



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community

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www.northcentralnews.net

Agency program benefits AZ Trail

By Celina Jimenez

Pioneer Title Agency has partnered with the Arizona Trail Association to celebrate its 30th anniversary in an unconventional manner: an ongoing hike across the Arizona Trail.

In lieu of hosting an extravagant party at a grand resort, Pioneer Title has chosen to participate in "Take A Hike," a program that serves the dual purpose of providing a wellness challenge for employees and a fundraising opportunity for the Trail. The Arizona Trail is an 800-plus mile recreation trail from Mexico to Utah that connects mountain ranges, canyons, deserts, forests, wilderness areas, historic sites, trail systems, points of interest, and communities.

Tom Davis, vice president of Pioneer Title Agency's Phoenix Peak office located at 7310 N. 16th St., Suite 250, said the program has already built camaraderie within the office and raised significant

please see HIKE on page 4



Scott LoBaido, an artist from Staten Island, N.Y., is traveling around the country painting American flags on buildings belonging to veterans' groups such as the Joseph F. Monfort VFW Post 9400 in Sunnyslope, which received its flag art over the course of three days in March (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

Veterans honored with flag wall painting

By Teri Carnicelli

The previously nondescript building that houses the Joseph F. Monfort VFW Post 9400 at 804 E. Purdue Ave. in Sunnyslope is now proudly sporting a large waving flag on its southern wall, thanks to a donation from a New York artist.

Scott LoBaido of Staten Island, N.Y. has been an artist his entire adult life and has painted flags for more than 25 years on rooftops, walls, doors, vehicles and more. "We have this wonderful gift called the First Amendment that tells me I can paint what I want, where I want. Focusing on veterans' buildings is my own way of saying thank you to them for that gift of freedom."

LoBaido has pledged to paint an American flag on one veteran's post in every state in the contiguous United States. He started his journey on Feb. 20. The Sunnyslope VFW Post was number 11 completed, and the tenth VFW post. The other building belonged to an American Legion post.

He selects the posts by first searching online and looking at photos of their buildings to find one that has just the right wall. It has to be the right size, the right shape, and not have a lot of other things on it like marquee signs or big light fixtures, LoBaido explains.

Bob Hysko, Post Commander in Sunnyslope, says he received a phone call in January from one of LoBaido's associates. "I thought at first it was a solicitor; but, we were looking to have something like that done anyway, so instead of hanging up, I asked how much they would charge," he recalls. "When they said 'nothing,' I said we were definitely interested. At the time we were one of several buildings being considered in Arizona. Then they called back later and said we had been chosen."

Hysko expected the wall art to be a typical flat, stretch out flag, and was amazed to see the almost three-dimensional effect LoBaido was able to create using shadows in the white areas.

please see FLAG on page 6

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Eighteen-month-old Lea Faurel excitedly waits for Alex Gonzales of the Washington Activity Center to finish making her snow cone, while big sister Sydney, 5, patiently waits her turn and mom Lucile keeps a watchful eye. The family was enjoying the April 11 re-opening celebration of the Phoenix Tennis Center (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

Overhaul of tennis center is complete

The newly renovated Phoenix Tennis Center, 6330 N. 21st Ave., held its grand reopening on April 11, featuring free youth and adult tennis instruction, free use of ball machines, refreshments and giveaways.

Owned and operated by the city of Phoenix, crews completed a massive overhaul of the facility first opened in 1969, which was once one of the pre-

mier tennis tournament facilities in the Southwest. The renovation project included installation of 25 new state-of-the-art post tension courts, new lighting, shade canopies, fencing and landscaping as well as bleacher seating and new chilled drinking fountains.

Work began in October 2013 and wrapped up in January 2015. It was done in phases, so that some courts were available during construction. Valley Rain Construction oversaw the project.

please see TENNIS on page 6

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Congratulations to April's winner, Kara King, who won a \$100 Gift Certificate for Southern Rail!

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One name will be drawn from all submissions and awarded the prize indicated. Entry is limited to one per person. Winners will be notified by phone or email by a representative of North Central News. Winners agree to have their name and likeness published in the North Central News. All prizes are final - no substitutions allowed; prizes have no cash value. Visit www.northcentralnews.net for contest rules and additional details.

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COMMUNITY

HIKE continued from page 1

funds for the Trail, which also is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

“Everybody really dove into this. It’s built a sense of pride into the office in addition to adding a bit of internal competition,” Davis said, noting that employees have enjoyed seeing who has completed the hardest hikes and raised the most funds.

Davis added that hiking has been an interest of his for years, so this program was “right up my alley.”

Recently, a 17-person group made up of members from the Phoenix Peak office as well as friends and family hiked Passage 15 in the Tortilla Mountains located in Pinal County. Davis’ group hiked the north 17 miles, while another team from the Phoenix Peak office hike the south 11 miles, all on the same day.

In addition to collectively hiking, biking, running or riding all 817 miles of the trail, Pioneer’s statewide team, which consists of more than 375 people, is aspiring to raise at least \$30,000 for the trail this year. So far, the team has already completed 19 of the 43



Tom Davis, right, vice president of Pioneer Title Agency’s Phoenix Peak office, takes a break with fellow hiker Brian Eves of Barger Moulding on Passage 15 of the Arizona Trail. Their hike was part of the agency’s “Take a Hike” program (photo courtesy of Tom Davis).

unique passages and raised approximately \$15,000, Davis said.

“This project is one of many volunteer and fundraising activities happening in 2015 that our folks will be involved in,” says Keith Newlon, Pioneer’s president. “In fact, our team

has a statewide community relations program, Pioneer Title Agency in Action, which focuses on giving back both time and money to hundreds of local causes across Arizona.”

Although Newlon says that this particular program is intended to bene-

fit the Arizona Trail, he noted that “giving back at the hyper-local level is something each and every team member in all 55 branches is encouraged to do each day.”

Ultimately, the money raised for the Arizona Trail Association will contribute to the building, maintenance, protection, promotion and sustainability of the trail as a whole.

Interestingly enough, the concept for the Arizona Trail was born atop Coronado Peak, not far from Sierra Vista, where the Newlon family first founded Pioneer.

“One of our goals for this challenge is that more Arizonans will fall in love with the natural wonders that exist along the Arizona National Scenic Trail,” said Matthew Nelson, the Arizona Trail Association’s executive director. “Pioneer’s commitment to covering the entire length of the trail is admirable, and means that many individuals will get to experience some of the least-traveled areas in our state.”

Editor’s note: Celina Jimenez is a student at the ASU Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

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COMMUNITY

New field a dream for local youth

By Teri Carnicelli

The Tigers baseball teams at All Saints' Episcopal Day School finally have a home field for the first time in the 52-year history of the school.

With the dedication of the newly expanded campus at 6300 N. Central Ave. late last year, the athletics program welcomed a regulation-sized baseball field, where the All Saints' Tigers now have a home field advantage. The varsity boys baseball team held its first-ever home game on March 10 against Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) in Scottsdale. With spirits high and the fresh grass gleaming, the Tigers won their first home game, 16-1.

There also was a celebrity in attendance at the first home game. All Saints' welcomed back alumnus Ryan Castellani, who currently is pitching as a rookie for the Colorado Rockies. Before taking the field, Castellani gave a pep talk to the team.

"The ability to practice and play games on campus is an advantage we



Coach Mark Wagner and the All Saints' Episcopal Day School baseball team took to their brand-new regulation field, complete with digital scoreboard, on March 10 for their home opener game (submitted photo).

have never had before," said Tigers Coach Mark Wagner. "We were always off campus, and those locations varied. We often practiced at Washington Park or would take the team to the batting cages if a field was not available."

Now not only do the teams get to practice at home, they get more time on the field. "Our time can be spent practic-

ing rather than packing up our gear to go off campus," Wagner explains. "Plus, having home games gives us an advantage because now we know our field. We know the intricacies, and we are finally the home team. The chance to have the last at bat, if needed, is a great advantage."

Entering the C.Y.A.A. tournament in late April, the varsity team was 8-0.

Outside of baseball, the field is used for softball, P.E. classes, All Saints' Field Day, and other after-school sports. It is not available for other groups to rent or use at this time.

The "Envisioning the Future" capital campaign began in 2012 with the opportunity to acquire an uncompleted condominium project at 2nd Avenue and Maryland Lane. The condos were a defunct project of Zacher Homes, which bought the property in 2006 for a little over \$8 million. The school reportedly acquired the abandoned Maryland Lofts site for less than \$2 million.

Prior to this purchase, ASED over the past few years had purchased a number of properties in the block immediately to the north of its current campus (bounded by Central, Maryland and 3rd avenues, and Stella Lane), including three homes and an apartment complex.

Phase 1 of the campaign focused on development of athletic fields, additional parking, and green space. The baseball field was a highlight of this effort.

"We are extremely happy and grateful to everyone who helped to make this a reality," Wagner said.



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FLAG continued from page 1

"It was much more than I expected," Hysko said. "I really had no idea; it is just beautiful."

The entire post building was given a new paint job in November 2014 thanks to a grant from Home Depot. The building had been getting "tagged" with graffiti on a regular basis—particularly on that south-facing wall. Hysko was worried that the taggers would come back and damage it, but so far, he says, they've left it alone. Perhaps that same symbol of freedom that inspired LoBaido has had an affect on the vandals, as well.

To thank LoBaido for his generosity and his artistry, the post gave him a framed certificate for Americanism in honoring the flag, and the post's own Distinguished Service Medal, which has an American flag on one side, and POW/MIA inside an outline of the state of Arizona on the other. The post is named for Joseph Monfort, who died in a Japanese internment camp during World War II. Monfort's sister donated the land to the post, which currently boasts more than 780 members.

LoBaido has been fortunate to have several sponsors assist him with his tour, including Behr, which supplies the paint, and Home Depot, which supplies the crane in each location from a local store. Other sponsors include Tunnels to Towers Foundation and City Quiet Windows. For more information, visit www.scottlobaido.com.

TENNIS continued from page 3

The \$4.5 million to complete the renovation came from the Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative Program (3PI), which provides a one-tenth of 1 percent sales tax that helps fund projects through the Parks and Recreation Department.

In 2008, 83 percent of Phoenix voters renewed the 3PI for 30 more years. Funding is used to improve and renovate existing parks, and to expand and improve the city's desert preserve system. Sixty percent of initiative proceeds are dedicated to improvements and renovation of city parks and acquisition of land for future city parks.

"We made big things happen at the Phoenix Tennis Center by quickly bringing together residents, staff and the tennis community to map out a vision, identify funding and complete construction," said Vice Mayor Daniel

Valenzuela. "This project puts the Phoenix Tennis Center back on the map as one of the best complexes in the Southwest, and it's a great addition to a beautiful community park."

Valenzuela participated in a 10-point match against 9-year-old tennis phenom Thomas Faurel, who is a member of the USA Global Tennis Academy and practices at the Phoenix Tennis Center. The vice mayor accepted his 10-0 defeat good-naturedly amidst the cheers of spectators.

The center, which is just south of Washington Park, offers court reservations, a tennis shop and the services of a certified tennis professional. Visit www.phoenixtenniscenter.net or call for more details 602-249-3712.

Workshop helps vets with affordable housing

Trellis, formerly Neighborhood Housing Services of Phoenix, a nonprofit dedicated to making stable homes and communities possible by educating, building and lending, is offering veterans a no-cost Homebuyer Education (HBE) workshop, valued at \$300.

With the economy finally stabilizing, mortgage rates low and credit loosening, there has never been a better time to buy. Trellis would like to help start veterans on their way by offering this free 8-hour, intensive workshop set for 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, May 23 at the Trellis offices, 1405 E. McDowell Road.

This class demystifies the often complicated process of buying a home. Subjects covered include homeowner-ship readiness and affordability; money and credit management; types of properties and financing available; purchase, mortgage and closing processes; and home maintenance and financial management.

In order to qualify for this offer, veterans must complete an initial 1:1 pre-purchase housing counseling session with one of Trellis' trained Homeownership Advisors.

For more information, visit www.trellisaz.org and click on "Get Started Now." In the Comments box at bottom of info form, indicate that you'd like to participate in "No cost homebuyer education for Veterans" program.

For those who can't make the all-day workshop, individual sessions will be scheduled in June for topics related to Money Management, Credit, and more. See the website for details.

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Please say it ain't so, Lin Sue Cooney!

After 31 years at KPNX-TV, newscaster Lin Sue Cooney is leaving Channel 12 KPNX to join the executive team at Hospice of the Valley. Lin Sue



has won numerous awards, including being honored as the Valley's "Best Anchor" by the Phoenix chapter of American Women in Radio and Television.

My wife, Mary Ann, and I have been honored to have called Lin Sue a friend for many years and she has been a past client of mine, purchasing a home in Central Phoenix almost 20 years ago. Lin Sue has been co-anchoring with my golfing buddy and pal Mark Curtis for many years, and even refers to him as TV husband! I asked Lin Sue if she would help answer some questions for my column this month and she graciously accepted.

Q: First of all, congratulations on an incredibly long and distinguished career at Channel 12. What are your feelings knowing that you are moving into a new career after 31 years at Channel 12?

I know that I will miss seeing my amazing TV family every day but they will be lifelong friends. I won't miss the deadline pressure, or the crazy hours or the depressing stories we have to read every day. It's been an incredible career and I have had so many unique and rewarding opportunities that I will forever cherish. I feel blessed to be beginning a brand new career of service with such a respected and tender-hearted organization. Hospice of the Valley is doing angels' work in our community. Someone asked me recently if I have any regrets or doubts about leaving news after all these years, and I can honestly say... none. I won't look back... I'm not going that way anymore. It's on to the next wonderful season of my life!

Q: This is an obvious question for me but how did you put up with Mark for such a long time? I play golf with him every week and he wears on me after four hours.

Truly, Mark is the one I will miss the most. There are many days every week, that we spend more time with each other, than we do with our spouses. I know what he's going to say, before he opens his mouth... and he knows what I'm thinking so I don't even have to speak. Besides being a consummate professional, he is one of the funniest men I've ever known and I treasure his knack for making me belly laugh out loud... day in and day out. It has been an extraordinary privilege and pleasure to work with him all these years. Not sure why he annoys you so much, but maybe it's because he's far and away the better golfer?

Q: How difficult of a decision was this for to leave Channel 12?

I actually thought it would be harder than it is. It helps that I am leaving by my own choice and that I have such an amazing new mission in life. TV news has also changed drastically in the past 10 years and not necessarily for the better. Also, I never want to be someone who IS her job description. There is so much more to my life than my career. TV news is what I did... not who I am. And now, I'm excited to serve a whole new way at a non-profit with such a stellar reputation in Arizona.

Q: What made you decide to join Hospice of the Valley and what are your new career challenges at Hospice?

I first became personally acquainted with Hospice of the Valley when my father-in-law, Pep Cooney, passed in 2003. I will never forget the care and compassion they showed my family, how they gave Pep comfort and dignity at the end of his life, and allowed all of us to be there when he died. Hospice care is the last gift you can give a loved one, and I want everyone to know about it. Hospice of the Valley does NOT turn anyone away, regardless of financial status or insurance. Fundraisers



helped them provide \$10.4 million of charity service last year. My biggest challenge is to let people know that "end of life" care is not the only thing Hospice of the Valley does. It also provides palliative care, which is for people with late-stage chronic illness who may still be getting treatment and aren't ready for hospice. Dementia care is one of their specialties, serving people with all stages of dementia and supporting family caregivers.

Q: How excited are you to be able to spend more time with your kids and husband and a normal schedule at home now?

I am over the moon! It still hasn't really dawned on me yet, what that will be like. I'm sure my blood pressure will spike at 10 p.m. every night when I panic because I'm not sitting in the anchor chair about to read the late news! But what a blessing to be there for my family every evening... to tuck my kids into bed and have a few hours with my husband to talk about our day. I'm still pinching myself!

Q: Many years ago when you asked me to help you find a new home, you insisted on moving from Moon Valley to Central

Phoenix. Besides the proximity to work, what are the positives about this area that you and family enjoy?

There are so many wonderful neighborhoods in the Valley... and I'm always checking out homes wherever I drive! But it's hard to beat the appeal of North Central Phoenix. The lovely mature trees that turn colors as the seasons change and make a gorgeous canopy... the rolling green lawns, the flowers, the bridle path along Central Avenue filled with families walking their dogs, the Farmer's Markets on the weekend. It's quaint and has that neighborhood feel. Everyone knows their neighbors and block parties are the norm. It's the way I grew up... the way I want my children to grow up.

