screening and distributed vouchers. Rucker shared how vision has impacted his ability to read and play music and answered students' questions about his career and college experience. He was so impressed by Longview's college-bound commitment, he offered to buy college T-shirts for all fourth graders and outfit another classroom with shirts from his alma mater, South Carolina University.

Stephanie Kilgore from Changing Hands Bookstore connected Osborn with Rucker and his generous partners including Bess the Book Bus, who presented each Longview student with a brand-new book.

Osborn students get musical at museum

Encanto Elementary School Music teacher Emily Flathers worked hard to secure a \$9,200 grant from the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix. The grant, and Flathers' extra work, enabled

please see MUSEUM on page 36

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SCHOOL DAYS

Luis Valencia's Dual Language students at Encanto Elementary made their own musical instruments as part of the World of Musical Journeys School Tour Program, in conjunction with Phoenix's Musical Instrument Museum (submitted photo).

MUSEUM continued from page 35

800 Osborn students to visit MIM as part of the World of Musical Journeys School Tour Program.

Encanto's third graders enjoyed the Musical Instrument Museum, and Luis Valencia's Dual Language students applied what they learned to make instruments of their own.

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Scribner honored as a school 'Champion'

PUHSD Superintendent Kent Scribner has been named the 2014 Out-of-School Time Champion by the Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence (AzCASE). He received the award at the annual Statewide Out-of-School Time Awards of Excellence Luncheon on Nov. 15 at the Phoenix Convention Center.

"During his career, Dr. Scribner has set the bar very high in terms of quality education both during the school day and in every out-of-school time situation and venue," said AzCASE Executive Director Melanie McClintock.

"His input and perspectives on many Arizona out-of-school time initiatives and outreach have been invaluable and have helped inform not only strategic direction but the success of those efforts."



Kent Scribner

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Scribner has been superintendent of the largest high school district in Arizona, serving more than 27,000 students in grades 9 through 12, since 2008. During his tenure, Scribner has led several successful educational initiatives. Among the most notable are Phoenix Union becoming the only district in Arizona to offer International Baccalaureate programs at two schools and the first-ever Montessori High School program in Arizona established

SCHOOL DAYS

at Camelback High School in 2012.

Before joining Phoenix Union, Scribner was the superintendent of the Isaac Elementary School District from 2003 to 2008. In 2008, he received the Excellence in Educational Leadership Award from the University Council of Educational Administration, and in 2011, President Barack Obama appointed Scribner to the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics.

Students fill school food bank on Halloween

Camelback High Marketing students once again conducted their annual Halloween Food Drive in the neighborhoods surrounding the school in an effort to stock the school's food bank.

On the Tuesday before Halloween, 55 students delivered 5,000 bags to homes, and then 100 students picked them up Halloween night after having dinner at the school, 4612 N. 28th St. The collection last year garnered \$15,000 in food and other supplies, and filled the food bank, where it was able to serve over 70 families a week. This is the 23rd year of the drive, which is organized by marketing teacher Julia Bourdo.

"The generosity of our community year after year has been such a blessing," Bourdo said.

North High hosts M.E.Ch.A. event

North High School hosted its fifth annual M.E.Ch.A. "Ixkalli" Youth Conference on Oct. 24, with 350 students and community guests attending. M.E.Ch.A. (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan, or Chicano Student Movement of Aztlan) is a student organization with roots in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Part of the day's highlights included an Aztec Opening Ceremony, a car show, cultural/historical workshops, and live Andean music during the lunch break.

Guest speakers included Superintendent Kent Scribner; Tupac Enrique Acosta (Nahuacalli), from the Embassy of Indigenous Peoples; Sean Arce, co-founder and former director of Tucson Unified School District's Mexican American Studies Department; and José Maldonado, professor, Los Angeles Mission College.

The local conference is held annually in the fall and hosted on a rotating basis by PUHSD schools or a neighbor-

boring Valley school. With college and high school chapters nationwide, including most PUHSD schools, M.E.Ch.A. is celebrating its 45-year anniversary this year.

Metro Tech captures student Emmy award

Metro Tech students were winners at the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Rocky Mountain Southwest Emmy Awards, in the Student Production category.

Juan Olivas, Edwin Eliosa, Daniel Gomez, Mireya Ontiveros, Alex Avalos and Martin Lopez won the High School Public Affairs/Community Service category for their video entry in the Phoenix Police Department's "Too Young to Drink" public service announcement contest, held last spring.

These awards are intended to be an incentive for the continued pursuit of excellence by those studying media and journalism and to focus public attention on outstanding cultural, educational, technological, entertainment, news and informational achievements by undergraduate college and/or high school students.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

WESD receives environmental award

The Washington Elementary School District recently received Arizona Forward's Crescordia Award for Environmental Education/Communication (Public Sector) for its energy conservation efforts.

