



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community

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www.northcentralnews.net

Property taxes to increase this year

By Teri Carnicelli

It's that time of year again, when some Valley school districts decide to help their budgets through a hike in residents' property tax rates. And while the city of Phoenix itself is not raising its rate (for the second year in a row), the city does expect to see its tax revenue increase thanks to the rising value of properties around town.

The Phoenix Union High School District Governing Board voted on June 20 to raise its primary property tax levy by \$3 million, which will increase the primary property tax of a \$100,000 home within the district boundaries from \$124.27 to \$130.70. State law allows school districts to increase their tax levy by a certain amount each year without voter approval.

Homeowners citywide also can expect to see another bump in their primary property taxes this

please see TAXES on page 6



Phoenix Police Department Bomb Squad K-9 officer Hunter's handler, Det. Keith Crouse, chats with Phoenix resident Paul Verna and his daughter Kellen, 5, and son Kean, 4, during a fundraiser for Hunter's medical bills on June 17 at Hance Dog Park (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

K-9, family need help with expenses

By Teri Carnicelli

Hunter loves going to work every day with his fellow officers of the Phoenix Police Department Bomb Squad. But his service is coming to an early end, unexpectedly, due to some serious health issues. And both his police family and his handler family are rallying together to make sure that whatever time he has left is surrounded by love.

Hunter, a yellow Labrador retriever, is a highly trained Explosive Ordnance Dog (EOD) for the Phoenix Police Bomb Squad. His handler since the beginning of his service has been Det. Keith Crouse, who has been an officer for 24 years and with the bomb squad for 13 years. Hunter is his first K-9 partner.

EOD K-9s are used on almost every call the bomb squad responds to. An officer within the specialty unit says they respond to an average of 400-plus calls a year. That's more than one a day. But the public generally doesn't hear about it because they stay off radios and police scanners in case a potential explosive device may have a radio trigger. Plus, they don't need the public showing up to an active site as spectators.

Most of the time, the calls turn out to be false alarms.

Hunter's job, like his two fellow K-9 officers, is to go into a potentially dangerous situation and either

clear the scene, or alert as to where, specifically, bomb-making materials might be located. The K-9 will go in ahead of their human officers as an extra layer of protection.

"There is a strong bond with the officer handler, but the dog is a tool, it is a working dog, and God forbid something should happen, it does protect the other officers from potential harm," said Timothy Thomas, president of the Phoenix Police Foundation. For that reason, these dogs play a critical function with the bomb squad.

So with Hunter's recent diagnosis of kidney failure, his handler is working to make him a permanent part of the family, even though Crouse and his wife,

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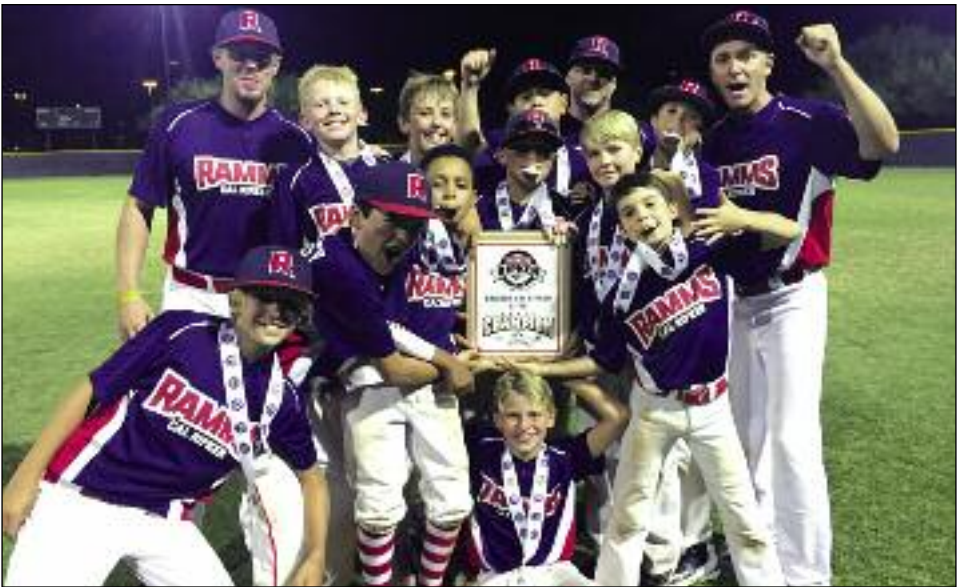
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RAMMS team gathers funds for tourney trip