Q. Everybody in the valley will miss seeing you on TV every night but all of us North Central residents are proud that you are one of us. Hospice of the Valley is very lucky to have you in their corner..Best of luck in your new career.

Thank you so much for the good wishes... I am thrilled to be starting this new chapter of my life and fully intend to stay active in my community. I am happy to answer any and all questions about Hospice of the Valley... so please call anytime!

Bobby Lieb

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COMMUNITY

Two local Girl Scouts earn Gold Award

Two North Central Phoenix young women have earned their Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can receive. Both are members of the Arizona Cactus-Pine Council area.

Lisa Bowman, a senior at Sunnyslope High School, was recognized for her "Let's Go to College" project. Bowman noticed that many high school students lack a clear understanding of how colleges evaluate potential students. In addition, she saw many classmates refrain from applying to their dream schools due to fear of rejection.



Lisa Bowman

Determined to help students navigate the college application process and put their best foot forward, Bowman created an 8-part video series that reviews the dos and don'ts of preparing for and applying to college. The videos focus on topics like the importance of grades, extracurricular activities and test-taking.

To advertise the video series, Bowman created a commercial for the school's morning announcements and promoted it via social media.

Sierra Aranda, who graduated from North High School last fall and is in her second semester at Phoenix College, was honored for creating the Family School Library.

Aranda focused her Gold Award on minimizing the reading achievement gap caused by a lack of resources for students. To mitigate this gap, she created a lending library at the preschool she had attended as a child. Aranda arranged for the Phoenix Public Library, Bookmans and a Boy Scout troop to donate books to this lending library, making them available in every classroom and giving the children and their families access to books at home, as well as school.



Sierra Aranda

Aranda regularly checks in with the teachers, who say that the children love getting stickers for reading books and many families take advantage of the library.

The Gold Award requires a girl to stretch her skills and step forward as a leader to meet a local or global need and create a sustainable change. In the process, she develops and enhances her own leadership, determination, creativity and confidence.

Completing a Gold Award project usually takes 18 to 24 months and often involves seeking in-kind donations and recruiting volunteers. Gold Awardees distinguish themselves in the college admission process, earn college scholarships and enter the military one rank higher.

Bowman and Aranda were honored at the 2015 Girl Scout Gold Award Celebration on Saturday, March 28 at the Glendale Civic Center.

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The voice of the north central phoenix community

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Spotlight On ... Cruz honored for eliminating his job

North Central Phoenix resident Edmundo Cruz has been presented the 2014 Employee of the Year Award by Royal Neighbors of America for working himself out of a job on the night shift.

How did he change the dynamics of his job? He used existing tools and systems to create an automated attendant to perform his after-hours job functions. Because the life insurance organization values innovation and initiative, it rewarded Cruz's out-of-the-box work by creating a new job for him on the day shift.



Edmundo Cruz

Cruz joined the Royal Neighbors staff in 2012 and serves as an application support developer in the Information Technology (IT) department. Through a series of proven techniques and self-made technologies, he created an application that initiated functions and processes that essentially eliminated the need for his position with Royal Neighbors. This resource savings has allowed Royal Neighbors to utilize his significant skills in other areas of IT, thereby building an even more robust team in the technology arena.

"A strong addition to our team, Edmundo is a creative thinker and has clearly demonstrated his commitment to excellence at Royal Neighbors," said CEO Cynthia Tidwell. "His resourcefulness is just another reminder of how important it is to tap into the innovative ideas that come from employees in all parts of the organization."

For more information, visit www.royalneighbors.org.

Two locals receive Red Cross awards

North Central resident Justin Coghill recently received the International Humanitarian Service Award from the American Red Cross Grand Canyon Chapter.

He was one of nine volunteers presented with awards on March 28 during the Breakfast of Champions. The breakfast event honored the Grand Canyon Chapter's 1,350 adult and youth volunteers who are trained to use their Red Cross skills to help save lives.

Coghill has empowered relationships with refugee partner organizations as the Volunteer Partner to Vicente Baamonde. He spearheaded the 2014 World Refugee Day for the city of Phoenix, a Human Rights Film and Speaker Series with Amnesty International at Glendale Community



Justin Coghill

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COMMUNITY

College, and provided water, snacks, CPR/disaster preparation and American Red Cross International Services information at the Iraqi American Society's four-day soccer tournament. He also worked with the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at ASU to cohost International Humanitarian Law workshops.

Also at the Breakfast of Champions, Red Cross employee Ashley Fairchild and Red Cross volunteer Leah McCormack received the Partnership Award from the American Red Cross Grand Canyon Chapter.

The two have worked tirelessly to ensure that new and existing Disaster Action Team (DAT) volunteers have a clear training path for advancement.

Fairchild, who lives in North Central Phoenix, has extensive experience with Disaster Action Team, client casework and helping everyone navigate the online learning system. She and McCormack assist with the monthly open house events, ongoing new volunteer orientations, and the Arizona Disaster Leadership Training schedule. They have helped train hundreds of volunteers.

McCormack has helped Fairchild achieve instructor certification by allowing her to co-teach a class about client casework and providing emergency assistance class to more than 100 people.

For more information about becoming a Red Cross volunteer, go to www.arizonaredcross.org.



Ashley Fairchild

The university awarded 4,071 undergraduate and 2,657 graduate degrees in business, information technology, K-12 teacher education, and healthcare professions, including nursing.

Lau appointed to museum board

Grace Lau, CEO & president of PacWest Financial Management at 1643 E. Bethany Home Road, in April was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Museum of Northern Arizona.

Founded in 1928, the mission of the museum is to inspire a sense of love and responsibility for the beauty and diversity of the Colorado Plateau through collecting, studying, interpreting, and preserving the region's natural and cultural heritage.

Lau also is a Trustee of the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire Foundation and City of Phoenix Firefighters Local 493 EB Trust Fund.



Grace Lau

Local residents graduate from WGU

Western Governors University (WGU) held its 28th semi-annual commencement ceremony in Orlando, Fla., on Feb. 7 and celebrated the graduation of more than 6,700 graduates.

Among them were North Central residents: Jamey Strunk, who received her Bachelor of Science in Accounting; Eric Anspach, who received his MBA in Management and Strategy; Aaron Heinen, who earned his Master of Science in Educational Leadership; Cameron Ward, who received his Bachelor of Science in Information Technology; and Lisa Field, who earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

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COMMUNITY



Celebrating the installation of two new art projects installed on Hatcher Road in Sunnyslope are, from left: District 3 City Councilman Bill Gates; Donna Reiner, chair of the Phoenix Arts & Culture Commission, who holds a small mock-up of the art installations; and Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

Public art project dedicated on Hatcher

A new public art project created as part of the Hatcher Road Improvement plan was dedicated during the Sunnyslope Art Walk on April 11. Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton, District 3 Councilman Bill Gates and local community leaders attended the dedication.

“This new project is the tenth art project completed in Sunnyslope over the years, and we are so proud of the work we have done here,” said Donna Reiner, chair of the Phoenix Arts & Culture Commission.

Stanton added, “Sunnyslope is one of the most important neighborhoods in the heart of the city, and everyone here pours their heart and soul into this community.”

The project consists of two sculptures by artist Gordon Huether, who was unable to attend the dedication event. Made of stainless steel and dichroic glass, which refracts sunlight into rainbow colors, the landmarks stand at the east and west ends of the three-block improvement on Hatcher Road, from Central Avenue to 3rd Street. In addition to the two sculptures, the streetscape improvements include sidewalk and landscape enhancements to improve the pedestrian environment.

Huether drew inspiration for the works from the shape of prickly pear cactus paddles and the iconic “S” displayed on the side of North Mountain in Sunnyslope. He combined these elements to create the two 6-foot sculptures mounted on large slabs of native stone.

Each sculpture is made of two layers of half-inch waterjet-cut stainless steel.

Small dichroic glass circles are randomly placed throughout the surfaces to capture and refract light into colors that change as you move past the works. The stone used for the sculpture was quarried not far from the Hatcher Road site in North Central Phoenix.

The project was commissioned by the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture Public Art Program, with percent-for-the-art funds from the Phoenix Street and Neighborhood Services capital improvement programs.

Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2015, the Phoenix Arts and Culture Commission was established by the Phoenix City Council in 1985 to advance the growth and development of the city’s arts and cultural community. For more information about the Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture, visit phoenix.gov/arts, call 602-262-4637, or follow the Office of Arts and Culture on Facebook or Twitter at @phxarts_culture.

Shemer center seeks summer volunteers

The Shemer Art Center & Museum, 5005 E. Camelback Road, seeks volunteers to assist instructors in the day-to-day operations of its summer art-camp for kids—ArtSpace 2015. Volunteers and teaching assistants are needed from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 1-26. E-mail questions to seth@shemerartcenter.org or call 602-262-4727.

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UPTOWN SATURDAYS

MAY 2

Bike & Car Day at Uptown!

The Phoenix Police Department will be at Market 8 a.m-11 a.m registering bicycles and offering car etching for FREE (regularly \$700). Raffles, Fire Engine Bounce House, Bike Accessories and even a Bike Course for Kids!

MAY 9

Special Mother's Day Market!

Plenty of sweet treats and specials for mom. Crafts for the kids that mom will treasure!

MAY 16

Great American Seed Up Event!

Urban Farm will be indoors with 47 varieties of non-GMO seeds to purchase. Full details, tickets and a line-up of the guest speakers are available at growphx.com.

UPTOWN WEDNESDAYS

MAY

We are honoring the local lunch crowd by raffling off 5 pairs of FREE lunch tickets each Wednesday. Tickets are good for any lunch vendor at the Wednesday Market.

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This friendly German shepherd mix is looking for a fun and active home to give him lots of love and play time (submitted photo).

Pet of the Month Rex could be the king of your castle

When Rex's owner picked up another job, the 1-year-old German shepherd mix became very depressed waiting at doggie daycare for his owner to return. There no longer was time to go for walks, play fetch and do all the things that Rex enjoyed so much, so his owner decided to bring him to the Arizona Humane Society to find a more suitable family.

This young and athletic boy loves hiking, playing in the sprinklers, going for car rides and romping in the yard with other playful canines. At the end of the day, he loves nothing more than a belly rub.

Meet Rex now at the Sunnyslope Campus located at 9226 N. 13th Ave. His adoption fee is just \$110. For more information, call 602-997-7585 and ask for animal ID number A508878. Rex may have been adopted by the time you visit the shelter but there are many other pets that need a home. See them all by visiting www.azhumane.org.

Sojourner Center gets help from PetSmart

Sojourner Center, one of the largest and longest running domestic violence shelters in the United States, recently received a donation from PetSmart Charities to help fund the center's new pet shelter program.

The Sojourner Pet Companion Shelter will offer shelter for the pets of women in the program, as well as a foster pet care program. The program is a venture with Sojourner Center's partner, Lost Our Home Pet Rescue, a Phoenix-based pet shelter that enables

families in crises to keep their pets.

Research demonstrates that 71 percent of abused women reported that the abuser threatened, harmed or killed family pets. Many women fear that their pets will be hurt or killed if they leave them behind with their abuser, and this influences their decision of whether or not to leave.

"We have seen too many women make the heartbreaking decision between leaving a dangerous situation at home and giving up their pet or remaining in an unsafe situation," said Maria E. Garay, M.S.W., Ph.D., Sojourner Center chief executive officer.

The first phase of the program officially launches this spring, with the opening of an on-site kennel facility to be used by pet parents who are seeking shelter with the center. The facility will be able to accommodate eight dogs and eight cats, with special accommodations for other types of family pets such as birds and fish. Pet parents who are staying at the shelter will be responsible for feeding, exercising and socializing with their pet at least twice a day.

In addition to the on-site pet care program, Sojourner Center and Lost Our Home Pet Rescue will be introducing a pet therapy program, allowing all shelter residents to receive the therapeutic benefits of pet therapy; programs for residents to teach responsible pet care; a workforce readiness program to teach animal-related job skills; and a foster pet care program for pets of domestic violence survivors who are not living at Sojourner.

Donated shoes aid sick, injured dogs

Standing Proud Pit Bull Rescue is a nonprofit organization that focuses on rescue, rehabilitation, and adoption of pit bulls in the Valley. In addition, the volunteers strive to be a resource and to educate the community about these dogs in order to combat the negative impression most people have.

Currently the rescue group is caring for three dogs with severe medical issues whose bills have topped \$12,000. In order to help raise funds for the charitable organization, Standing Proud is conducting a shoe drive through May 15. Gently loved but still wearable shoes, including sports gear like cleats, rollerblades and ice skates, can be dropped off at Kodi's Natural Pet Foods, 6058 N. 16th St., just north

COMMUNITY

of Bethany Home Road.

Standing Proud has partnered with an organization called funds2orgs. The shoes are bagged and weighed and then funds2orgs donates .40 cents per pound back to the nonprofit organization. The shoes are then sent out to developing countries as a means for individuals, families and communities to start micro-businesses by reselling the shoes.

Therefore, donated shoes should have some life left in them; no holes or tears, please. Tax receipts available upon request.

Standing Proud must collect approximately 2,500 pairs of shoes in order to not be charged shipping costs. As of press time, the organization was a little more than halfway toward its goal.

For more information, contact Abby Cohen, founder of Standing Proud Pit Bull Rescue, at info@standingproudpitbulls.org or visit the website at www.standingproudpitbulls.org.

Spring cleaning can benefit pet shelters

Need to clean out your closets or get rid of old stuff? Donate your new or gently used clothes, furniture and household items to the Arizona Humane Society's thrift stores and help pets in need.

AHS will pick up your unwanted items for free (minimum two bags/boxes of clothes/items). Simply call 480.290.0587 or fill out a request form to arrange for pickup. Please be sure the items you are donating are in working condition, as AHS is unable to accept broken or overly worn items. Pick-ups are completed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

You may also drop off donations at the Sunnyslope Thrift Store, 9226 N. 13th Ave., or the Cave Creek Thrift Store, 13401 N. Cave Creek Road.

For more information on how you can help our pets with a thrift donation, visit www.azhumane.org and click on "How You Can Help."

CORRECTION:

In last month's issue of the *North Central News*, an article about a new grooming salon made a misstatement about a competitor business. Smelly Dog, located at 7th Avenue and Camelback Road, is both a self-service and full-service kennel-free grooming salon. We apologize for the error.

How to address code violations in your area

Are you concerned about trash, high weeds, dead trees, graffiti, deteriorated fences or open/vacant properties in your neighborhood? Learn more about the city of Phoenix's code compliance rules, 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, at the Devonshire Senior Center, 2802 E. Devonshire Ave.

Attendees will learn the step-by-step code compliance process and timeline, how to use a free smartphone app to report blight, how to address code violations at vacant properties, what happens if a case goes to court, answers to questions about problem properties in your neighborhood, how to use the tool lending program, maintenance tips, resources and more.

The program is free; however, registration is requested. There are three ways to register for a workshop: register online at www.phoenix.gov/nsd/neighborhoodcollege, e-mail neighborhood.college@phoenix.gov or call 602-534-4444.

Letter carriers collect nonperishable food

The largest single-day food drive in the United States—one which helps St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance and other Arizona Food Banks survive during the long, hot summer—also happens to be one of the easiest to be a part of.

All it takes is a quick trip to your mailbox.

On Saturday, May 9, more than 5,000 letter carriers here in the Valley will be picking up canned food donations on their regular mail routes during the 23rd Annual National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive.

Throughout the week leading up to the food drive, local letter carriers will be dropping off reminder post cards and special grocery bags to both city and rural residents' mailboxes. The letter carriers encourage those who can help to fill the bags, or any other grocery bag, with nonperishable food items and leave them by their mailboxes on the morning of May 9.

Items most needed by the food banks include canned fruit and vegetables, soups and meals in a can, pasta, peanut butter, tuna, rice and cereal.

For more information on this event, visit www.helpstampouthunger.com.

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Skin Cancer Awareness Month

Did you know ...

- Skin tumors are the most common tumors found in dogs.
- Tumor means an abnormal growth or swelling.
- Lumps can include cysts, abscesses, & granulomas.
- All skin lumps should be tested for malignancy.
- Three out of ten of these skin tumors are malignant.
- When caught early, many can be treated successfully.
- There are four types of skin cancers: epithelial tumors, mesenchymal tumors, round cell tumors, and melanomas.
- Different cancers may require different treatment.
- A cytology or biopsy of the lump is needed. You can't tell by just looking or feeling the area.
- Make it a habit of checking over your pet every month!