In 2008, WESD took on an ambitious energy conservation goal: reduce energy use by 40 percent over five years and save energy dollars. The district exceeded its goals, reducing electric energy use by 15 percent in the first 12 months and a total of 26 percent in 24 months.

Since that time, a number of energy-conscious and sustainability projects have been completed, including: geothermal projects at Desert View and Lookout Mountain Elementary Schools and solar installations at six schools: Desert Foothills, Moon Mountain, Mountain View, Roadrunner, Sunnyslope and Sunburst. WESD was the first school district in Arizona to be named an Energy Star Leader.



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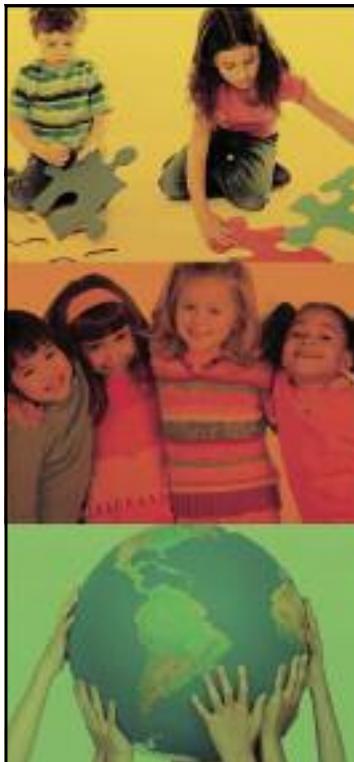
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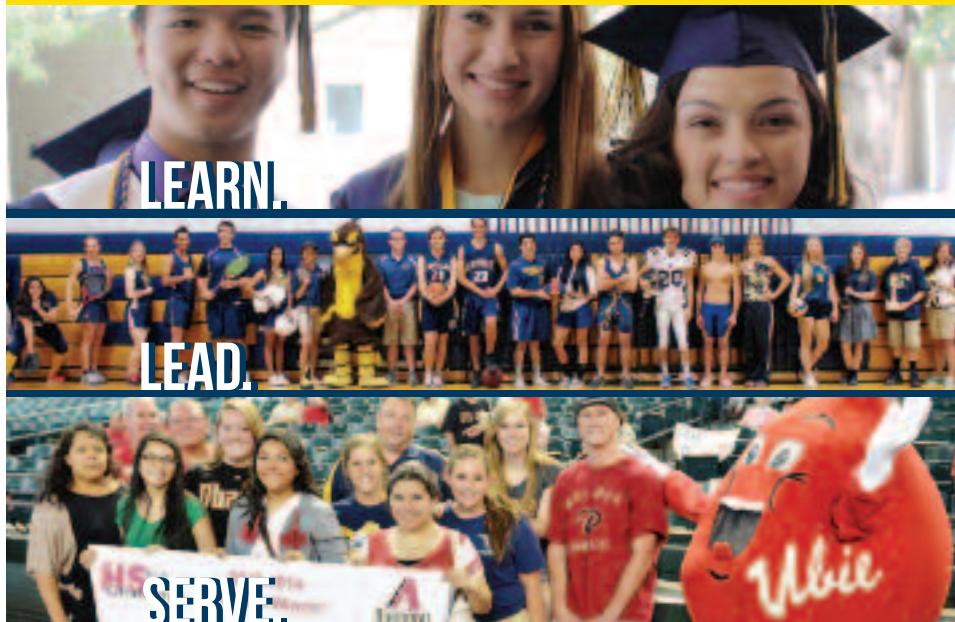


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ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

PLACEMENT EXAM

Saturdays, January 10 and 24, 2015 \$50 testing fee
Testing begins at 8:00 AM sign-in by 7:45 AM

ADMISSION APPLICATION DEADLINE

Friday, January 30, 2015 by 4:00 PM

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS DEADLINE

April 15, 2015

Please contact Mary Ann Burns at maburns@bourgadecatholic.org with questions and to request additional information.

SCHOOL DAYS



Elizabeth Gingerich



Tina Leon

PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS PCDS launches THRIVE campaign

Phoenix Country Day School on Oct. 17 held its 47th Annual Blue and Gold event—an evening highlighted by Middle and Upper School sporting events, an alumni homecoming, and a stunning fireworks display over our Paradise Valley campus.

The event also marked the public launch of the most ambitious comprehensive campaign in the School's history, "THRIVE." In their letter to the community, President of the PCDS Board of Trustees Jahm Najafi and Headmaster Andrew Rodin wrote, "We chose the name THRIVE because that's the vision that our PCDS founders had more than a half-century ago when they were contemplating a new school ... A thriving campus today provides each of our students with the most extraordinary resources—first-rate teachers and coaches, engaging course offerings, unique extra-curricular opportunities, and dynamic facilities."

In its goal of helping all students



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The tax credit donation form can be found online at www.wesdschools.org. Tax credit donations may be made in person at any WESD school through December 19, 2014 or may be postmarked by December 31, 2014.