The Cal Ripken State Tournament for the 12U baseball championship was held in mid-June. The RAMMS (Recreation Association of Madison Meadows-Simis) 11U baseball team made up of players 11 and younger had already captured the state championship for their age group. The team entered the 12U tournament, and finished in third place against much bigger opponents from around the state of Arizona.

“These boys are something special and we are very proud of them,” said Matt Deckwa, a coach with the team. Team members include Aydin Chippindall, Preston Daniels, Carter Deckwa, Patrick Fischer, Charlie Griffin, Owen Harper, Alex Lessner, Diego Lovesy, Samuel Luba, Ty Mitzel, Anthony Riveras, Jake Shores, Gavin Short and Lukas Simpson.

Team manager is Andrew



The RAMMS 11U baseball team, made up of players 11 and younger, placed third in the Cal Ripken State Tournament and will travel this month to Long Beach, Calif., to compete in the Cal Ripken Pacific Southwest Regional Tournament (submitted photo).

Chippindall, and Scott Daniels coaches with Deckwa.

The boys will be traveling to Long Beach, Calif. July 16-22 to represent North Central Phoenix in the Cal Ripken Pacific Southwest Regional

Tournament. The team will hold a fundraising car wash Saturday, July 8 at Living Streams Church, 7000 N. Central Ave.

For more information about the team and planned community

fundraisers, visit www.ramms2017.com. You also can donate to the team through the website.

A \$10 donation will help plant 10 trees

Forests across America are a prized natural resource, and anyone can help plant trees in these vital areas by joining the Arbor Day Foundation this month.

Through the Replanting Our National Forests campaign, the Arbor Day Foundation will honor each new member who joins in July by planting 10 trees in forests that have been devastated by wildfires, insects, and disease. The cost for joining the Arbor Day Foundation is a \$10 donation.

To join the Arbor Day Foundation and help plant trees in our national forests, send a \$10 membership contribution to Replanting Our National Forests, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, NE 68410 or visit www.arborday.org/july.



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Congratulations to Audrey Wolff, June's winner of a \$100 Gift Certificate from Quick Trip Movers!

Visit our website at www.northcentralnews.net to enter for your chance to win this month's prize, a **Zoom Teeth Whitening, including custom-fit take-home trays, from CenterCare Dental Group, a \$395 value!**

**Deadline to enter is July 20, 2017.
The winner will be announced in our August issue.**

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

K-9 continued from page 1

Jill, know they will be facing some hefty medical bills.

Keith explains that with Hunter's kidney failure, there really isn't a cure. They can manage the symptoms, to an extent, through diet and medication to help with side effects like nausea.

"Some days he's great, some days he throws up every time he eats," admits Jill, who refers to herself as "Hunter's mama." "He'll require regular blood tests, special prescription food, and regular medication," which could get very costly for the couple.

The Crouses are in the process of transferring ownership of Hunter from the Phoenix Police Department to themselves, which basically is a document that transfers liability so the city is no longer legally responsible for him. The anticipated cost of the transfer is \$1—it's more of a formality than anything.

However, Hunter is just over 8 years old, and the expected term of his service wasn't anticipated to end for a few more years yet. Which leaves the city in something of a lurch, as it has not yet begun to save and budget for a new EOD dog.