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Read the Pet Primer Article online at www.NorthCentralAnimalHospital.com

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Free admission on 'Museum Day'

International Museum Day, organized on or around May 18 each year, aims at raising public awareness about the vital role museums play in their communities.

In honor of International Museum Day, Pueblo Grande Museum will offer free museum admission from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 16. This would be a great time to come out and explore an ancient Hohokam site in the heart of Phoenix.

The museum also will celebrate this day by offering free gallery tours and have artifact show-and-tell stations set-up in the galleries where guests can see up close, touch, and ask questions about different artifacts.

Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park is located at 4619 E. Washington St. For additional information visit www.pueblogrande.com or call 602-495-0901.

The Heard Museum, located at 2301 N. Central Ave., offers 2-for-1 admission on Sunday, May 17, good for

groups of two or four people. The museum will be open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information on International Museum Day and the venues from around the Valley that are participating, visit the Central Arizona Museum Association's website at www.azcama.com.

Learn some summer up-dos at Hair Again

Bring in a friend, daughter or mother to Hair Again for a fun, hands-on class, "Summertime Hair," from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, May 29.

Hair demonstrations include braids, fish tails and ponytails; creative curling; and fabulous up-dos. Cost is \$25 per person, half of which will be donated to a local charity.

A graduate of Paul Mitchell the School-Phoenix and a former stylist at the shop, Kara McAllister-Dommel purchased the salon at 2047 W. Glendale Ave. in 2013. Inspired by Paul Mitchell's black-and-white theme and fashion maven Coco Chanel, she remodeled the shop to give it a warm, shabby chic feel.

Hair Again's year-round specials include 50-percent off your first haircut, \$25 gel nails with nail art and/or manicure, and a pedicure for \$35 (first time only on both).

Call 602-579-3349 for more information or to make an appointment for the class or any other services.

How technology is stimulating AZ's future

"Technology Stimulating Arizona's Future" will be the topic at the Arizona Association for Economic Development's (AAED) May luncheon, set for 11:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, May 12 at the Phoenix Country Club, 2901 N. 7th St.

Christine Mackay, community and economic development director for the city of Phoenix, will lead a panel discussion of local business leaders who will share their insight on technology's potential impact on Arizona.

The cost is \$40 for AAED members and guests, \$50 for non-members, and \$55 for late registrants. To register, visit www.aed.com/events. The registration deadline is May 8. Vegetarian meals must be requested in advance.

For more information, call AAED at 602-240-AAED (2233), or visit www.aed.com.

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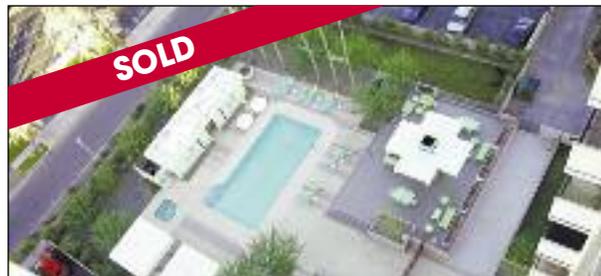
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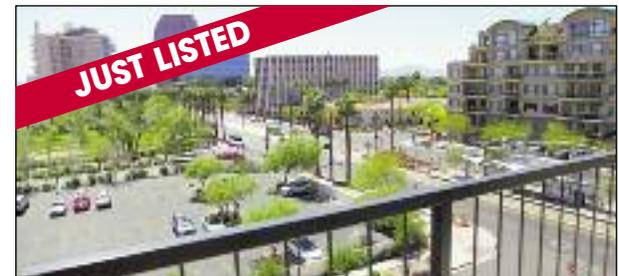
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Wonder what life was like in Phoenix in the mid-1870s? Local author Patrick Grady surveys pioneer life—farming, canals, town site, politics, law and order. Learn about the Swillings, Hancocks, Grays, Osborns and other Phoenix founders. Grady's book—Out of the Ruins—provides new perspectives, even a few surprises. It is available in the NMVC Gift Shoppe. The program is free and open to the public. Bring your lunch. To RSVP, e-mail cherylto@gmail.com. Brown bag lunches are monthly and last about an hour.

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6 p.m. Wednesday, May 4
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 Doug Duffy, a native Phoenician. His talk is entitled, "Patton's Training Camps in AZ and CA." The cost of dinner is \$20, payable at the door. Meetings are

open to anyone interested in history. Reservations requested. This is the last meeting until October.

Intro to Yoga Series
10 a.m.-noon May 7, 14 & 21
Desert Song Healing Arts Center
3232 N. 20th St.
602-265-8222

The class is designed for students new to yoga. The series focuses on primary yoga postures, principles of safe alignment, breathing techniques and yoga philosophy. Students will enjoy personal attention and hands-on adjustments and refinements from the same instructor each week. Cost is \$55 per person, or \$90 for two people. For more information or to register, visit www.desertsongyoga.com.

'You-Have-a-Choice'
School Fair
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, May 9
Park Lee Apartments,
Community Center
1600 W. Highland Ave.
602-265-5133

In an effort to help parents pick the

right school for their elementary students, Midtown Primary is sponsoring a school fair. Five local schools and two neighborhood daycares will be there to help families and answer questions. The Yucca Library's children's librarian and a city of Phoenix Neighborhood Specialist will also be available. Family and children's needs of all ages will be represented. There will be pizza and door prizes.

ALP Membership Coffee
10 a.m. Wednesday, May 13
ALP Philanthropic Center
9224 N. 5th St.
602-944-7636

Assistance League of Phoenix seeks individuals who want volunteer opportunities, personal growth and leadership skills. An informational coffee will be held as part of an ongoing commitment to introducing ALP to people in the community. This event gives potential volunteers an opportunity to learn about the organization and meet members. Members set their own volunteer schedule, and many volunteer opportunities are available. For questions, call or e-mail alpvolunteer@aol.com.

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COMMUNITY

Phoenix Writers Club

Noon-2 p.m. Saturday, May 16
Bluewater Grill
1720 E. Camelback Road

Guest speaker is North Central resident and self-published author Barbara Hinske, whose contemporary romance novel “Coming to Rosemont” inspired the Little Free Library that Hinske and her husband installed at the entrance to their 13-home condominium community. She recently released her second novel, “Weaving the Strands.” Cost is \$15 members and \$20 guests. Reservations must be made by May 13. RSVP to neeliepubl@aol.com with Phoenix Writers Club in the subject line. Members and the public are welcome.

Protect Loved Ones**With Special Needs**

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday, May 16
Gompers Habilitation Center
6601 N. 27th Ave.
602-331-2414

A free community education workshop for care providers and families with loved ones with disabilities.

Hosted by Gompers Habilitation Center and VALLEYLIFE. Learn from an expert guest panel how to protect and provide for loved ones with special needs, when you are no longer able to do so yourself. Refreshments will be provided. RSVP to mreed@valleylifeaz.org.

Arizona Military Women’s Luncheon

10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 16
Carl B. Hayden VA Medical Center
650 E. Indian School Road

Enjoy lunch, a guest speaker and raffles. The program takes place in the basement conference room. Cost is \$20 per person. For a registration form, contact Lou Ann Huskisson at azhuskisson@cox.net, or 623-972-7369.

‘Indigenous Issues in Education’

6:30 p.m. Tuesday May 19
Beatitudes Luther Life Center
1616 W. Glendale Ave.
602-992-8145

The Phoenix Branch of AAUW (The American Association of

University Women) hosts Daryl Melvin, current CEO of Fort Yuma Health and former CEO for Hopi Health. He will discuss his visions for ensuring educational opportunities for the Hopi people, with emphasis on financial assistance to Hopi students of all ages, educational research, educational programs, and charitable and educational activities. The program will begin after an optional dinner (\$15) is served at 5:30 p.m. RSVP for the dinner by noon on May 15. Visitors are welcome. Enter the Beatitudes at the gate by the flagpole.

‘Write Here, Right Now: Journaling, Meditation & Yoga’

6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 19
Changing Hands-Phoenix
301 W. Camelback Road
602-274-0067

Cultivate a sense of curiosity and tap into your inner wisdom through yoga, meditation and journaling. Instructors from Desert Song Healing Arts Center will help attendees explore how journaling about what’s happening in this

moment can help create the way we choose to live each day, creating the life we want. Cost is \$30. Bring a notebook, pen and yoga mat. Pre-register by calling, or visit the Events Calendar on the Changing Hands website: www.changinghands.com/changinghandsphoenix.

Benefits Central**Lura Turner Homes Anniversary Gala**

3-5 p.m. Sunday, May 3
Kendall Hall

Central United Methodist Church
1875 N. Central Ave.
602-943-4789

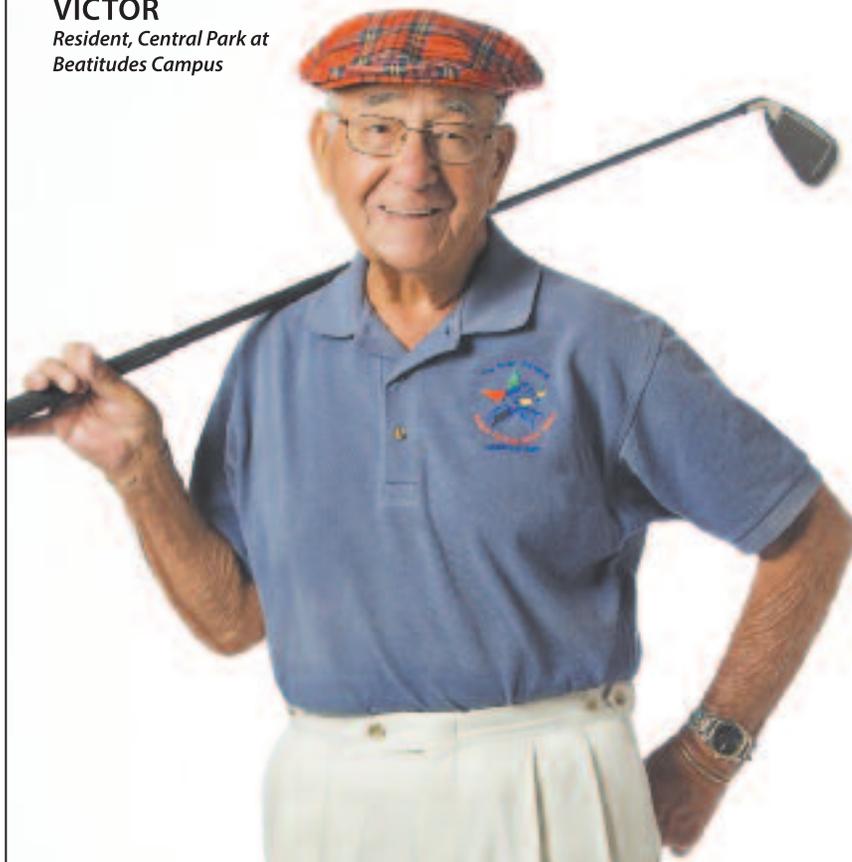
Lura Turner Homes for Developmentally Disabled Adults kicks off a yearlong celebration of its 50th anniversary with a community-wide gala. The public is welcome to this free event that honors Lura Turner Homes’ half-century service to metro-Phoenix developmentally disabled adults. For information, contact LTH at angelicag@luraturnerhomes.org.

please see CALENDAR on page 20

“This is the perfect place for a golf nut like me.”

VICTOR

Resident, Central Park at Beatitudes Campus



It’s funny how living a rich life has so little to do with money and so much to do with pursuing your passions and enjoying the people around you. Like the fascinating friends at Beatitudes Campus:

MEET VICTOR.

He’s not just a “golf nut.” He’s a five-time gold medal winner in Arizona’s Senior Olympics and has qualified for the 2013 national competition. That takes a lot of practice – at least three times a week – plus strength building and conditioning on the off days. The Fitness Club at Beatitudes Campus comes in quite handy. So does the full service lifestyle that frees up their time for both Victor and his wife, Dorothy. She balances being his biggest fan with rarely missing an opportunity to get involved in campus life. Living here is a “win-win.”

Victor and Dorothy invite 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

CALENDAR continued from page 19

Fifth Annual Esperança Hope Breakfast

**8-9 a.m. Wednesday, May 6
Grand Canyon University,
Student Union
3300 W. Camelback Road
602-252-7772, ext. 101**

Enjoy a complimentary breakfast while hearing about the wonderful work Esperança is doing in the community and internationally to bring hope, provide health and transform communities. Dr. Kris Volcheck, D.D.S., M.B.A. (Phoenix resident) and Dr. Daniel Custer (Texas resident) will be speaking at this year's event. Dr. Volcheck, from the Parsons Center for Pediatric Dentistry, is a domestic program partner here in Phoenix helping low-income children in the Murphy School District with dental hygiene and care, and Dr. Custer has served on several volunteer medical missions to Nicaragua. There is no cost to attend. Proceeds aid low-income children and families. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. RSVP to Jared Leslie at jared@esperanca.org.

Mother's Grace Brunch

**9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Thursday, May 7
Private home near Tatum Blvd.
and Lincoln Drive
480-320-9466**

Celebrate Mother's Day with a tribute to graceful mothers and their inspirational work with a champagne brunch, shopping and a heartwarming and inspirational guest speaker. The Mother's Grace Foundation is dedicated to the support of Mothers and children who have endured life tragedies. By providing financial support and guidance, Mother's Grace empowers these women to reach their goals of making a difference in their communities by helping others inflicted with similar circumstances. Donations accepted in lieu of a set attendance fee. For more information, email mmmgrace@me.com or visit www.mothers-grace.org

Night for Life Gala

**7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 9
Arizona Biltmore Resort
2400 E. Missouri Ave.**

An annual fundraising dinner gala for the program and services of Southwest Center for HIV/AIDS. Night for Life began in 1995 and in 2015 celebrates its 20th anniversary. RE:JOICE RE:SOLVE RE:NEW is the theme for 2015. A cocktail reception and silent auction begins at 6 p.m., followed by the formal dinner, presentation, and entertainment. Tickets begin at \$350 each. Visit www.nightforlife.org.

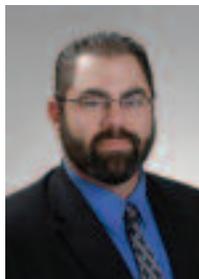
Hold 'Em for Hope Casino Night

**6-10 p.m. Saturday, May 16
Arizona American Italian Club
7509 N 12th St.**

Enjoy live entertainment, dancing, 50/50 raffle, surprise balloon pop giveaways, and lots of great prizes. Gaming will include blackjack, roulette, craps, poker, and more. Tickets are \$65 per person, which includes an Italian Dinner, \$200 in "Casino Cash" and two raffle tickets. Proceeds benefit Stepping Stones of Hope, a Valley nonprofit organization that helps kids and teens who are struggling with their grief after the death loss of a parent or sibling. Visit www.stepsstonesofhope.org/casino.

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HOME & GARDEN

Free 'vegetable valet' at farmers market

Uptown Farmers Market is the first farmers market to partner with the Careers through Culinary Arts Program (C-CAP), to offer Vegetable Valet, an on-site preparation of handpicked, local vegetables and fruits while customers shop for all of their market favorites. This service is targeted toward busy moms, local chefs and foodies alike.

C-CAP will run a booth outside in the marketplace while two student chefs will be inside a certified kitchen ready to chop on-site. Customers can purchase veggies and fruits from any of the market's produce farmers and bring those items to the C-CAP booth to be prepped into anything the customer chooses: stir-fry, salads, vegetable plates, apples slices or carrot sticks for kids' lunches, and more. Vegetable Valet is available at Uptown Farmers Market's Saturday Market only. Allow at least 15-20 minutes for the vegetables and fruit to be prepped; shoppers are advised to buy their produce first and bring it to the table, then peruse the rest of the vendors in the marketplace.

There is no charge for this service. C-CAP will operate with donations.

"Our student chefs need an outlet to hone their knife skills," says Nicole DeKruyter, Culinary coordinator for C-CAP Arizona. "Providing this complimentary food preparation service for North Central families at Uptown Farmers Market gives our chefs that opportunity."