SCHOOL DAYS

THRIVE, the campaign has very specific goals, including a new Indoor Athletic Complex, a new Administration Building, expanded Endowment Funds, and continued renovations to Upper School science labs and arts studios. PCDS has set a \$20 million goal for this campaign.

Since 1961, PCDS has been the Valley's only nonprofit, private, independent day school for students in grades pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade on a single 40-acre campus. More information on the THRIVE campaign may be found at www.pcds.org/THRIVE.

Students complete service projects

Students from Phoenix Christian Preparatory School, 1751 W. Indian School Road, will again invite students from Maurice C. Cash, an elementary school on the west side, to a Christmas party.

The festivities will take place on Thursday, Dec. 11 on the P.C. Prep campus, where students plan a fun afternoon and evening of games, dinner, crafts, a visit by Santa and the



With a little help from Santa Claus, students from Phoenix Christian Preparatory School will once again make the season brighter for children from Maurice C. Cash Elementary School with a special Christmas party, set for Dec. 11 (submitted photo).

reading of the Christmas story. Students chosen by the staff of M.C. Cash School have previously written their gift requests on angels hung on a tree in the P.C. cafeteria. P.C. students go out of their way to fulfill the wish lists of the M.C. Cash Elementary School students.

Phoenix Christian students also spent
please see PROJECTS on page 40



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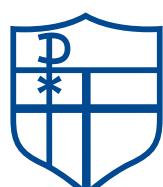
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~ John 1:6-9 (Paraphrased NRSV)

To learn about The True Light, Join us December 24 for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 pm

Central United Methodist Church
1875 N Central Ave, Phx AZ 85004
www.centralumc.com
602-258-8048



SCHOOL DAYS

PROJECTS continued from page 39

Nov. 19 doing community service, sending teams to various locations such as St. Vincent de Paul, St. Mary's Food Bank, Hospice of the Valley, Sojourners, the Dream Center, Phoenix Rescue Mission and other places to do various jobs. They packed food boxes, cleaned, sorted, moved furniture, served lunch and completed other chores.

For more information about the school, visit www.phoenixchristian.org.

Brophy students help build community garden

Students from Brophy College Preparatory teamed up with a local nonprofit to open a community garden at their housing facility for families impacted by homelessness and domestic violence.

The grand opening took place on Oct. 18 at Homeward Bound's Thunderbird Family Village, located at Colter and 23rd Avenue.

Marsha Johnson-Phillips and Trisha Cornell, children's services specialists for Homeward Bound, decided to turn



Volunteers from Brophy College Preparatory enjoy a well-deserved breakfast after helping to plant a new community garden at Homeward Bound's Thunderbird Family Village, at Colter and 23rd Avenue (submitted photo).

a vacant plot of land in the agency's apartment complex into a community garden to help educate residents on how they can grow their own produce.

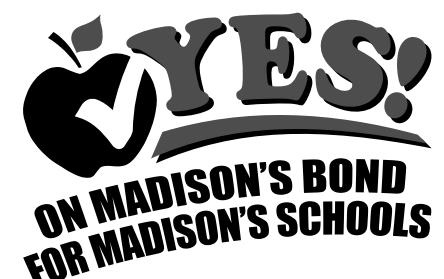
During the groundbreaking, volunteers including Brophy Prep students assembled raised garden beds, filled them with soil, installed the irrigation system, and planted seeds. The garden launch with four plots, totaling 175 square feet

of fresh fruit, vegetables, and herbs. All produce harvested from the garden will be provided to the Homeward Bound families transitioning from homelessness to independent living.

Other participating organizations included the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Service, and SmartRoots Global.

Thank You!

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SCHOOL DAYS**Student's film screened at Film Festival in NYC**

North Central resident and Brophy College Prep Junior, Jake Lee travelled to New York Oct. 24-26, where his documentary, "Fighters Move Forward", was chosen for screening at the All-American High School Film Festival.

The AAHSFF is the premiere showcase for the top high school filmmakers worldwide, and this year it received more than 1,200 entries from 15 countries and 48 US states. Lee's was among 51 documentaries chosen for screening, and was selected as one of the five finalists.

"Fighters Move Forward" chronicles the struggles and successes of Central Phoenix's Chavez Boxing Foundation, founded by local boxer, Pete Chavez, to keep at-risk youth off the street through boxing and mentoring.

Xavier named a 'Best STEM School'

Xavier College Preparatory was one of only three Valley finalists selected by the Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee for "Best STEM School" honors in the 2014 STEM Superhero Awards. These awards highlight excellence and innovation in science, technology, engineering, and math teaching throughout the state.

Phoenix-based mining company Freeport-McMoRan, which invests more than \$1.5 million annually in STEM education throughout the Southwest, sponsored a Nov. 12 awards ceremony at the Arizona Science Center that will honor the finalists and announce the winners. Prizes ranged from Super Bowl memorabilia to monetary donations. Xavier was not one of the winners selected at the Nov. 12 event.