So the Phoenix Police Foundation has stepped in to both help pay for Hunter's medical costs, and to raise funds to purchase a new specially trained K-9 to replace him. Because of that specialized training, these dogs can cost upwards of \$13,000.

The Phoenix Police Foundation held a fundraising event on June 17 at Hance Dog Park. Hunter and the Crouses made an appearance, as did several members of the bomb squad, their response vehicles, and a couple of the robots they send in to examine—and in some cases, explode—suspicious packages.

Several local businesses donated items for a silent auction, including Doggy Daze, a grooming and pet supply store at 7th Street and Missouri Ave. Owner Sean Kirk donated 15 drawstring backpacks with pet food samples, which were given out to those who made a minimum \$20 donation. Kirk also donated four \$20 gift cards for raffle prizes, and some Blue Wilderness dog food chubs.

Other donors include AMC Theatres, the Arizona Diamondbacks, and the Crescent Ballroom.

The Phoenix Police Foundation is

continuing to collect donations on behalf of Hunter and for a new K-9 for the bomb squad. Donations can be made online at www.phxpolicefoundation.org/k-9-fundraiser.html. Donations also can be made in person at Doggy Daze, 5555 N. 7th St., Ste. 126, during regular business hours.

Homebound seniors need help in summer

The temperatures are on the rise in the Valley of the Sun, and so is the need for volunteers at Duet. The wait list has soared to 90 homebound adults waiting for vital volunteer services such as grocery shopping, friendly visiting and transportation to medical appointments.

Some of the regular volunteers are themselves retired and head out of town during the scorching Phoenix summer, to return with cooler fall temperatures. The neighbors who normally receive those volunteers' assistance still need help for the summer, so "fill-in" positions are available just for the summer months. Commitments are generally once a week or twice a month.

Through volunteers, Duet is able to provide these services free of charge to help Valley seniors and homebound adults live as independently as possible. Duet has been serving its neighbors since 1981.

A volunteer orientation is set for 4-6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 13 at Church of the Beatitudes, 555 W. Glendale Ave. A photo ID is required. For more information, call 602-274-5022.

Helping those who are near the end

Hospice of the Valley needs volunteers to visit patients at their homes and provide breaks to family caregivers.

An orientation will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturdays on July 15, 22, 29 and Aug. 5 at the agency's central clinical office, 1510 E. Flower St., Building 2.

Volunteers visit with patients, run errands and offer emotional support. Opportunities also are available for activities that don't involve patient care, including administrative duties, working at our thrift stores and sewing.

Advance application is required at www.hov.org/volunteer-opportunities. For more information, call 602-636-6336.

COMMUNITY

New Target store set to open July 23

Target has announced plans to open a new, flexible-format store on Sunday, July 23 in the former home of Sports Authority at 1625 E. Camelback Road. This new store will be Target’s first flexible-format location in Arizona.

Target’s flexible store design allows for stores in smaller locations with assortments that are tailored to meet the needs of local guests. The Phoenix flexible-format store will be approximately 50,000 square feet and will offer a mix of products for guests, including: men’s, women’s and kids’ apparel and accessories; health and beauty products; baby products; a curated selection of home products; and portable tech products and accessories.

The store also will carry a selection of fresh groceries, including healthy food options. Available services include Target Mobile and Order Pickup.

Look for a “soft” opening July 19. Store hours will be 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Saturday, and 8 a.m.-10 p.m.

Sunday (including the grand opening day on July 23). The first 1,500 guests that day will receive a complimentary reusable shopping bag.

Self-defense seminar for women on July 15

Registration is now being accepted to attend a one-day self-defense training seminar set for 1-3 p.m. Saturday, July 15 at Kharma Life Center, 700 W. Campbell Ave., Suite 1.

The training accepts registration from women ages 12 and older and will include: How to stay safe at work, home and during travel; strategies to handle confrontation; how to develop a “Winning Mindset”; how to control fear and panic in a crisis situation; and physical safety skills and techniques.