The Uptown Farmers Market is located in the east parking lot of North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Ave. The east lot is off Bethany Home Road. The market is open 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays (when the Vegetable Valet is available). It also operates from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesdays. For more information, visit <http://uptownmarketaz.com>.

Collect, share and learn at inaugural 'Seed Up'

Farmers and gardeners across the Valley this month will have a unique opportunity to collect, share, and learn about seeds and how to adapt them to



A student from the Careers through Culinary Arts Program (C-CAP) trims and cuts a beet purchased by a shopper at the Saturday Uptown Farmers Market, as part of C-CAP's free "Vegetable Valet" service (photo courtesy of Uptown Farmers Market).

their own unique, environment.

On Saturday, May 16, the inaugural Great American Seed-Up will take place at North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Ave.

Imagine walking into a room filled with 47 varieties of seeds ready to literally be scooped up and taken home for planting or saving. This is exactly what the Great American Seed-Up is all about.

"The idea is to give our community an opportunity to learn about seed saving, and then to harvest as many ounces or pounds of seed as they want," says Greg Peterson, Urban Farm founder and local seed saver. Partners for the Great American Seed-Up include the Uptown Phoenix Farmers Market and North Phoenix Baptist Church, which is hosting the event.

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and feature a seed bazaar with bulk quantities of popular vegetable seed varieties available for purchase at bulk discounts. Attendees are encouraged to buy and share the seeds with their neighborhood and community groups to spur local gardening and seed saving efforts. All seeds are non-hybrid and non-gmo.

"These seeds are the best varieties

HOME & GARDEN

we could find in bulk to help you start your seed saving adventure,” says Seed-Up co-organizer Bill McDorman of Seedsave.org and the Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance. “The more seed diversity we have growing in our neighborhood gardens and backyard plots, the more resilient we’ll be as a community.”

Also featured at the Seed-Up will be presentations and workshops with seed experts to spread knowledge about traditional and modern seed saving practices. Discussion topics will include how to properly save and store your new seeds, how to grow a garden using your new seeds, and how to start a seed library.

There is a \$20 entrance fee, which is applied to the purchase of your seeds. Full details, tickets and a line-up of speakers are available at www.growphx.com.

Bonsai Show held at Valley Garden Center

Phoenix Bonsai Society hosts its Spring Bonsai Show May 2-3 at Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15th Ave. Admission is free; the center is an indoor venue.

The Phoenix Bonsai Society will display established Bonsai trees and trees under development to illustrate how the art of Bonsai is created. In addition to Bonsai trees, the society will display Viewing Stones and Kusamono plantings.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Demonstrations will be presented during the day. For more information, visit <http://www.phoenixbonsai.com>.

Fence patrol program offers free pool fences

Fulton Homes launched its popular Fence Patrol program in April, which over the years has provided free pool fences for Valley residents in need. Fence Patrol highlights the importance of always watching children around water.

The Fence Patrol program, conducted in partnership with KMLE 107.9 and Ironman Pool Fences, will give away one pool fence a week to families in need through August. The public is encouraged to nominate someone they know that needs a pool fence by visiting www.KMLE1079.com and clicking on the Fence Patrol icon.

Fence Patrol is one of several water safety-related initiatives Fulton Homes

supports. The Tempe-based home-builder also sponsors the “2 Seconds is Too Long” campaign at Valley shopping malls throughout the summer.

For more information, call 602-452-1000.

Phoenix Tool Shed is open for business

The Phoenix Tool Shed is a registered nonprofit tool lending library located in the Woodlea-Melrose neighborhood, on 11th Avenue between Roma & Turney. For a very reasonable yearly fee, Tool Shed members have access to hundreds of tools that can be borrowed for a week at a time.

The Community Alliance of Seventh Avenue (CASA) is an ongoing sponsor of this unique and valuable community resource.

Using the Tool Shed’s resources can be a big help if you are tackling a home improvement project and want to save money on equipment rental fees. In addition, with a tool shed membership you don’t need to have a bunch of tools cluttering up your own garage or storage space.

Some of the tools currently available to borrow include a radial arm saw, table saw, lawn mower, various sanders, a wheelbarrow, a gas-powered garden tiller, and more.

Residents of the Bel Air, Carnation, Grandview, North Park Central, Pasadena, Pierson Place, and Woodlea-Melrose neighborhoods are invited to become Tool Shed members. Seventh Avenue Merchants Association (SAMA) members are also welcome to purchase a Tool Shed membership.

Annual Tool Shed memberships are \$40 for an individual, or \$60 for a family or business. Volunteers are needed to work a few hours at the Tool Shed in exchange for memberships.

The Tool Shed is currently open every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. You can check out the inventory at <http://phxtoolshed.org>, or just come have a look for yourself. If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation of tools, equipment, or cash, e-mail Brady Fulton at bradyfulton@gmail.com.



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HAPPY HOUR WITH HERSCH

Graduation time is here and I find myself struggling. Most of the time I am happy and excited for the journey my son is about to embark on. But there are moments of selfishness where I do not want to let him go. The emptiness of the house without his big, bold and spicy presence mixed with the right amount of warmth and compassion will be sorely missed. I will miss him relentlessly teasing his younger brother and his mother, our new music Tuesday and concert talks, his event planning with his friends and just the energy he exudes. I am so proud of the man he is and the beautiful soul he was blessed with. I have confidence he has the tools to become the person he should be and now it is up to him to take control of his path. Andrew, when you were thirteen I wrote you a letter and told you that you needed to attack life with love, passion, honesty and without fear. If you do that you will have no regrets. I am so thankful we get to share one last adventure together during this phase of your life, Coachella is going to rock. I love you with all my being!

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TRIVIA

Contest

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Trivia Winner for Last Month
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SHOWROOM HOURS MON-SAT 9AM - 5PM



Hannah H. Porter and Kimberly G. Allen, associates with the Gallagher & Kennedy law firm, were part of the company's Professional Women's Group that recently donated new and gently used women's clothing to the Dress of Success Phoenix boutique (submitted photo).

Law firm helps dress for success

In an effort to help women who are re-entering the workforce, the Gallagher & Kennedy law firm located at 2575 E. Camelback Road, #1100, on March 16 donated more than 300 professional clothing items as well as a monetary donation to the Arizona affiliate of Dress for Success (DFS).

Over three weeks in February, the law firm's Professional Women's Group collected new and gently used women's business clothing to donate to the Dress of Success Phoenix boutique. Donations were gathered from others in the Esplanade Complex, vendors and employees of the law firm.

The Professional Women's Group became a new partner for DFS Phoenix in 2014 with members participating in

various mentorship opportunities including interview skills and resume writing workshops.

"Gallagher & Kennedy has been a wonderful partner this year," said Pat Torres, boutique coordinator for Dress for Success Phoenix. "Their dedication to helping women in the community through their contribution of time, professional expertise and clothing items will have a lasting impact for our clients."

Business Briefs Chamber selects IMPACT winners

The Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce's 28th annual IMPACT Awards luncheon is set for 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, at the

please see IMPACT on page 26



**GREATER PHOENIX
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
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GREATER PHOENIX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

IMPACT AWARDS

CELEBRATING BUSINESS

28TH ANNUAL IMPACT AWARDS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, May 13 | 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Join us in celebration of our eight honorees. You'll hear their inspirational stories, see what makes them "the best of the best" in Valley business and find out which two companies are honored as the IMPACT Business of the Year. Don't miss this celebration of achievement, perseverance and community service.

Small to Medium Business Category (250 employees or fewer):	Large Business Category (More than 250 employees):
2015 Community Champion <i>Arizona School Choice Trust</i>	2015 Community Champion <i>Wells Fargo</i>
2015 Economic Driver <i>HDR, Inc.</i>	2015 Economic Driver <i>Goodwill of Central Arizona</i>
2015 Entrepreneurial Excellence <i>Pinnacle Transplant Technologies, LLC</i>	2015 Entrepreneurial Excellence <i>EXOS</i>
2015 Response to Adversity <i>Anderson Security Agency, Ltd.</i>	2015 Response to Adversity <i>Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona</i>

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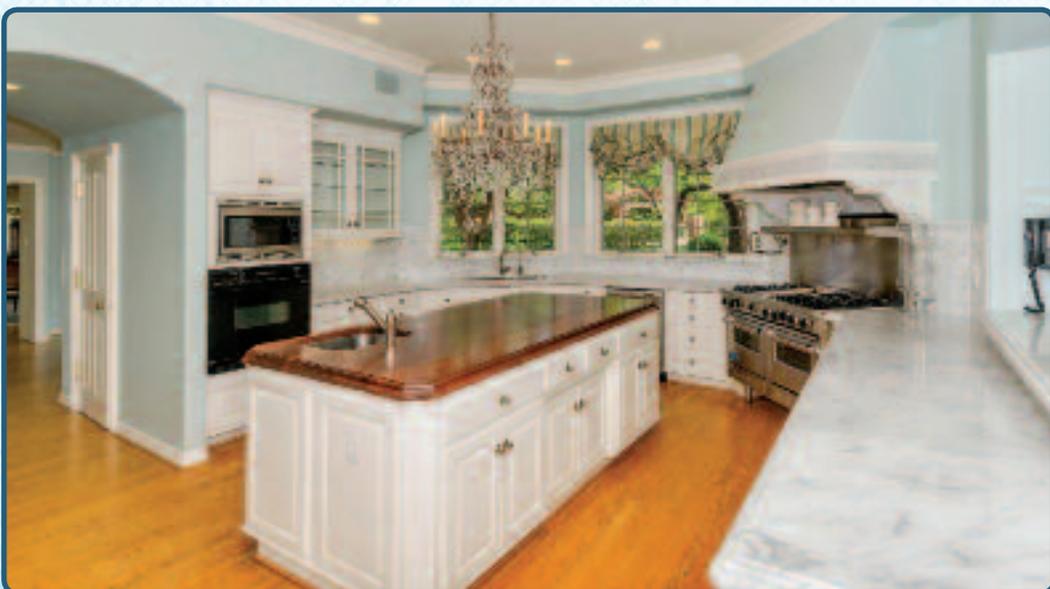
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Psychiatrist

Salary: \$147,999-\$233,100
Job Id 15595

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License to practice medicine in the state of Arizona, or the ability to obtain such licensure prior to starting work is required.

Registered Nurse

Salary: \$52,820-\$63,941
Job Id 15899

This position provides specialized nursing care for individuals with developmental disabilities requiring regular nursing care; provides specialized medical support to staff; completes required charting, reporting, and recommended health care plans; develops health education plans in specialty areas; ensures physicians' orders are obtained, updated and renewed with therapeutic interventions; Administers medications and provides skilled treatment; acts as a consultant to peers and staff regarding treatment of clients' illness, rehabilitation needs and preventative care; monitors assigned site for compliance with Department of Health standards; participates as a member of interdisciplinary teams and conducts ongoing quality assurance monitoring.

A current license to practice as a Registered Nurse in the State of Arizona is required.

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

IMPACT continued from page 24

Arizona Biltmore Resort, 2400 E. Missouri Ave. Registration requested by May 8.

The IMPACT Awards honor the accomplishments of small and large businesses and the impact they have on the Valley's business community and economy. This year—as in each of the last three years of the program—the GPCC recognizes two recipients in each of four categories: Community Champion, Economic Driver, Entrepreneurial Excellence, and Response to Adversity.

The 2015 IMPACT Businesses of the Year will be selected from eight total finalists. Tickets are \$75 for GPCC members and \$85 for non-members. For reservations, visit www.phoenixchamber.com/impact.

HomeSmart lauded for record growth

Arizona-based real estate firm HomeSmart is setting record growth. Last month Home Smart was ranked at the top of two prestigious real estate

industry rankings: RISMEDIA's Power Broker Top 500, and REAL Trends 500. Both of these awards are based on sales volume and transactions from 2014.

HomeSmart Phoenix was listed as the 12th top real estate firm for total residential real estate transactions and took 15th place for total sales volume, which exceeded \$5 billion last year on the RIS Media list, and No. 11 and No. 16 on the REAL Trends lists.

In April, 200 Arizona agents received HomeSmart's Diamond Awards, honoring those who earned more than \$100,000 in 2014.

Since opening in January 2000, HomeSmart has grown to 8,800 agents nationwide. In 2014, HomeSmart Phoenix realtors closed more than 19,000 residential transactions.

The company expects to grow its sales and number of real estate agents in 2015, spurring jobs and helping to boost the real estate industry and economy.

For more information, visit www.homesmartinternational.com. Follow HomeSmart on Facebook at www.facebook.com/homesmart.

Upscale apartments open on 16th St.

The new @51 apartment community recently opened for renters at the southeast corner of 16th Street and Georgia, ideally situated with ease of access to north and south ramps of State Route 51 freeway.

The upscale apartment community is a project brought to the Valley by Smithfield Properties, Chicago-based developer of high-end residences and adaptive reuse projects. Designed by San Francisco-based Berkelhamer Architects, @51 features 191 units, a ground-level restaurant (anticipated to open later this year) and a rooftop nightclub with a pool, which will be available for special events.

Luxury apartment manager Mark-Taylor Residential is overseeing leasing of the community, located at 1615 E. Georgia Ave. Rentals of the studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments range from \$925 to \$2,800. Details are at www.Mark-Taylor.com/arizona/at51.

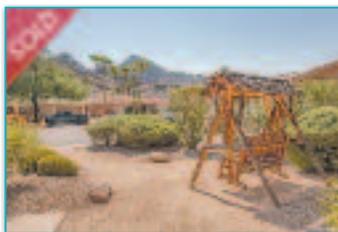
New antique mall opens on Camelback

Camelback Marketplace, a new multi-dealer antique and collectibles mall, opened on April 17 at 835 E. Camelback Road, between Relics and Baker Bros. Carpets.

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1131 W. Frier Drive
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1018 W. Kaler Drive
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530 E. Glenn Drive
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822 W. Earll Drive
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Store owner Tom Knott, formerly of Oklahoma City, along with friends and experienced antique dealers Heather and Rick Brownell, transplants from New Jersey, have gathered a diverse group of dealers to present an exciting variety of antiques, original art, oriental rugs, chandeliers and other types of lighting, mid century and contemporary, garden accessories, statues, and unique items of every kind for you and your home.

The 5,400-square-foot space perfectly frames the fine quality, upscale and designer merchandise that will be filling it, creating an inspiring environment for browsing and shopping. Store hours will be 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sundays. There is ample parking and an entrance at the back of the store off 8th Place. For more information, call 602-274-0386 or visit www.camelbackmarketplace.com.

Dearing earns special real estate designation

Andy Dearing, sales associate with the Century 21 Phoenix office located at 8936 N. Central Ave., recently added the Accredited Buyer Representative (ABR) designation to his professional offerings.

Dearing successfully completed the ABR designation, which is geared toward agents who wish to enhance their buyer representation skills and provides proof to prospective buyer-clients of their proficiency at servicing the special needs of buyers.



Andy Dearing

Dearing brings more than 10 years

of real estate and relocation service experience to his clients. For more information, call 602-943-7252 or visit <http://andydearing.movephoenix.com>.

Chamber welcomes new team members

Jennifer Mellor has joined the Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce as vice president of Economic Development, where she will spearhead the chamber's efforts to build and grow existing Arizona companies.

Mellor will lead a new initiative called Phoenix Forward that will focus on nurturing and strengthening Arizona-based companies and organizations.

Since 2010, Mellor has served as vice president of Program Development at the chamber. She started at the chamber in 2008 as part of the accounting team. She earned her bachelor's in accounting at Arizona State University and her MBA from the University of Phoenix. Mellor also is a licensed CPA in Arizona.



Jennifer Mellor

The Chamber also has added two new economic development specialists to its team. Greg Tilque comes to the Chamber with an extensive background in economic development. He is a certified economic developer and has held leadership roles with the Mesa and Gilbert Chambers of Commerce and the Town of Gilbert.

Taylor Gillings most recently served as a client services associate at Fisher Investments. He earned his master's degree in international relations policy at the University of Chicago.