CCS and CCA partner for outreach to Haiti

Christ Church School (CCS) students and families spent the month of October donating clothing, accessories, and toys to help the children at the Zanmi Beni orphanage in Cange, Haiti. This area of Haiti was devastated in the earthquake of January 2010, and many children were left without families.

Zanmi Beni, meaning "blessed friend" in Creole, is home to more than 50 children, many of whom have physical and emotional needs. These children are provided with a permanent home, nutritional and medical necessities, and ongoing emotional, educa-



North Central resident and budding filmmaker Jake Lee, with All-American High School Film Festival co-founder, filmmaker Andrew Jenks (submitted photo).

tional, and psychosocial support so they can flourish and grow to have safe and happy lives.

The CCS collection for Zanmi Beni included church clothes, casual clothes, age-appropriate toys and even suitcases to transport the items to Haiti. The donations will travel to the orphanage in March with a team of ambassadors from Christ Church of the Ascension (CCA). This is the second year in a row the church and school have worked together to make a difference in the lives of the children of Zanmi Beni. Visit www.zbchildren.org to learn more.

Tennis coach named to All-Star team

Xavier College Preparatory tennis coach Laurie Martin has been named to the United States Tennis Association's 2014 No-Cut Coach All-Star Team.

One of only 14 high school coaches in the nation to receive this honor, Martin implements a "no-cut" policy which welcomes all interested Xavier students to join the school's tennis team. Her fall roster currently totals 60 players.

In the spring, she will continue to coach a Xavier varsity team that has won three consecutive Division I state championship titles under her leadership.

UU Co-Op Preschool hosts Sing and Feast

Each year the UU Co-Op Preschool, 4027 E. Lincoln Drive, holds its Sing and Feast event, and this *please see EVENT on page 42*

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SCHOOL DAYS**EVENT continued from page 41**

year for the first time members of the community are invited to join in the holiday fun.

The first half of the program features a big family sing-along where children get to share some of the fun seasonal songs they have learned with their families and friends. Once the singing is finished and everyone has worked up an appetite, the event moves onto the feasting part of the day. Families all bring a favorite dish to share.

This year, Sing and Feast will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 19. Singing will start in the sanctuary and the meal will follow in the Johnson Room. The event is free of charge.

For more information about the preschool, visit www.UUEEC.org.

SFX students compete in Spelling Bee

St. Francis Xavier School students participated in their school Spelling Bee on Nov. 6. There were 22 students that qualified to participate in the school-wide contest.

Fifth-grade student Kate Brink won the Spelling Bee, and eighth-grade student Bianca Dapon placed second.

The final word that Kate spelled to win was “quintessential.” Kate will compete in the Catholic School Diocesan Competition during Catholic Schools Week in January.

St. Francis Xavier School is a Jesuit Elementary School, serving preschool through eighth grade, located at 4715 N. Central Ave. For more information, call 602-266-5364 or visit www.school.sfxphx.org.

Midtown student wins poster contest

Annually, Valley Metro invites third graders from around the Valley to contribute to the yearly calendar. Abby Rojeski, a third grader from Midtown Primary School, was one of the winners of this year’s contest. Her art will be displayed in the upcoming 2015 Valley Metro’s Transit Education Calendar. The 2015 theme is “Valley Metro’s Cool Transit STUFF.”

It’s the not first time a Midtown student’s art has been featured in the annual calendar. Last year, Deidre Tsaiip won. Her “Do the Ride Thing with Valley Metro” artwork was on the May 2014 page.

Mandy Mitchell, third grade



Kim Cavnar, principal of St. Francis Xavier School, congratulates her Spelling Bee winners: Kate Brink, left, fifth grade, who came in First, and Bianca Dapon, eighth grade, who came in second (submitted photo).

teacher at Midtown, offers her students the opportunity and the encouragement to enter the contest each year. Principal Judy White personally drove Abby’s submission to the Valley Metro offices to make the deadline.

Abby will be honored at an all-school assembly and presented with an award package from Valley Metro, including copies of the 2015 calendar for the school, on Dec. 18.

Xavier golfer gets nod from JGAA

The Junior Golf Association of Arizona has named Xavier College Preparatory junior Mikayla Fitzpatrick its 2014 Player of the Year. Mikayla is a North Central resident.

Earlier this month, Fitzpatrick and her teammates won Xavier’s fourth-consecutive Division 1 state title by shooting a record-breaking 567, finishing nine under par and winning the Division 1 state championship tournament by 35 strokes. In the individual state tournament, Fitzpatrick tied Xavier sophomore Emily Maher for fourth place honors.

Xavier senior Madison Kerley won the individual state title, and junior Alisa Snyder finished third.



Mikayla Fitzpatrick



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ACA has affected Medicare plans

Seniors and other Medicare beneficiaries should be aware that this year—perhaps more than any year in the past—is an important one to pay attention to their Medicare coverage options during the Open Enrollment Period, which ends Dec. 7. And that's because of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The ACA brings with it notable changes to Medicare, from more preventive care benefits to changes in costs, and beneficiaries need to understand both the upside and downside of such changes to best evaluate their options during the Open Enrollment Period.

Adding to the challenge of this year's Medicare changes is broader confusion around the ACA itself. United Healthcare conducted a survey in 2013 called the Medicare Made Clear Index and found that 76 percent of people ages 60 and older say they have a "fair" or "poor" understanding of the ACA.

Thus, the Open Enrollment Period becomes an even more critical time of year because, for most Medicare beneficiaries, it's their one annual opportunity to make changes to their Medicare coverage. After all, Medicare is not one-size-fits-all, and a lot can change in a year in terms of health status and budget as well as the plans that are available.

Medicare beneficiaries in the Phoenix area and their caregivers should take advantage of this annual opportunity before the enrollment deadline on Dec. 7 to make sure they have a Medicare plan that will meet

their needs for the year ahead. People can shop for and compare plans in their area at www.Medicare.gov.

Kids & Family

Sign your tots up for piano lessons

Music Works Academy, 302 W. Bethany Home Road, starts a new 15-week semester of Prelude Piano Classes for Young Musicians the week of Jan. 19. Registration is now open for these new classes.

Piano Preschool classes are offered to children ages 3-5 to gently prepare little fingers for piano lessons, to develop listening skills with solfège singing, and to promote hand coordination and rhythm with drumming.

Piano lessons also are offered to Kindergarten and first-grade students in small group classes. For more information and registration forms, visit <http://musicworksacademy.com/young-children/prelude/>.

Music Works also offers lessons in piano, voice, beginning strings and guitar for all ages and levels. E-mail Carolyn@musicworksacademy.com or call the studio at 602-264-5188 for further information.

Families enjoy holiday tale with puppets

The Great Arizona Puppet Theatre is working its magic this holiday season with a special production of "The Night Before Christmas," Dec. 10-28 at the theater, 302 W. Latham St.

The show is a joyful celebration of Christmas with stories, music, and an

Join us for a Live Performance by Arizona's own Dickens Carolers

Thursday, December 11, at 6 p.m.

Enjoy a nostalgic walk through traditional carols of the 18th Century through popular favorites of today.

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GENERATIONS

amazing array of puppets. It is suitable for all ages. Show times are 10 a.m. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children.

For more information, call 602-262-2050 or visit <http://azpuppets.org>.

Let your children play during breaks

During winter break, children ages 3 to 13 will get to enjoy gymnastics, dance, karate, sports, special guests, a bounce house, and much more at the Arizona Sunrays Gymnastics & Dance Center, 3110 E. Thunderbird Road.

There is a half-day winter camp option from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on weekdays, Dec. 22-26 and Dec. 29-31. The full-day camp option is from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$170 for the one-week half-day and \$250 for the one-week full-day. Individual half-day is \$45; individual full-day is \$60. Sibling discounts are available.

Extended care hours are available from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and 3 to 5:30 p.m. Billing is based on half-hour increments, at \$3.25 per half-hour.

Children can literally leap and jump into the new year by attending the Arizona Sunrays Gymnastics & Dance Center's special New Year's Eve party and sleepover, set for Dec. 31. This fun-filled Kids' Night Out will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. for ages 3 to 13.

There will be an exciting countdown to midnight with noise makers and hats. Cost for the Kids Night Out is \$25 per child with a \$5 off sibling discount. The additional sleepover option is for ages 5 to 13. Pick-up is on New Year's Day at 8:30 a.m. Cost for the sleepover is \$45 per child; \$40 for additional siblings. Advanced registration is required.

For more information or to register call 602-992-5790 or visit www.arizonasunrays.com.

Enjoy a free movie at Harkins Metrocenter

Families can enjoy a free movie at Harkins Metrocenter this month as part of the movie theater's annual Metrocenter Family Cinema Holiday Season. All movies start at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

The schedule of free movies includes: Big Hero 6 on Dec. 7; Penguins of Madagascar on Dec. 14; and Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb on Dec. 21. Seating is limited

and families must pre-register.

To reserve your seats, call Guest Services at 602-997-8991 or e-mail info@metrocentermall.com.

VYT holds youth auditions Dec. 8-9

Founded in 1989, Valley Youth Theatre (VYT) is a theater company dedicated to helping young people achieve their full potential through meaningful engagement, education, and excellence in the performing arts.

VYT will hold auditions for its spring production of "The Emperor's New Clothes" beginning at 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8 and Tuesday, Dec. 9, at the theater, 525 N. 1st St., located at the southeast corner of 1st and Fillmore in downtown Phoenix.

Typically, mainstage performers are 7 to 19 years old. A headshot or snapshot of the actor's face is required; resume requested. Also, bring an audition form, which can be downloaded from www.vyt.com.