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Current Listings/Escrows

(North Central homes in bold)

4320 E. Rose Ln.	7518 SF	6BR/6.5B	\$2,750,000
7110 N. Central Ave.	NEW PRICE	14,383 SF	13BR/12.5BA \$2,350,000
4101 N. 65th St.	3800 SF	4BR/3.5BA	\$1,690,000
7152 N. 23rd Pl.	NEW PRICE	4891 SF	4BR/4.5BA \$1,650,000
5600 N. 4th St.	5731 SF	6BR/6BA	\$1,595,000
334 E. Glenn Dr.	JUST LISTED	4563 SF	4BR/4BA \$1,350,000
17 W. Sierra Vista	JUST LISTED	4670 SF	4BR/3.5BA \$1,195,000
202 W. Vista Ave.	JUST LISTED	4485 SF	4BR/4.5BA \$1,090,000
2211 E. Camelback Rd. #302	NEW PRICE	3000 SF	3BR/3BA \$ 999,000
936 W. Why Worry Ln.	JUST LISTED	4430 SF	5BR/5.5BA \$ 849,500
311 E. Maryland Ave.	NEW PRICE	3811 SF	4BR/3.5BA \$ 799,900
41 W. Marlette	IN ESCROW	5640 SF	6BR/5.5BA \$ 700,000
6309 N. 4th Dr.	NEW PRICE	3260 SF	4BR/2.75BA \$ 675,000
10012 N. 1st Dr.	3302 SF	4BR3NA	\$ 668,000
7032 N. 2nd Ave.	NEW PRICE	3075 SF	4BR/3BA \$ 655,000
5801 N. 22nd Pl.	IN ESCROW	3100SF	4BR/3BA \$ 650,000
6316 N. 7th Ave.	IN ESCROW	3529 SF	4BR/3.5BA \$ 629,000
7502 N. 10th St.	3001 SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 625,000
336 W. Rancho Dr.	JUST LISTED	2875 SF	3BR/3BA \$ 625,000
6501 N. Central Ave.	JUST LISTED	3041 SF	3BR/3BA \$ 599,000
77 E. Missouri Ave. #45	NEW PRICE	2727 SF	4BR/2.5BA \$ 575,000
6310 N. 7th Ave.	JUST LISTED	2817 SF	3BR/2.5BA \$ 559,000
1818 E. Palmaria Ave.	3144 SF	4BR/4BA	\$ 525,000
6520 N. Central Ave.	NEW PRICE	2079 SF	3BR/2BA \$ 495,000
7734 N. 16th Ln.	3104 SF	5BR/2.75BA	\$ 495,000
7911 N. 16th Dr.	NEW CONSTRUCTION	2483 SF	3BR/3.5BA \$ 489,900
2524 E. Vogel Ave.	2449 SF	2BR/2BA	\$ 485,000
7915 N. 16th Dr.	NEW CONSTRUCTION	2483 SF	3BR/3.5BA \$ 484,900
125 W. Las Palmaritas	JUST LISTED	2542 SF	5BR/3BA \$ 479,000
909 E. Kaler Dr.	IN ESCROW	2095 SF	3BR/2BA \$ 429,000
1250 W. Solano Dr.	JUST LISTED	2117 SF	4BR/2BA \$ 425,000
9837 N. Central Ave.	NEW PRICE	2969 SF	4BR/3.5BA \$ 399,500
131 W. San Juan Ave.	IN ESCROW	2176 SF	3BR/2BA \$ 379,000
5827 N. 10th St.	IN ESCROW	1456 SF	2BR/2BA \$ 375,000
717 E. Harmont Dr.	2574 SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 359,000
11109 E. Mercer Ln.	2100 SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 359,000
723 W. Glenn Dr.	NEW PRICE	2381 SF	3BR/2BA \$ 349,000
751 E. Blemont Ave.	NEW PRICE	2002 SF	3BR/2BA \$ 329,500
821 E. Palmaria	IN ESCROW	3446 SF	5BR/4BA \$ 325,000
2333 E. Montecito Ave.	JUST LISTED	1369SF	3BR/2BA \$ 289,900
1314 E. Orchid Ln.	JUST LISTED	1515 SF	3BR/1.75BA \$ 283,900
846 E. Lamar Rd.	JUST LISTED	1116 SF	2BR/1BA \$ 259,000
1133 E. Gardenia Dr.	IN ESCROW	1916 SF	3BR/2BA \$ 259,000
690 W. Venus Way	IN ESCROW	1818 SF	3BR/2BA \$ 258,900
1410 E. Verlea Dr.	IN ESCROW	1633 SF	4BR/2BA \$ 249,000
3017 W. Glendale Ave.	Land		\$ 245,000
6516 N. 10th Pl.	IN ESCROW	1883 SF	3BR/2.5BA \$ 235,000
6508 N. 10th Pl.	IN ESCROW	1883 SF	3BR/2.5BA \$ 225,000
8150 N. Central Ave. #15	NEW PRICE	1922 SF	3BR/2.5BA \$ 225,000
3850 E. Crocus Dr.	IN ESCROW	1493 SF	3BR/2BA \$ 199,000
1237 W Vista Ave.	IN ESCROW	1400 SF	3BR/2BA \$ 179,900
207 W. Clarendon Ave. #5A	IN ESCROW		1BR/1BA \$ 123,900
4131 E. Camelback Rd. #29	IN ESCROW	1092 SF	2BR/1.75BA \$ 114,900

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7110 N. Central Ave. ■ \$2,350,000



334 E. Glenn Dr. ■ \$1,350,000



17 W. Sierra Vista Dr. ■ \$1,195,000



5600 N. 4th St. ■ \$1,595,000



202 W. Vista Ave. ■ \$1,090,000



311 E. Maryland Ave. ■ \$799,900



6309 N. 4th Dr. ■ \$675,000



77 E. Missouri Ave. #45 ■ \$575,000



7915 N. 16th Dr. ■ \$489,900

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229 W. Vista Ave. \$ 985,000	201 W. Palmyra \$ 489,250	1113 W. Stella Ln. \$ 358,500	1313 W. Rose Ln. \$ 262,500
7339 N. 2nd Dr. \$ 845,000	40 E. Lawrence \$ 480,000	2735 S Kenneth Pk. \$ 344,000	5508 N. 5th Ln. \$ 255,000
14838 N. 15th Ave. \$ 740,000	8 Biltmore Estates #102 \$ 475,000	9409 N. 17th Way. \$ 340,000	7004 N. 11th Way \$ 180,000
405 E. Montebello Ave. \$ 695,000	7919 N. 16th Dr. \$ 463,500	18 W. Medlock Dr. \$ 325,000	6047 N. 9th Ave. \$ 165,000
1117 W. Tuckey \$ 690,000	4427 E. Montecito \$ 438,500	328 E. Rose Ln. \$ 325,000	2725 S. Azalea Dr. \$ 158,000
5302 N. 6th St. \$ 610,000	3845 E. Glenrosa Ave. \$ 428,000	77 E. Missouri Ave. #41 \$ 320,000	750 E. Northern Ave. #1141 \$ 155,000
6833 N. Central Ave. \$ 607,000	219 E. Winter Dr. \$ 401,000	6621 N. 10th Pl. \$ 315,000	3023 E. Palm Ln. \$ 129,900
331 E. Tuckey Ln. \$ 577,500	7533 N. 8th St. \$ 365,000	1502 E. Berridge Ln. \$ 315,000	1145 E. Orangewood Ave. \$ 65,000
9139 N. 82nd St. \$ 575,000	6317 N 10th Pl. \$ 365,000	310 W. Oregon Ave. \$ 300,000	
7619 N. 11th St. \$ 520,000	7755 N. 7th Ave. \$ 360,000	1641 E. Aurelius Ave. \$ 295,000	

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Jenny Clark, whose active family of five—with one more on the way—has accumulated numerous medical records, explains to HonorHealth CEO Tom Sadvary how she used to take a large binder with all the family’s records to all doctor appointments. With HonorHealth’s interconnected network of care, all their medical records are easily accessed electronically by any doctor, hospital or urgent care in the network (photo by Teri Carnicelli).



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Hospitals merge under one umbrella

By Teri Carnicelli

There is nothing more personal than someone’s health.

That’s the core message relayed by Tom Sadvary, CEO of HonorHealth, the new medical and health care network formed from the recent merger of the John C. Lincoln Health Network and Scottsdale Healthcare.

The announcement of the new umbrella organization, HonorHealth, was made on March 30 in the home of Jenny Clark, whose large and active family have been regular patients of the John C. Lincoln network for several years. Over the years, Clark’s family has accumulated numerous medical records, and she used to take a large binder with all the family’s records to all doctor appointments.

“Healthcare in the past has been too fragmented,” Sadvary explained. “The goal is to connect everyone and everything, in an integrated way.”

HonorHealth, Sadvary added, is both a name and a call to action. “Will we honor our patients by focusing on their individual needs.”

Sadvary shared an example of that end-to-end, personalized care, as provided to 74-year-old widow Patricia Bruner. Bruner has been part of the John C. Lincoln Health Network for

almost three decades.

Years ago, Bruner and her husband, Bob, drove across town to see their primary care physician, Dr. John Williams. When Bruner’s husband of 39 years passed away, Dr. Williams comforted her like a member of his own family.

That personal relationship continued through the decades and past Dr. Williams’ retirement in 2013. Bruner continues to be a patient at the Squaw Peak Family Medicine office in Sunnyslope, under the care of Patrick Knowles, M.D.

Bruner has faced her own health challenges, including three years ago when she underwent gallbladder surgery, and earlier this year when she was diagnosed with a heart arrhythmia. In both cases, “The Transition Specialist program helped her get back to optimal health through home visits and medical and emotional support offered by Lewis, Chris and James,” explained Sadvary.

“They gave me the confidence that I could do what I needed to do to be healthy and make it on my own,” Bruner said. “You’ve saved my life a few times, and the support of Lewis, Chris and James has been very special to me.”

HonorHealth was created in 2013 with the affiliation and subsequent merger of John C. Lincoln Health Network and Scottsdale Healthcare. HonorHealth Medical Group is now a network of 54 primary care and specialty



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practices, located throughout the Valley.

Under the umbrella nonprofit organization will be HonorHealth John C. Lincoln Medical Center. Sadvary said it was important to retain the John C. Lincoln name to honor the family and its legacy in serving the community. All of the Desert Mission programs will retain their established names, however, many of the medical offices and services will now have “HonorHealth” in front of their names.

“HonorHealth is building an integrated healthcare delivery network of hospitals, physicians—private and employed—and outpatient services, which will provide a continuum of care for our patients,” said Sadvary. “We’re taking innovative steps to achieve our vision, and to proactively help our patients stay as healthy as possible.”

Health Briefs

Explore your core, soothe your soul

Core strength produces stability, not just strong abdominal muscles. Breathing, postural alignment and bal-

ance are results of real “core” work. Strengthening one’s core incorporates an awareness of how to use, and care for and feel your body. In May, Kinesphere Center for Movement Education delves into this concept with workshops developed to increase core stability.

Experience Yoga Tune-Up Explore Your Core with Isabelle Barter, 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, May 9. Journey through the many layers of your “core” and explore the structures that stabilize your spine and impact the quality of your breathing. Cost is \$40.

Then on Monday, May 18 learn what actually constitutes the “core” and how to train it in a way that is beneficial to your health. Dave Authement combines neurological and biomechanical aspects of core stability in **Core: The Reflexive Center, 6:30-8 p.m.** Cost is \$40.

Finally, finish the month at **Move Your Chi ... Soothe Your Soul with Kat and Matt Myers, 1-3 p.m. Sunday, May 31.** The class blends bodyrolling, foot fitness, chi gong, live music and a soul-soothing Nidra relaxation. Cost

is \$40. Call/text 480-221-7435 to reserve your spot.

Kinesphere Center for Movement Education is located at 711 E. Missouri Ave., Suite 180. For more information, visit www.kcme-az.com or call 602-532-3111.

Targeted treatments for lung cancer patients

The monthly Cancer Support Group offers support for patients, families and community members dealing with all types of cancers. The next meeting is set for 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 21, at its new location, the meeting room inside Bluewater Grill, 1720 E. Camelback Road.

The guest speaker is Panos Fidas, M.D., section leader, Thoracic Oncology, and associate professor of Medicine, University of Arizona Cancer Center at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center. Dr. Fidas will discuss “Past, Present, and Future of Lung Cancer: Screening, Targeted Therapeutics and Immunotherapy.”

Admission is free. Complimentary refreshments will be served. An RSVP

is requested by Monday, May 18. To RSVP, call Terry Ratner at 602-527-3776 or e-mail Tjrwriter@aol.com.

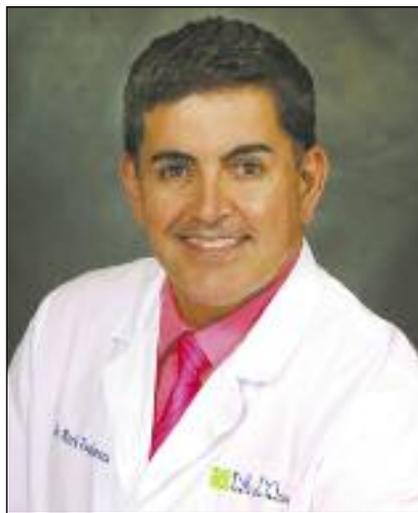
Free stroke check set for May 6

HonorHealth presents a free Stroke Check 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Wednesday, May 6, at the John C. Lincoln Medical Center’s Cowden Center, 9202 N. 2nd St., in Barb’s Conference Room.

This free community stroke screening event will screen for risk factors including plaque buildup in the carotid arteries, heart rate and cholesterol. Information will be available on how to prevent strokes. Counseling will be available by physicians and healthcare providers.

Participants need to fast (nothing to eat or drink except water) for 8-12 hours prior to their appointment. Daily medications should still be taken, with water. If you are diabetic, you should fast 4-6 hours before your appointment time.

To pre-register, call 480-882-4636 or visit <https://www.honorhealth.com/wellness/events>.



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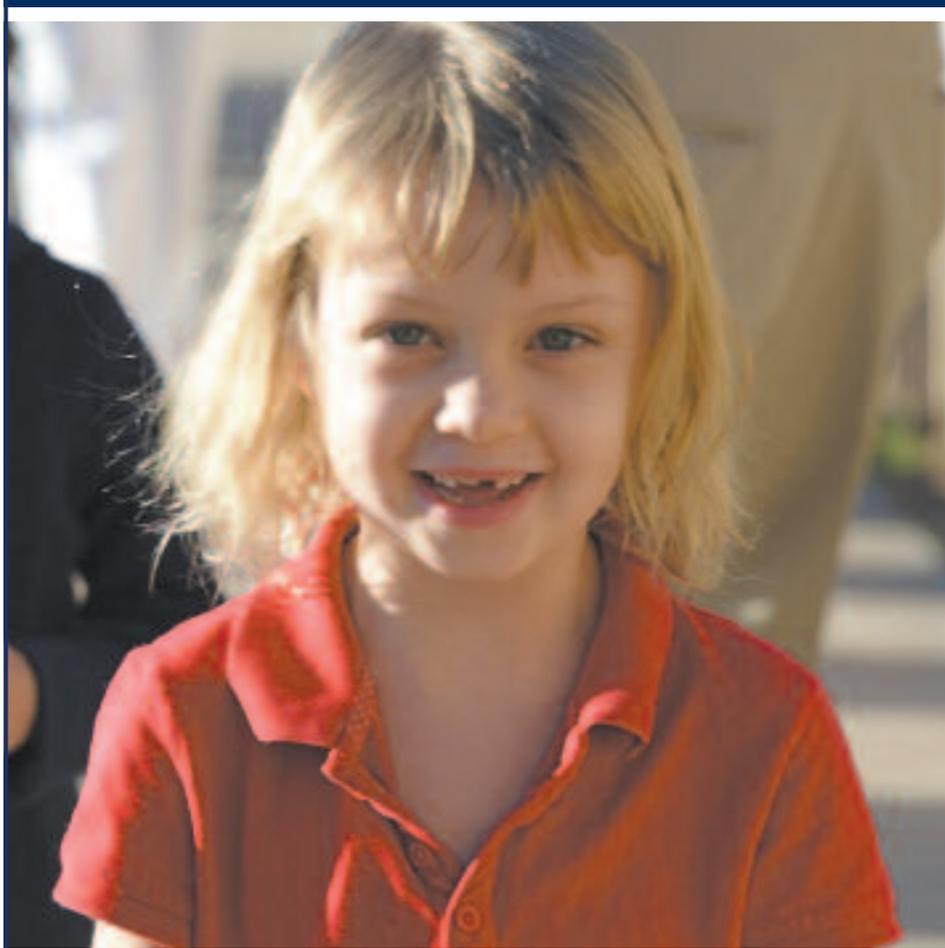
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Longview Elementary School TAP Master Teacher Ana Gutierrez, left, shares good news with her husband (“Honey, I just won \$25,000!”) while Milken Family Foundation Chairman and Co-Founder Lowell Milken, right, and baseball legend and friend of the Milken Family Foundation Tommy Lasorda cheer her on (photo courtesy of Milken Family Foundation).