For more information about auditions, e-mail StageManager@vyt.com or call 602-253-8188.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**'A Chorale Christmas'**

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7:30 p.m. Dec. 19 & 22
Brophy Chapel
4701 N. Central Ave.
602-253-2224

Rejoice and reflect in Arvo Pärt's "Magnificat Antiphons." There also will be Christmas carols and a sing-along at the end. Tickets are \$34 general admission, \$29 seniors and members of the military, and \$15 for students. All tickets are \$5 more at the door. Visit www.phoenixchorale.org.

Holiday Jazz Cabaret

Dec. 22-24
Hormel Black Box Theatre,
Phoenix Theatre
100 E. McDowell Road

Dennis Rowland, the Greg Warner Project and Diana Lee will combine talents for this holiday show, featuring jazzy versions of holiday classics. Tickets start at \$25 and can be purchased by calling 602-254-2151 or at: www.phoenixtheatre.com.

Editor's note: To see a complete list of A&E holiday events in the area, view this article online at www.northcentralnews.net.

A&E Briefs**Rosewood Rascals Marimba Ensemble and Friends**

7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19
Church of the Beatitudes
555 W. Glendale Ave.
623-933-7202

The Rosewood Rascals are a music group of seven members, many of them teachers, who specialize in percussion. The program also includes special guest artists. Admission is free and open to the public.

Screening of 'The Pharaoh's Daughter'

Bolshoi Ballet
2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21
Phoenix Art Museum,
Whiteman Hall
1625 N. Central Ave.

See the world's greatest ballet company in this live-captured performance. The plot loosely based on Théophile Gautier's novel, *Le Roman de la Momie*. Tickets are \$15 for museum members and students (with ID), and \$18 general admission. Run time: 2.5 hours. Advance ticket purchase highly recommended. Visit <http://www.phxart.org/events/all>.

'Murder for Two'

Arizona Theater Company
Dec. 31-Jan. 18, 2015
Herberger Theater
222 E. Monroe St.
602-256-6995

In this hilarious 90-minute musical tour-de-force, two performers play 13 roles—not to mention the piano—in a witty homage to old-fashioned murder mysteries. Tickets are \$41-\$72 plus fees. Visit www.arizonatheatre.org.

'Annapurna'

Actors Theatre
Jan. 16-Feb. 1, 2015
Helen K. Mason
Performing Arts Center
1333 E. Washington St.
602-888-0368

After 20 years apart, Emma tracks Ulysses to a trailer park in the middle of nowhere for a final reckoning. What unfolds is a visceral and profound meditation on love and loss with the simplest of theatrical elements: two people in one room. Ticket prices range from \$40 to \$46 for reserved seats, plus fees; student tickets are \$20. Visit www.actorstheatrepix.org.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Tim Perkins, owner of Urban Taco, chats with first-time customers Ryan King and Anna Medina, who are enjoying the happy hour specials, which include \$1.50 street tacos. If you're feeling adventurous, try the octopus (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

Café Chat Salsa flights mix it up at tasty Urban Taco

By Patty Talahongva

Tim Perkins has a home again. After working in the food and beverage industry for the last 15 years, he and his wife, Lisa, earlier this year opened Urban Taco in the spot formerly occupied by Europa Pastry Café, 6522 N. 16th St.

It's home because it is where his heart is—owning his own restaurant. His last restaurant was Timothy Michael's Hideaway near Thomas Road and 44th Street.

The couple had their eye on the 16th Street corridor, knowing they wanted to open a restaurant in the vibrant area. When they saw the location was available, they jumped at the opportunity. "I knew it was going to be a good spot," Tim says.

"There's great synergy between business and restaurants," Lisa adds.

The name for the place came from a few brainstorming sessions. The menu came from all the compliments and requests Tim had for his salsa recipes.

"If you include the guacamole, we have 10 different salsas," he says proudly. "I'm in there every morning, making the salsa. I like to cook."

Tim was born and raised in Phoenix and has been around strong Mexican food influences all of his life. While he loves the heat of chilies, none of his sal-

sas are so hot they'd make you want to reach for a glass of milk to cool down. Octopus and shrimp tacos are customer favorites. Burritos come either wrapped or in a bowl; if you still want the tortilla on the side, just let your server know when you place your order.

You can select flights of salsa to go with your tacos so you can sample several flavors at one meal. Street tacos come on 4-inch tortillas and you can customize your order. The Gourmet Tacos come on a 6-inch corn tortilla. "They're a little more dolled up," explains Lisa.

Her actual day job is an art dealer. At the restaurant she wears several hats—whatever needs to be done, including cleaning off tables, she admits with a laugh. But she also spends time in the kitchen, making all the desserts.

On Taco Tuesdays, you can get \$1.50 Street Tacos. Happy Hour is Monday through Saturday from 4 to 7 p.m. There are food specials and you get \$1 off bottled beer and cocktails. You can also enjoy glasses of wine and margaritas for just \$5. Tim also makes his own sweet and sour mix for the 'ritas.

Recently, Urban Taco launched "Madison Mondays." Every Monday from 5 to 9 p.m., the restaurant donates 10 percent of the night's sales to the Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs) at Madison No. 1 and Madison Heights.

"We have a daughter who goes to Madison No. 1," says Tim. "Over the years we noticed they kept sending home fliers for other promotions." So

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

when Tim and Lisa opened their own place in the neighborhood, they decided to dedicate one night a week to help the two groups' fundraising efforts.

You don't have to bring in any special flier or even have a child attending either school. If you just come in and dine on Mondays after 5 p.m., you will contribute to the schools. So far the benefit nights have been well received. The couple plans to keep this fundraising night going through the end of May 2015.

The eatery also apparently is a good place to visit with neighbors. "Nothing makes me happier than when I see one person jump up and say 'hi' to another person," Lisa says, adding, "We're becoming the neighborhood restaurant."

Tim agrees. "I want us to be known as a good neighborhood place and a good neighbor."

It's their second home, and they also have family working there. "I'm the chef, my brother works in the kitchen and our son works here part time," Tim says. A nephew also rounds out the team, along with several of their son's friends.

There's plenty of parking in the front and back. You can follow them on Facebook or Twitter or visit: www.urbantacos.net.

Dining Briefs**New patio, new selections at Switch**

Long-time Valley entrepreneurs Tom Jetland and Mark Dillon recently unveiled a new al fresco patio and seasonal menu items at Switch Restaurant & Wine Bar in Central Phoenix.

Designed by Dusty Brinsmade, owner of Brinsmade Designs, the remodeled patio features a fresh, crisp look; cool lime green and cobalt blue color palette; whimsical, hand-painted murals; and comfortable cushioned seating. The ambiance is fun, relaxed, inclusive and tailored for casual dining and lively conversation.

Chef Jason recently added several seasonal specialties to his innovative comfort fare. Buffalo Sauce Braised Cauliflower, Butternut Sage Risotto Croquettes and Short Ribs join his menu of artisan sandwiches, shared plates and starters, farm-fresh salads, custom-grind Angus burgers, and pasta, meat and seafood kitchen specialties.

Switch Restaurant & Wine Bar is located at 2603 N. Central Ave. and is

open from 11 a.m. to midnight daily. Visit www.switchofarizona.com or call 602-264-2295.

Local eateries join NFL to support food banks

Taste of the NFL (TNFL) has launched "Flavors of the Valley," a season-long restaurant competition that brings together 25 Valley restaurants in support of TNFL's annual Kick Hunger Challenge® fundraising campaign through Dec. 31.

Participating North Central restaurants include Blanco Tacos & Tequila and Zinburger at the Biltmore Fashion Park; Culinary Dropout; Half Moon Windy City Sports Grill; O.H.S.O.; Phoenix City Grille; and Scramble—a Breakfast Joint.

Each participating restaurant will feature a special dining promotion with 100 percent of promotion proceeds benefitting two local food banks: St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance in Phoenix and Vista del Camino Food Bank in Scottsdale.

Fans are encouraged to lend their support by visiting the participating

please see FOOD BANKS on page 50

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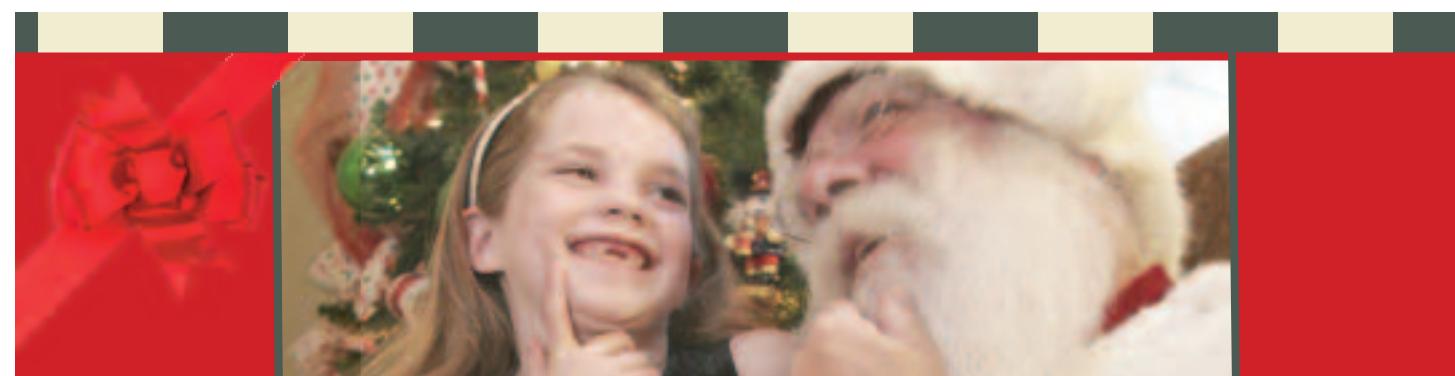
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

FOOD BANKS continued from page 49

Flavors of the Valley restaurants or donating to their favorite participating restaurant's fundraising page online at www.kickhungerchallenge.com.