Local teacher receives \$25,000 cash prize

It was the surprise of a lifetime for Ana Gutierrez when she was presented with the prestigious Milken Educator Award—and its accompanying \$25,000 cash prize—before a school-wide assembly at Osborn School District’s Longview Elementary School on March 26.

Gutierrez helps drive instruction at Longview as a master teacher in TAP: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement. The TAP System is a comprehensive initiative implemented districtwide that is focused on increasing educator effectiveness and improving student achievement growth.

Milken Family Foundation Chairman and Co-Founder Lowell Milken, joined by Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane Douglas, delivered the news of the award. The cash prize of \$25,000 is unrestricted, meaning Gutierrez can use it for anything she wants.

The Milken Award recognizes exemplary elementary and secondary school teachers, principals and specialists who are furthering excellence in education. You cannot be nominated for the award, nor can you self-nominate. Each state’s Department of Education appoints a blue ribbon committee to confidentially source candidates. So recipients like Gutierrez have no idea they are even being considered. “We’ve been presenting these awards

for almost 30 years because we believe—and the research proves it—that effective educators represent the most important school-based factor in improving student performance,” said Lowell Milken. “Ana Gutierrez plays an integral role in Longview Elementary’s efforts to raise student achievement growth by developing a strong instructional team. She is a trusted mentor whose work in sharing best practices and guiding others is making a difference at the school, district, state and national levels.”

Gutierrez spoke with heartfelt gratitude after receiving the award. “I came to Longview six years ago and every day I come to school hoping to make a difference,” she said. “Every day, when we come to work, is an opportunity to learn with you, to teach, and to hope for a brighter future.”

Gutierrez started working with the TAP System as a career (classroom) teacher at Longview Elementary, and became a TAP master teacher in 2013. In this role, she was integral to the school’s TAP Leadership Team, made up of mentor teachers, master teachers and administrators all focused on moving the whole school forward.

“Obviously Longview has done very well and came to our attention because of the outstanding work that is being done here every day,” Milken said.

Due in significant part to Gutierrez’s leadership, Longview Elementary’s AIMS Reading scores have risen from 59 to 66 percent

SCHOOL DAYS



Volunteering to help restripe the badly faded basketball courts at Loma Linda Elementary are, from left: kindergarten teachers Brook Stout and Laura Schellentrager, and first-grade teacher Monica Chiago, who also is the girls basketball coach (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

between 2012-2014, and AIMS Math scores increased from 46 to 53 percent during that same time period. Longview—a Title I Focus School—moved from a C to a B under Arizona’s letter-grade system.

Beyond the school, Gutierrez collaborates with TAP master teachers and administrators districtwide in creating and researching strategies that support educators and students alike. Her accomplishments took her to Capitol Hill, where she presented on comprehensive educator effectiveness models.

Gutierrez is a first-generation college graduate. She received a B.S. in Child Development and Family Studies and a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from Arizona State University. She is pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership at Grand Canyon University.

School Briefs
CREIGHTON ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Loma Linda sports
courts get makeover

Volunteer students and teachers from Loma Linda Elementary, 2002 E. Clarendon Ave., were joined by volunteers from California Pizza Kitchen at the Biltmore, and Sport Authority at 16th Street and Camelback Road, for a one-day project on April 18 to transform the school’s basketball courts and soccer fields to give the students the ultimate playing experience.

The day of volunteering was organized by California Pizza Kitchen General Manager Dan Smederovac,

who also brought sponsors Chick-fil-a, which donated lunch, Coca Cola & Red Bull, which donated beverages, Benjamin Moore Paint, Peddler’s Son Produce, and MBM Distribution.

“CPK is committed to doing acts of kindness in the communities they serve and is determined to make a real difference,” Smederovac said.

Volunteers spent hours taping off the faded lines of the basketball courts before repainting them, and also replaced tattered or missing basketball nets and installed brand-new soccer nets as well.

Sports Authority donated two new soccer nets plus two replacement nets, about a dozen new basketball nets, close to 80 new basketballs, and three buckets of baseballs and softballs, as well as scorecards. Erin Matunas led the team from Sport Authority and said she enjoyed doing volunteer projects that helped children get out and get active.

Monica Chiago, a first-grade teacher at Loma Linda, also is the girls basketball coach and was excited to hear that the two courts were to be fixed up.

“Sometimes I tell the girls to get into their positions and they say ‘Where?’ because they can’t see the lines,” she explains. “Or I’d say, ‘Nothing but net’ and they’d respond, ‘But coach, there is no net!’ Now they’ll be able to hear the swoosh as it drops through.”

At the end of the school year CPK will be giving 4 iPad Minis to outstanding Loma Linda students for their academic achievement.

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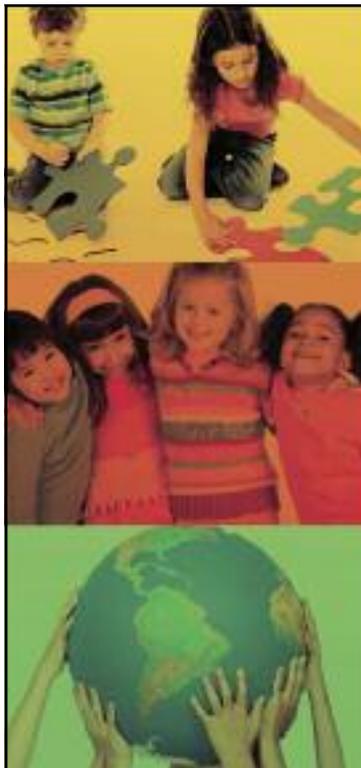
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SCHOOL DAYS

**GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Green receives a Silver Apple Award**

Washington High School teacher Jill Green was recently honored with a 3TV Silver Apple award.

The Silver Apple Award was created to recognize outstanding teachers who have made a difference in the lives of their students. Each year, hundreds of teachers are nominated from across the state of Arizona by thousands of students. Each entry is read and considered by an expert judging panel comprised of educators and community leaders. The judging panel then awards eight Arizona teachers the Silver Apple award along with \$500 for use in their classroom.

Green, who has been a teacher at WHS for 28 years and whose father was an English teacher, was nominated by senior student Anarosa, who wrote in her nomination letter that, "Her loving personality generates a positive atmosphere in the classroom, creating a family environment for everyone. With over a million things on her agenda, she

always finds time to dedicate to her students; whether it is helping them on an assignment or whether it is writing letters of recommendation."

Green said she would use the \$500 to purchase cameras for the student newspaper.

**MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Calkins places 5th in State Spelling Bee**

Madison No. 1 fifth-grade REACH student Henry Calkins placed fifth at the Arizona State Spelling Bee on March 21. Among the competitors, Henry was the only fifth-grader to place.

To compete at the state level, Henry first had to win the Madison District Spelling Bee. He and the second-place competitor, Marcus Giorza, went on to compete in the Regional Spelling Bee where Henry placed second and Marcus came in third.

Henry possesses a keen intellect and an incredibly wide array of interests, including soccer, Tae Kwon Do (he's earned his black belt), Legos, Irish Dance, playing the bagpipes, military history, the U.S. Navy, architecture, programming, and vintage cameras.

At the Madison District Spelling Bee, Henry's incredible facility with spelling was surpassed only by his sportsmanlike conduct towards his peers.

Madison teams do well at competition

Several Madison School District teams had a strong showing at the Central Region Odyssey of the Mind (OM) Tournament on March 14, and one team will compete in the Odyssey of the Mind (OM) World Finals at Michigan State University May 22-23. Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativity to solve problems ranging from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions, in the form of an eight-minute skit, to competitions on the local, state, and world level.

Carson Bilger's third-grade Odyssey of the Mind team from Madison Simis will compete in the OM World Finals this month. Bilger's team qualified based on a second-place tie for Problem

SCHOOL DAYS

5: Silent Movie at the OM State Tournament in Tucson on March 28. After impressive placement in the March 14 regional tournament, five Simis Teams progressed to the OM State Tournament where they placed second third, fourth, fifth, and sixth for various problems.

In addition, three of the four Madison Meadows teams advanced to the state tournament as well. Two Meadows teams advanced in Division 2 (grades six-eight) and one team advanced in Division 3 (grades nine-12; one team member was a ninth grader).

The top award in Odyssey of the Mind is the Ranatra Fusca, which is named for the water strider insect, the Ranatra Fusca. It is given to teams or individuals who display tremendous creativity at competition, and serves as an incentive for risk-taking and out-of-the-box thinking for Odyssey participants. It was won by parent-coach Kathryn Peacock's third-grade Simis team. This team won for "outstanding style elements in costumes and script that all supported the theme and solution."

OSBORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Students get a chance to view the stars

The Phoenix Astronomical Society (PAS) gave Encanto and Clarendon students and their families a close up look of the night sky. PAS volunteer astronomers brought five telescopes, including a 22-inch Canon, that allowed observers to see the bands around Jupiter.

Students also observed the surface of the moon including craters bigger than the city of Phoenix. A "meteor man" was on hand for students to hold meteor rocks and learn about different planet surfaces.

The evening was fun and educational with all participants asking when we could schedule another event.

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Betanzos tops out on AP exam scores

North High School's Fernando Cortes Betanzos is among only 285 students worldwide who earned every point possible on their Advanced Placement exam last spring. He answered every multiple-choice question correctly and earned full points on

each of the essays in the free-response section of the AP Spanish exam.

Each year, approximately four million AP Exams are taken by nearly 1.5 million U.S. public high school students. According to the College Board, it is extremely rare for a high school student to earn every point possible on the exam.

His teacher, Heidi Garcia, is one of the district's National Board Certified teachers and North's World Languages Instructional Leader.

Betanzos came to Phoenix from Mexico City in 2011 with his father and younger sister. He has been at North all four years and will graduate with a 4.0 grade point average. He has already been accepted to Arizona State University with a scholarship, and his dream is to have a career in accounting.

Free summer school begins May 26

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please see SUMMER SCHOOL on page 36

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SCHOOL DAYS



Metro Tech student Kazandra Zelaya, left, along with teammates Jose Ramirez and Gloria Ariza, competed in a Robotics event last month. Zelaya was selected as a Dean's List Finalist at the event, and earned a trip to the FIRST International event in St. Louis (submitted photo).

SUMMER SCHOOL continued from page 35

earn a half-credit or a full credit this year at 12 campuses.

The schools will run two sessions, a morning session (8-11:45 a.m.) and an afternoon session (12:15-4 p.m.) Students can attend one session for a half credit or both sessions for one full credit. Most of the schools will hold classes Monday through Thursday. Courses will vary by campus.

The Freshman Academy/Introduction to High School is a half-credit session that integrates project-based MESA (math, engineering and science), AVID (a college-prep program emphasizing organization, note-taking, reading and writing) and Humanities. There will be other enrichment programs in art, band and academic decathlon at some locations.

Free transportation, breakfast and lunch are available for Freshman Academy and regular summer school. Registration deadline is May 15. For more information, visit www.phoenixunion.org/summerschool or call 602-764-1307.

PUHSD teams do well at robotics competitions

The Metro Tech Robotics team competed at the Arizona West Regional FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics competition at Grand Canyon University, April 2-4. Kazandra Zelaya was selected as a Dean's List Finalist at the event, and earned a trip to the FIRST International event in St. Louis, Mo., April 22-25. Students who earn FIRST

Dean's List Award status are student leaders who have led their teams and communities to increased awareness for FIRST and its mission, while achieving personal technical expertise and accomplishment. Students are nominated by their team mentors.

The North Cyborg Mustangs had the best showing of any Phoenix Union schools in the FIRST Robotics Arizona West Regionals, March 26-28 in Chandler. North ranked 18th in the 41-team field, and was picked to go into the playoff rounds, where their three-team alliance made it to the semi-finals.

Aguilera named to All-State Band

Camelback High trombonist Arturo Aguilera made the All-State Band for the second year in a row. The rehearsals and concert were held at the University of Arizona in April.

Aguilera joins another trombonist from Carl Hayden as the two Phoenix Union musicians on the All-State Band. Aguilera also auditioned for the Army Band on March 24, and passed the audition. According to his band teacher, Jamie Johnston, this is very uncommon for students still in high school and very difficult to do.



Arturo Aguilera

Aguilera is a senior and has been actively involved in music since he was in middle school. He plays in the Phoenix Youth Symphony on

SCHOOL DAYS

Wednesday evenings, and he plays in the Phoenix College jazz ensemble. He takes a private trombone lessons once a week through “Rosie’s House,” an organization that provides free lessons and instruments to Phoenix youth.

He hopes to attend Arizona State University or Northern Arizona University, with the goal of eventually becoming a high school band director.

Smith to play basketball for GCC

Central High senior Alexis Smith signed a letter of intent on April 8 to play basketball for Glendale Community College next year.

Smith earned Honorable Mention All-State in Division II Basketball and was selected to the All-Academic Division II First Team, with a 4.25 GPA. She made Section V All-Section 2nd team, and scored her 1,000 career point late in this season. Smith was also second in scoring among Division II players in the state, averaging 22 points a game.

Students lauded for Native art at show

Native American art students enrolled in Central High’s Digital Photography and Traditional Photography classes were the recipients of many awards during the recent Heard Museum American Indian Student Art Show and Sale, March 27-29.

Katlyn Bylas received a Red Ribbon award of \$40 for her landscape photograph “Serenity on the Apache Reservation,” which also sold for \$30. Siriah Scott was awarded a Green Ribbon and \$10.

Rebecca Grayhat was Central’s top awardee, receiving three ribbons, including the coveted Judge’s Choice Award. She also sold two of her digital images. Combined, Grayhat earned \$208.

Anthony Moreno sold his digital image and Tashawna Begay sold two photographs.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT WESD surpasses food drive goal

The students, teachers and staff of the Washington Elementary School District banded together with local churches and businesses to complete one of the largest food drives of the year for St. Mary’s Food Bank Alliance.



Central High’s Alexis Smith signed a letter of intent to play basketball for Glendale Community College (submitted photo).

One of the most inventive, creative and successful student food drives in Arizona, WESD raised 56,000 pounds of food last year and set a goal of 75,000 pounds for this year’s drive. The district not only reached its lofty goal, it doubled it with more than 151,000

please see GOAL on page 38



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Mia Scardello, a seventh-grade student at St. Francis Xavier School, selected Injured Firefighters for her Arrupe Project and local firefighters were so impressed they came to school to give her a ride to the fire station (submitted photo).

GOAL continued from page 37

pounds of food and water collected by the 32 schools, surrounding churches and local businesses.

What made this drive extra special is that WESD has a large percentage of

students who are eligible for the free school breakfast and lunch programs and families who rely on food banks at times. More than one in four of Arizona's children—27 percent—do not know where their next meal will come from.

The timing of the drive is an important one for the food bank. The spring signals a meager time for food donations after the rush from holiday donations ends.

“Food drives, such as the Washington Elementary School Drive, go a long way toward helping us through the leaner months,” said Jerry Brown, St. Mary's director of Public Relations. “So many of the families in this district know what it's like to be hungry and are part of families that know the challenges of providing nutritious food each day. For them to come together and work to ensure that other children in Arizona have enough to eat is an extremely inspiring effort.”

PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS SFX students earn money for charities

Each year, the seventh and eighth grade students at St. Francis Xavier School participate in the Arrupe Project. Faculty members of St. Francis Xavier School developed the project five years ago to give students a hands-on opportunity to help others.

This project challenges the seventh and eighth grade students to research issues that affect their community.

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Through this project, students “Pay It Forward” by becoming personally engaged in their response to social justice. Each student selects an organization to be the recipient of the funds raised. They have to speak to an individual at the organization, and find out what their needs are. The students then purchase the items needed with the funds raised.

Students begin their project by earning \$10, which is then matched by the school through grants. These start-up funds are used by the students in their fundraising efforts. The 7th grade hosts the Arrupe Marketplace where students sell small homemade items, such as superhero capes, stress balls, magnets, jewelry and hair ribbons, to the school community.