Crudo hosts mystery dinners in 2015

It's just like murder mystery dinner theater, without all the hammy acting, rubbery chicken dishes and, you know, murder.

Hosted on the first Monday of each month starting at 6 p.m. on Oct. 6 with chef Jeff Kraus of Crepe Bar, Crudo's new Blank Space dinner series is a creative and no-holds-barred culinary throwdown. For \$75 per person (tax and gratuity not included), guests will receive a time, date and the name of the celebrity guest chef, and that's about it. Make sure to call 602-358-8666 to save your seat and pay in advance.

The rest, from the gourmet multi-course meal to the handcrafted cocktail or fine wine pairings, will be left to the discretion of Crudo's chef Cullen Campbell and his talented chef co-host.

It's the ultimate leap of faith for daring diners, but also a great way to get inside the head of your favorite local chefs, to see what they'd make if they had no rules or parameters or a set menu to follow. The lineup includes: Kelly Fletcher of The Revival on Jan. 5; Special Out of Town Guest on Feb. 2; Paul McCabe of T. Cook's on March 2; Josh Herbert of POSH Restaurant on April 6; Gio Osso of Virtu on May 4; and Kevin Binkley of Bink's Midtown on June 1.

Crudo is located at 3603 E. Indian School Road, on the back side of the Gaslight Square shopping center. For reservations, call 602-358-8666. For a full list of guest chefs through May 2015, visit www.facebook.com/crudoaz.

Enjoy 'Breakfast with Santa Claus'

The Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort's annual "Breakfast with Santa" series will be offered Dec. 13-14 and Dec. 20-24 at Rico's American Grill with seating times at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon. The restaurant is located at 7677 N. 16th St.

Guests will enjoy seasonal photos with Santa and holiday story time, while Mrs. Claus treats children to whimsical cookie decorating, gingerbread activity books, and a tasty breakfast buffet.

Pricing is \$29.95 for adults and \$18 for children ages 10 and under, inclusive of a complimentary photo with Santa. For more information or to make a reservation, call 602-997-5850.

Scramble offers gluten-free options

Scramble – A Breakfast Joint in Phoenix has introduced a new gluten-free friendly menu.

Scramble is using separate utensils to prevent cross-contamination, sourcing gluten-free friendly products, cooking on dedicated surfaces to prevent cross-contamination, designating GF items with special picks to prevent incorrect plate deliveries and educating and training staff to prevent cross-contamination.

While some current menu items are already gluten-free friendly, others require a \$2 bread substitution to ensure they're gluten-free friendly. They are notated on the menu with a GF+ symbol. Salads can be modified to be GF by eliminating gluten ingredients from the salad, and all of Scramble's salad dressings are now gluten-free friendly.

Scramble, 9832 N. 7th St., is open Monday through Sunday from 6 a.m.-2

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

p.m. For more information, call 602-374-2294 or visit www.azscramble.com.

TV show highlights local restaurants

Great Food Good Neighbors (GFGN), a new television show highlighting local restaurants and business in Arizona, has expanded from a 5-minute segment to a full half-hour show, airing at 11:30 a.m. Saturdays on Cox Cable Channel 13 or DIRECTV Local Channel 7.

Lisa Acquafredda and Tray Goodman are the hosts of GFGN, which takes you behind the scenes and into the kitchen to tell you why each location is known for its "great food." Learn about each restaurant's history, signature dishes, involvement in the community and more. Local hotspots scheduled for the show in December include The Vig—Uptown and The Duce.

Additionally, Kim Hanna, creator and host of Camping For Foodies, will bring viewers on a journey while cooking gourmet meals on-location at campsites throughout the Maricopa County Regional Park System.

All episodes of GFGN are produced

by Skyline Productions, a local television production company that was established in 1991. For more about the show or to view past episodes, visit the website at GFGNTV.com.

Power lunch in under an hour

In celebration of football season, Del Frisco's Grille added a Burgers & Brews deal to its menu: an ice-cold craft beer, double patty burger and your choice of crispy frites, all for \$17.50.

The combo features the Grille's Prime Cheeseburger—two patties made of a blend of USDA Prime short rib, brisket and chuck topped with cheese, lettuce, tomato, pickles and sloppy sauce on a brioche bun. Choose from original, sea salt and Parmesan or sweet potato frites. Pair it all with your choice of a draft beer pint.

The deal continues up through the big game on Feb. 1, 2015. Enjoy live NFL games playing on flat-screen TVs in the bar area, patio or upstairs deck. Del Frisco's Grille is located at The Camelback Esplanade, 2425 E. Camelback Road. Call 602-466-2890 or visit www.delfriscosgrille.com.



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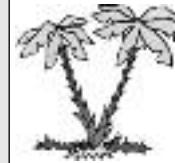
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