The eighth-grade has creative student-organized fundraisers that raise funds for their organization. Fundraisers this year involved taco nights, hockey clinics, lacrosse clinics, ice cream socials, and babysitting events.

For the 2015 project, 153 seventh and eighth grade students raised more than \$32,000. From the money raised they purchased and delivered items to 68 different organizations.

CCS students enjoy science activities

Christ Church School students and their families were treated to an evening of Science activities on March 10. Wacky staff scientists ran classroom “laboratories” where students experimented with slime and magnets, made “elephant toothpaste,” built impossibly tall towers, and even held newly-hatched baby chicks.

Students examined birds of prey brought in by Liberty Wildlife, and the Daedalus Astronautics at Arizona State University assisted students as they launched water pressure rockets on the CCS playground.

During the evening, CCS students were encouraged to use the scientific method process (hypothesize, test and analyze) while participating in each of the hands-on research opportunities.

Students lauded for accomplishments

Two Xavier College Preparatory sophomores from North Central Phoenix— Caitlin Blomo and Katie Hobaica—have been chosen to represent Team Arizona in the Women’s

National Lacrosse Tournament in May. Seven students total were selected from Xavier, comprising the largest representation from a single high school on this year’s tournament team.

Xavier College Preparatory senior Kaitlin Coltin of North Central Phoenix became the first student in school history to qualify for the upcoming National Speech and Debate Tournament in the “debate” category. She will compete in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate event at the national competition to be held in Dallas in June. Coltin was part of the Xavier group that competed for the Brophy-Xavier Speech and Debate Team at the National Qualifier tournament at Thunderbird High School. Their team won first place honors in debate and placed second in speech.

North Central resident and Xavier senior Molly Scheel recently signed a letter of intent to play sand volleyball for Texas Christian University.

Xavier senior Mary Caitlin Martin of North Central Phoenix was recognized for achieving the highest possible honors in the International Thespian Society

please see LAUDED on page 40

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SCHOOL DAYS

LAUDED continued from page 39

(ITS). A member of the Honor Society of the ITS, Martin also earned a special seal on her diploma that she will receive at Xavier's commencement in May.

ASA hosts inaugural fundraising event

More than 400 guests gathered on March 28 for a good cause at Phoenix's Bentley Projects for OVATION, the inaugural annual fundraising event benefiting Arizona School for the Arts. Guests mingled in the contemporary spacious art gallery while enjoying a variety of musical and dance performances from ASA's talented students, including Willetta Winds, Jazz Band, percussion and choral groups organized by Arts Director Laura Apperson.

Guests also enjoyed a wine pull, silent auction and grand prize drawing while dining on delicious fare catered by Arizona Taste. The dance floor came alive as attendees grooved to upbeat Classic Rock hits.

"The evening provided a wonderful opportunity for the community to join

together and support Arizona School for the Arts in furthering our mission of providing students with an academically rigorous college preparatory education through immersion in the performing arts," said Head of School/CEO Leah Fregulia Roberts. "We would like to thank everyone who attended, donated and volunteered at our inaugural fundraising event, as it was truly a success and provided a valuable platform to showcase our school's dedication to its students and our community at large."

MHP competes in robotics competition

Six Madison Highland Prep students competed at the April 11 SeaPerch regional qualifier at Grossmont College in El Cajon, Calif. Two MHP teams, coached by chemistry teacher Alexander Mutsaers, presented their underwater robotics vehicles and put them to the test against an obstacle course and skills challenge.

Although the teams did not qualify for the national competition, they will have a chance to qualify for the regional qualifier at Chandler High School on May 9. The following students competed in the SeaPerch regional qualifier: Tommy Najor, Kevin Liden, Marissa Luna, James Silva, Matthew Soto and Jesus Rabago.

Xavier receive nod for 'innovation'

Xavier College Preparatory is one of only two high schools in the United States to be honored with an "Innovations In Catholic Education" award by Today's Catholic Teacher.

The award annually honors Catholic elementary and secondary schools that have led the way by implementing exemplary, innovative programs to improve the teaching and learning of their students, faculty, and staffs.

A total of 14 schools across the nation, 12 of which are elementary schools, were selected as 2015 award winners. Xavier and Mount Carmel Academy in New Orleans, La., were the only two high schools to win the prestigious award.

MHP students take 2nd in ASU language contest

Madison Highland Prep foreign language students placed second in the ASU Language Fair competition on March 4.

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SCHOOL DAYS



Astronaut Dr. Ed Gibson, center, and science teacher Maureen Hill, right, congratulate the winning Aerospace Challenge team from SS. Simon & Jude, from left: Joseph Mulkern, Tessa Gaynor, Annie Dieckman, Abby Converse and Emily Fortine (submitted photo).

Michaela Martin, Evan Hallquist, Asif Razack and Aiden Poelns—were given a scenario and presented a conversation in Spanish to judges. More than 1,000 students from more than 20 high schools participated in the annual competition at ASU in Tempe. Nallely Morales, a Spanish teacher at MHP, helped prepare students for the competition months in advance.

The winning team from SS. Simon & Jude earned an all-expense paid VIP trip of a lifetime to the Houston Space Center last month and a special on-field experience at the Annual Fiesta Bowl.

SS. Simon & Jude is the only school to have won this competition more than once, and now have a record four victories in 2001, 2004 and 2011 and 2015.

SS. Simon & Jude wins Aerospace Challenge

Under the direction of their Science teacher, Maureen Hill, a group of seventh-grade students from SS. Simon & Jude were the winning team in the Honeywell Fiesta Bowl Aerospace Challenge presented by American Airlines.

The annual competition stands as the largest extracurricular STEM program for grade school and junior high students in the state. The contest allows fifth- through eighth-grade students the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of space technology, through the development of an International Lunar Base complete with a physical scale model.

Approximately 300 teams and 1,300 students participate in this contest, in which they work in groups to achieve critical problem-solving, communication, team-building and decision-making skills. As a result, they expand their knowledge in subject areas such as math, science, social studies, language and fine arts.

The preliminary round of competition took place over a three-day period, with the final competition being held on Feb. 28.

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Children in North Central Phoenix whose families are struggling financially can receive free breakfast and lunch this summer at several public locations, including libraries and school cafeterias (photo courtesy of the USDA).

**Free summer meals
available for kids**

The USDA has partnered with St. Mary's Food Bank to once again provide free summer meals to children ages 18 and younger throughout the Valley this summer. The purpose of the program is to help ease demand summer food, particularly among children who

take part in the free breakfast and lunch programs during the school year.

Accompanying adults will have the option to purchase a meal for themselves at a very inexpensive rate.

Several sites will host the summer meal program Monday through Friday (some exceptions). Among the sites are the Acacia, Century, Yucca and Burton Barr libraries; the Sunnyslope Youth Center; the Washington Activity Center; the Marc Atkinson Recreation Center; and the Christown YMCA.

Several school districts also will have host sites, including the Washington and Madison Elementary School Districts, the Osborn School District (one site only), and the Phoenix Union High School District.

The full list of participating sites, includes times and addresses, is posted on the *North Central News* website at www.northcentralnews.net under the Kids & Families tab. Contact the person listed at each site to check on space and enrollment qualifications, if any.

Senior Living

Free class looks at cancer risks, prevention

SCAN Health Plan of Arizona offers a free "Cancer 101" workshop 10:15-11:15 a.m. Tuesday, May 19 at the Devonshire Senior Center, 2802 E. Devonshire Ave.

The presentation will cover definition of cancer; cancer prevention and the risks factors for developing certain common cancers; signs and symptoms; and available resources.

Registration is not required, however, seating may be limited. For more information, call 602-495-0905.



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GENERATIONS

Homebound seniors benefit from your time

Younger adults who want to connect to an older generation are invited to volunteer with Duet, which provides a variety of services to homebound seniors in the Phoenix metro area. An orientation is set for 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 23 at Orangewood Presbyterian Church, 7321 N. 10th St.

If you are interested in helping a homebound senior, you can choose from a variety of service options, including grocery shopping for or with; paperwork assistance such as sorting mail and filling out forms to be signed; transportation to medical appointments or other miscellaneous appointments; computer assistance, such as teaching basic e-mail; respite assistance to give a break to the regular family caregiver; and more. Services are flexible enough to be done in the evening or on weekends, around a volunteer's schedule.

A Level 1 fingerprint background clearance is required and will be completed during orientation. If you already have a Level 1 fingerprint clearance card, bring a photocopy of the card with you.

To RSVP, e-mail volunteer@duetaz.org or call 602-274-5022.

Honor the contributions of the nation's seniors

In May the United States recognizes Older Americans Month to acknowledge older Americans and their contributions to the nation.

More than 40 million people in the United States are 65 or older. By 2035, the U.S. Census Bureau projects this number will double, which makes improving the quality of life for older Americans even more important as we look to the future. It is Social Security's

priority to provide a safety net for older Americans.

The main reason Social Security was established 80 years ago was to help older Americans. For many older Americans, Social Security benefits are their only source of retirement income. Social Security payments continue for life and are adjusted to keep pace with inflation. The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) estimates that these benefits help keep 35 percent of older Americans out of poverty.

This May also marks the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act. Congress passed the Act in 1965 in response to a lack of community social services for older persons. Medicare, in effect since July 1, 1966, will also celebrate its 50th anniversary soon. Medicare provides health insurance to more than 42 million Americans age 65 and older.

To learn more about applying for Medicare, read Applying For Medicare Only—Before You Decide. To learn more about Social Security, read Understanding the Benefits. Both are available at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Kids & Families

Sign up now for summer music

Prelude piano classes for young musicians are offered Fridays in June and July at Music Works Academy (MWA), 302 W. Bethany Home Road.

A 60-minute intro class for your 3 to 6-year-old musician-to-be is an ideal way to determine if your student is ready for the 15-week Prelude fall classes. A "Shining Stars" intro group is available for preschoolers, pre-K and junior kindergarten levels (\$20), while the "LeapFrogs" group is ideal for kinder-



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GENERATIONS

gardeners and first graders (\$25). Registration forms for both the Summer Intro class and Fall Semester 2015 are at www.musicworksacademy.com/prelude.

Piano, guitar, voice, violin and cello lessons are available during the MWA Summer Session from June 2 to Aug. 9. The fall semester begins the week of Aug. 10. Visit www.musicworksacademy.org.

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

Help your kids become mini chefs this summer

Help your children to get creative in the kitchen this summer as they learn a skill that will benefit them for a lifetime. Kim Hopper of Sierra Bonita Catering is offering summer cooking classes for kids in June and July. The classes are for ages 8-12 and take place at Orangewood Presbyterian Church, 7321 N. 10th St.

Classes take place weekly from Monday through Friday and are \$300 per week, plus a \$30 registration fee, which includes recipes and a take-home apron. Hours are 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday through Thursdays. Classes start later on Fridays, at 3 p.m., so that family members may come after work and enjoy an appetizer and meal prepared by their children at the close of the week.

There is an optional Saturday express class for \$75; it takes place 9 a.m.-1 p.m. For a full schedule of dates and times, e-mail kim@sbgcatering.com.

MDA summer camp seeks volunteers

The Muscular Dystrophy Association seeks volunteer counselors to care for youngsters with muscular dystrophy and related diseases at the Arizona MDA Summer Camp, from May 31-June 5 for ages 12-17, and June 7-June 12 for ages 6-11 at Whispering Hope Ranch in Payson, Ariz.

Volunteer counselors must be at least 16 years old. Each counselor is a companion to an MDA camper, helping him or her with camp activities (sports, horseback riding, arts & crafts, etc.) and day-to-day activities (eating, bathing and dressing).

Also, the association is seeking physicians, nurses, emergency medical technicians, physical therapists and other medical professionals to volunteer for the camp's medical staff.

Medical staff members supervise and maintain the health and well-being of all camp participants.

To volunteer, contact the local MDA office by calling 480-496-4530 or e-mail arizona@mdausa.org.

Enjoy tumbling fun during summer break

It's time for summer day camp at The Arizona Sunrays Gymnastics & Dance Center, 3110 E. Thunderbird Road

Children ages 3 to 13 will enjoy gymnastics, dance, karate, sports, special guests, a bounce house, and much more during "Supercamp." There is a half-day camp option from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and a full-day option from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost for the individual half day is \$50; individual full day is \$70; a full week of half day is \$185; and a full week of full day is \$269. Sibling discounts are available.

Extended care hours are available from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. For more information or to register, call 602-992-5790 or visit www.arizonasunrays.com.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Phoenix Comicon means big business

By Tayler Williams

Loud chatter, nerdy relics, beautiful pieces of art and hundreds of people dressed as their favorite comic, film and TV characters are just a few of the things that await an attendee of a comic convention.

Comic book conventions have been around since the late '60s, but have grown in popularity the past few years. According to attendance numbers from 2014, Phoenix Comicon (PCC) has become the third-largest comic convention in the United States, and it has only been around since 2002.

This year, PCC is bringing in big talents such as the original Hulk, Lou Ferrigno; How I Met Your Mother's Alyson Hannigan; Angel/Buffy The Vampire Slayer's Alexis Denisof; Back To The Future's Christopher Lloyd; Barry Bostwick, Patricia Quin and Nell Campbell from Rocky Horror Picture Show; and The Walking Dead's David Morrissey.

Other artists and authors will be there as well, such as World War Z author Max Brooks. Panelists and other personalities will have specific time slots for appearances.

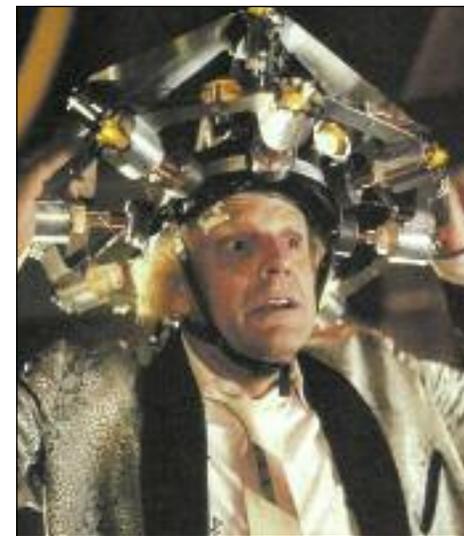
Getting all these people to come to Comicon takes a lot of planning and coordinating.

"Planning for any convention takes six to 12 months to get it all properly planned and ready for the attendees," Saboten Con organizer Greg Fennell said. "Guests are found by building an idea of what you want to deliver to your attendees."

Fennell said his goal is to always be thinking up to three years ahead when planning. This way, the current convention is already influencing future ones.

Convention organizers aren't the only ones planning the con in advance. Attendees looking for bargains as well as rare collectibles need to get their budgets locked down—with a little wiggle room for those "impulse" purchases.

While comics take up a good portion of vendor booths in the convention halls, Artist Row lurks around the exterior or the back of the halls, allowing local and travelling artists to showcase and sell their art. People like local artist Casey



Christopher Lloyd, who played "Doc Brown" in the Back to the Future trilogy as well as Uncle Fester in the Addams Family movies, will appear at Phoenix Comicon this month (submitted photo).

Shaffer (www.caseyshaffer.net) appreciate the business the conventions bring.

"I love tabling because it's great for people watching but it has also kept me motivated to work on my art and keep making new stuff," she said. She and her table partner have been vendors on seven different occasions.

Phoenix Comicon tickets for the full event are on sale for \$80, and will jump up to \$90 on May 28 (opening day of the convention). Individual dates also are for sale at varying prices. For more information about Phoenix Comicon, visit <http://phoenixcomicon.com>.

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

A & E Briefs 'Songfest' Women's Festival Concert

7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 2
Camelback Bible Church
3900 E. Stanford Drive
602-252-5562

"Songfest" features female singers of all ages from across Arizona including the Grammy Award winning Phoenix Chorale, the Women's Chorale of Northern Arizona University, The McConnell Singers Women's Choir of Phoenix College and the Cantabile and Bella Choirs of the Phoenix Girls Chorus. Premiere seating ticket prices are adults \$23, seniors/student \$18, children \$10. General seating ticket prices are adults \$15, seniors/students \$12 and



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A showcase of Broadway favorites that celebrate our country. Join in the singing and dancing. Concerts are at 7 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$20 for adults, and \$15 for seniors age 65 and older and students. Visit <http://www.northvalleychorale.org>.

'Puppet Wars: Episode IV-A Few Hope'

All Puppet Players

May 15-30

**Playhouse on the Park
1850 N. Central Ave.
602-254-2151**

Every sci-fi movie is lampooned in this wacky, puppet-centric retelling of one of the greatest film franchises ever made. Relive your favorite moments in puppet form and get a chance to create your own puppets for the Cantina scene. The show is appropriate for all ages. Visit <http://www.allpuppetplayers.com>

'Super Heroes: Art! Action! Adventure!' Exhibit

Opening Day

9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 16

Heard Museum

2301 N. Central Ave.

Many American Indian legends feature animal heroes of great power who teach life lessons. Enjoy a family friendly reception from 11 a.m. to noon. The exhibit will be on display until Aug. 23. Special admission rates are \$23 for adults, \$18.50 seniors 65 and older, \$12.50 for students with ID and children 6-12, and \$5 for children 1-5 and American Indians. Free for museum members. Visit www.heard.org/exhibit/superheroes.

'Fold Crumple Crush: The Art of El Anatsui'

1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 31

Third Street Theater,

**Phoenix Center for the Arts
1202 N. 3rd St.**

Presented by No Festival Required. Filmed over three years in Venice,

Nsukka, and the United States, this is a powerful portrait of Africa's most widely acclaimed contemporary artist, El Anatsui. The film gives an insider's view of the artist's practice, the ingenious steps and thousands of hours of labor that convert used bottle tops into huge, opulent wall hangings. Tickets are \$7 at the door; \$6 for students with ID. Doors open at 1 p.m.; cash bar available.

'Oliver!'

May 29-31

Phoenix Symphony Hall

75 N. 2nd St.

602-495-1999

The Phoenix Symphony and Phoenix Theatre team up to tell the story of the adventures of the orphaned boy as he escapes his bleak workhouse existence, journeys to London, and is taken in by a gang of apprentice pick-pockets working for master thief Fagin. Show times are 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 4 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$18-\$83 plus fees. Visit <http://phoenixsymphony.org>.

Beta Dance Festival

7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 30

Phoenix Center for the Arts,

Third Street Theater

1202 N. 3rd St.

602-254-3100

Enjoy an evening of new and exciting dance choreography. This event provides the opportunity for local dance artists to produce and perform original works and seeks to introduce dance supporters in the Phoenix area to fresh artistic voices of movement. Cost is \$15 at the door. Visit www.phoenixcenterforthearts.org/beta.

Tour Concert Preview

Phoenix Boys Choir

3 p.m. Sunday, May 31

Memorial Hall

Steele Indian School Park

300 E. Indian School Road

602-264-5328

See the boys perform before the top choir embarks on its three-week summer tour to Spain and Portugal. The final concert of the season features a preview of the repertoire performed during concerts while on tour. Audiences will also hear highlights from previous concerts from the season. Tickets are \$12 general admission in advance and \$15 the day of the concert. Tickets are available through www.phoenixboyschoir.org.

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Enjoying a Happy Hour mixer at First Draft Book Bar, hosted by the Arizona Advocacy Network, are, from left: Rep. Ken Clark, District 24; network member Geoff Esposito; State Sen. Martín Quezada, Dist. 29; and network member Josselyn Berry. The bar's large open space, opposite the bookstore area, makes an excellent venue for meetings and special events (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

Café Chat

A spot to eat inside another business

By Patty Talahongva

Multitasking is nothing new, but when it comes to eating and working, North Central residents have a few creative options outside the typical coffee shop with free Wi-Fi.

How about working out, working up an appetite and then eating? If that sounds appealing, then **s.e.e.d. Café** is the spot for you. Located inside The Madison Improvement Club at 3802 E. Indian School Road, **s.e.e.d.** features locally grown produce. That produce is put into everything from Conquer The World juice (made from carrots, apples, ginger, lemon and beets) to salads such as the Kale 'Em With Kindness and the Tune-Up sandwich.

The café is owned by Mary Swanson and Andrew Varela, a mother-and-son team who have a passion for both fitness and nutrition.

Joe Meyer, the executive chef, says the vibe at **s.e.e.d.** is great.

"I think the most surprising thing about us being located in a gym is the amazing energy levels of our customers. You can feel the excitement and energy of our customers before and after every class. They bring an infectious positivity that creates a very unique environment."

Since the café is open tot the pub-

lic, customers are a mix of people who work out and those who don't.

"We have customers who have eaten the same thing, every day, since we've opened and might only work out once or twice a week here," says Meyer. "We also have customers who work out here every day and get the same thing."

Every month the eatery features a juice, smoothie, salad or sandwich and some have become so popular they've ended up on the regular menu. For a look at the complete menu, visit www.seedcafe phoenix.com.

Mod brings a new twist to the old practice of "eating at your desk." Located on the southwest corner of Central Avenue and Thomas Road, you can spend a few hours in the shared working space working and meeting and then order lunch at your desk.

Jamie Shaw is the director of brand experience. She says **Mod** offers several types of memberships to freelancers, independents and even groups for a monthly fee or an hourly fee. However, the public space is free to use for a quick meeting or a healthy lunch.

You can order breakfast all day, or choose from salads, paninis (the house specialty) and small plates such as bruschetta or street tacos. Shaw likes the kale salad with chicken.

"Our chef and her team make all our fresh pastries every day," she says, adding, "We have an artichoke dip that's really decadent."



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There also are housemade pastries created daily for those who like to indulge that sweet tooth.

Craft beer from Four Peaks is served at Mod as well as tap wines and wine-based cocktails. Happy hour runs from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays. Venture onto the patio and enjoy the nights while we still have cool weather. The public café area is just big enough to seat 10 people in a cozy setting. Don't be surprised if someone comes over and offers you a tour of the entire space to whet your appetite for a full membership.

Still, you don't have to be a member to rent the space for special events.

"It's a space that lends itself to someone who wants a more modern look," Shaw says.

Sign up for the mailing list at www.thatsmod.com or like Mod on Facebook to keep posted on the many workshops and upcoming events.

Crack a book and sip some wine at **First Draft Book Bar**, aptly named because it's located inside Changing Hands Bookstore at 300 W. Camelback Road. The bookstore, in turn, is located inside The Newton, a mixed-use concept that also houses Southwest Gardener, Southern Rail restaurant and Christofolo Schermer Consulting.

Inside First Draft, all the food comes from local vendors such as MJ Bread, Ambar, Espressions Coffee and White Lion Tea.

You can enjoy three types of dip: hummus, olive tapenade or Irish pub cheese, which is served warm. Soft pretzels also are on the menu as are sandwiches and salads. For a morning snack try a scone or English muffin with butter and jam. If you have an allergy you'll find crustless quiche and even gluten-free beer.

The full bar features local brews and wine from Wilcox, Ariz. Happy hour is 3-6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

To see the full menu, visit www.changinghands.com/firstdraftbar.

Dining Briefs
Get great dining deals in AZ Restaurant Week

Spring Arizona Restaurant Week (ARW), held May 15-25, will be a prime opportunity to check out hot new restaurants or rediscover old favorites. More than 100 Phoenix restaurants will offer a selection of chef-curated, specialty menus priced at \$33 or \$44 per person, excluding beverages, tax and gratuity unless otherwise noted.

"Arizona's food scene is thriving, thanks in no small part to the trailblazing chefs, mixologists and restaurateurs who make certain that it never gets stale," said Arizona Restaurant Association president and CEO Steve Chucuri. "It's that excitement and energy that helps fuel the dramatic growth of our industry."

See a list of participating restaurants and menus at www.ArizonaRestaurantWeek.com. It has an easy-to-use interface for searching for a favorite local chef, type of cuisine or restaurant wish list. Check the website often as new restaurants and menus will be added as they become available. Reservations are highly recommended.

Sierra Bonita marks anniversary in May

Celebrate Sierra Bonita Grill's 10-year anniversary throughout the month of May. Every day, all day, enjoy a \$10 margarita deal (normally \$12) and a \$10 appetizer special, created just for the occasion.

please see DINNER on page 50



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

DINNER continued from page 49

The Margarita Especial is shaken with tequila, Cointreau, orange juice, and house-made sweet and sour and topped with a brandy floater. The drink pairs perfectly with the \$10 Appetizer Trio that features tastes of three of Sierra Bonita's most popular appetizers: the Shrimp Ceviche, Mini Corn Quesadillas, and fresh Guacamole.

Just for *North Central News* readers, the restaurant features an offer in its newspaper advertisement this month for a complimentary \$10 gift card. Present the ad to receive the card. The offer is good for one per person and the gift card can only be used on a return visit, with a minimum purchase of \$40.

Sierra Bonita Grill is located at 6933 N. 7th St. Call 602-264-0700 or visit www.sierrabonitagrill.com.

Growhouse hosts a farm-to-table dinner

Roosevelt Growhouse is a community-based, public art experiment on a quarter-acre property in downtown Phoenix that is dedicated to the local

food and handmade movement. Located at 902 N. 6th St., Growhouse hosts its annual "CultivEAT" farm-to-table dinner, 7-10 p.m. Friday, May 15. Local food is sustainable food, and Growhouse wants to share the harvest. Cultivate connection with friends and family over a delicious meal and live music in the heart of Roosevelt Row. Featuring locally grown produce prepared by Pizzeria Bianco's Robbie Tutlewski, the menu will be paired with beer and wine from Arizona breweries and wineries.

The cost is \$70 per person (which includes two drink tickets for beer or wine), plus an online reservation fee of \$4.84. A cash bar will be available.

For details or to reserve for the dinner, visit <http://bit.ly/1PUirA4> or call 602-885-6267.

Sharing meals, sharing moments

The popular Grown-Ups Table is returning to Beckett's Table for the fourth consecutive summer. Every Wednesday from June 10 through Aug. 5 (excluding July 1 and 8), 16 diners will

share a table for a special three-course meal prepared by Chef Justin Beckett.

As in previous years, Grown-Ups Table will dish out family-style meals and wine in a particular theme at the community table. Curious about the planned themes? You'll have to tune in to the Beckett's Table Facebook page each Wednesday to learn what is being served that night.

The \$39 dinner, plus tax and gratuity, is the perfect way to release a little midweek tension and power up for the remainder of the work week. And the deliciousness doesn't stop when guests leave the table—each dinner comes with a branded Beckett's Table "to-go" bag of leftovers for diners to enjoy at home.

Tables are the hosts for conversations, experiments, discussions, questions and stories. The fondest memories are made gathered around the table. So it's appropriate that Beckett's Table also has launched its new #shareourtable, whereby diners can follow @Beckettstable on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter to share what is happening at their table. Capture those special moments of simplicity or the grandiose.

Beckett's Table will randomly select #shareourtable posts that capture the "come together" philosophy to be celebrated with a little token of appreciation. #BeckettsTable will also get in on the fun, sharing personal and famous #shareourtable moments with you.

Beckett's Table is located at 3717 E. Indian School Road. To make reservations, call 602-954-1700 or visit www.opentable.com.

CPK launches 'Next Chapter'

California Pizza Kitchen (CPK) last year celebrated its 30th birthday by introducing a new look and refreshed menu—part of a company-wide renaissance called the Next Chapter.

CPK-Biltmore Fashion Park launched its Next Chapter renovations and menu upgrades in December and since then business has increased by nearly 60 percent. The Biltmore location has always had a strong lunch crowd, being so close to several office towers, but since the changes lunch sales have increased. Diners are drawn in by the more than 80 Lunch Duos that offer

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affordable made-to-order combinations with a quick turn-around.

Dinner sales also have jumped, due perhaps in part to distinctly upscale options such as Fire-Grilled Ribeye and Hearth-Roasted Halibut.

The new look at Biltmore Fashion Park features sustainable materials and natural elements such as oak floors, tabletops made from reclaimed wood, natural stone countertops and artifacts of from salvaged metal.

The centerpiece of the newly remodeled CPK Biltmore is the open kitchen, where guests will be able to watch as their food is prepared from scratch.

For those with dietary restrictions, CPK has options that are under 650 calories, vegetarian/vegan or gluten free.

The Biltmore Fashion Park location was the first of six Arizona restaurants for CPK, so it was fitting that it would be the first one to be remodeled in the state. It is located at the northeast corner of 24th Street and Camelback Road, next to Macy's. For more information, call 602-553-8382. To see the revamped menu, visit www.cpk.com/locations/biltmore-fashion-park.

New food truck sports gourmet Belgian spuds

There are French fries, and there are frites ... and now there's Frites Street, a brand-new, gourmet Belgian fry food truck that hit Valley streets last month. Frites Street serves up some of the finest fries available anywhere on wheels, as well as a roster of golden brown and delicious entrees and revolving specials. Vegan and gluten-free options will have a constant home on the menu, but it's the authentic process the potatoes go through that are both the stars and the driving force behind this food truck.

"It's a slow process, but that's intentional," said Braden Jones, who co-owns the truck with longtime friend and industry pal, Philip "Flip" Isard. "We spent six full months perfecting our fries, and the final process takes a full 12 hours from the time they're whole spuds to golden brown and delicious."

In other words, these guys are serious about their fries. So serious, in fact, that in addition to the extended cooking process, these tasty little taters are hand-peeled and topped with from-

scratch sauces (think roasted onion or chili lime aioli, jalapeno ketchup or stout honey mustard, among others) and top-notch proteins and produce.

To get a taste of Frites Street's unbeatable Belgian slow-cooked frites, follow the food truck's stops on Facebook (FritesStreet) or online at www.FritesStreet.com.

Gadzooks offers up new salads, soup

Gadzooks recently rolled out an all-new spicy potato and corn chowder, which can be customized with all of Gadzooks specialties including braised short ribs, roasted tomatillo chicken or the Modelo-braised bison.

Just in time for summer, every Gadzooks enchilada combination is also available as a salad. Simply order all of your favorite filling and fixings, and then watch as they are flame-fired in the 575-degree oven, and then fresh-chopped and dressed to order alongside a bed of leafy romaine lettuce.

Gadzooks now offers more than its signature build-your-own enchiladas. Selections include build-your-own street

tacos, house-made soups, fresh-baked desserts, handmade margaritas and a special Sunday brunch menu (11 a.m.-8 p.m.), featuring enchiladas topped with brunch-only ingredients such as a jalapeno potato hash or eggs any style.

Gadzooks is located at 3313 N. 7th St., at the southeast corner of 7th Street and Osborn Road. For more information, call 602-279-5080 or visit www.gadzooksaz.com.

Celebrate burger month with a little bit of heat

Del Frisco's Grille, inside the Camelback Esplanade, celebrates National Burger Month in May with its new Prime Beef & Chorizo Burger for \$15 (fries included), all month long.

The burger is topped with fried pickled jalapeños, lettuce, tomato, red onion and chipotle mayo. It will be available through May 31. Pair it with your favorite pint of local beer like the Upslope Pale Ale out of Tucson.

Del Frisco's Grille is located at 2425 E. Camelback Road. For more information, call 602-466-2890 or visit www.delfriscosgrille.com.



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Gyro Pita \$8.50

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Chicken Pita \$8.50

Chicken pita with tomato, onion, and tzatziki sauce on the side. Includes your choice of: fries, tossed salad, pasta salad, or soup.

Chicken Feta Salad \$9.50

Mixed greens with feta, tomato, onion, Kalamata olive, pepperoncini pepper, cucumber, peppers, topped with grilled chicken breast.

Gyro Feta Salad \$9.50

Mixed greens with feta, tomato, onion, Kalamata olive, pepperoncini pepper, cucumber, peppers, topped with gyro meat.

We also offer unique appetizers, including hummus, feta tomato fries, Gyro fries, spinach pita, tiropita, saganaki and calamari

Dinner Specials

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Greek Platter \$12.50

Spinach pita, tiropita, gyro meat, French fries, and tzatziki sauce.

Seafood Platter \$15.95

Shrimp, salmon, calamari, French fries

Mediterranean Pasta \$14.95

Penne pasta, chicken, with Kalamata olives, sundried tomatoes, artichokes, onions, fresh garlic, topped with feta cheese and olive oil butter sauce.

Chicken Alfredo \$13.95

Penne pasta, mushrooms, fresh garlic and chicken in a creamy Alfredo sauce.

George's Mega Gyro \$12.95

Half-pound of gyro meat, tomato, lettuce, onion, French fries wrapped in a huge pita served with tzatziki.

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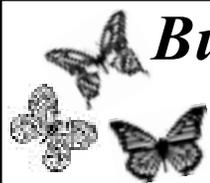


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