Fees for the seminar are: \$49 pre-paid registration; \$29 for children age 12 years and older (with a parent present); and \$69 at the door. Proceeds benefit Save the Family Foundation of Arizona.

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TAXES continued from page 1

year. The city of Phoenix’s primary property tax supports the General Fund services such as police and fire, parks and recreation, libraries and senior and community centers. The city’s primary property tax rate for 2017-18 will be unchanged from last year’s rate of \$1.3359 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Of course, the city of Phoenix does not control property values. But as the economy grows, property values have increased and some property owners likely will pay more in taxes as a result. The city anticipates a 4-percent increase in its primary property taxes. By law it is required to adopt its tax levy, which the Phoenix City Council will do on July 6 at its regularly scheduled meeting.

Though it hardly will be noticeable, the city’s secondary property tax rate for 2017-18 will decrease by \$0.01, from \$0.8341 to \$0.8241 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Secondary property taxes pay the bonded debt service for facilities like libraries, police and fire stations, storm drains and parks. For

more information, visit www.phoenix.gov/budget.

In addition, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, which also governs the Flood Control, Library, and Stadium districts, adopted a budget of \$2.49 billion on June 19. As part of that budget, the board agreed to put forth a primary property tax increase of \$17.8 million, or 3.5 percent, which would raise primary property taxes on a \$100,000 home from \$135.33 to \$140.09. But the board also voted to issue two secondary property tax increases: \$2,874,615 or 4.9 percent for the Flood Control District, which would increase secondary property taxes on a \$100,000 home from \$17.08 to \$17.92; and \$710,702 or 3.5 percent for the Library District, which would increase secondary property taxes on a \$100,000 home from \$5.37 to \$5.56.

Maricopa County is required to stay below a maximum levy each year. With the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2018 budget, the county will be \$148.2 million below that limit. Maricopa County receives only 12 percent of every dollar paid in property taxes.

In accordance with State statute, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors will vote on the final tax levy proposal 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 21, at 301 W. Jefferson St. All interested citizens are invited to attend. If approved, the tax increases will go into effect in the next round of property tax bills, which will be sent out beginning in September.

Blood donations needed in summer

The American Red Cross urges eligible donors to give blood this summer for hospital patients in need. Only about 3 percent of the U.S. population gives blood, which means a heavy reliance on repeat donors to maintain a sufficient blood supply. New blood donors are especially needed during the summer months because many schools where blood drives are held—and where new donors give—are not in session, and current donors often delay giving due to summer vacations.

Type O negative blood and type AB plasma are two of the most in-demand

blood products by hospitals. Those who give can help patients locally or across the country as the Red Cross has the ability to move blood products where and when they are needed most.

The Blood Mobile will be making stops this month at: Homewood Suites by Hilton, 2001 E. Highland Ave., from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. on July 3; the Saguaro Branch Library, 2808 N. 46th St., from 2-6:30 p.m. on July 6; and MidFirst Bank, 3030 E. Camelback Road, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. on July 7.

Eligible donors can learn more, find a donation opportunity and schedule an appointment by using the free Blood Donor App, visiting www.redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in.

Blood donors can save time at their donation appointment by using RapidPass to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, prior to arriving at the blood drive. To get started and learn more, visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass and follow the instructions on the site.

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and it was only 60 degrees. Amazing weekend with my brother and friends. Anyway, I play here because this is my home ... sound convincing?

Okay, back to real estate. Two weeks ago I went on two listing appointments and I was fortunate to get both listings. Both homes had been on the market for well over five months prior to me taking the listings. They are both now in escrow. I have been selling homes for more than 25 years and sold more than 3,000 homes. I market my listings on all social medial platforms, run three full pages in this paper every month and always have professional pictures and flyers for the properties. I have all my listings on the North Central Realtor Tour, which is great exposure. I also still do direct mailings and, yes, I have a sign at the bus stop at Central and

Glendale avenues. I work with buyers and many times am able to bring my sellers a buyer for their home.

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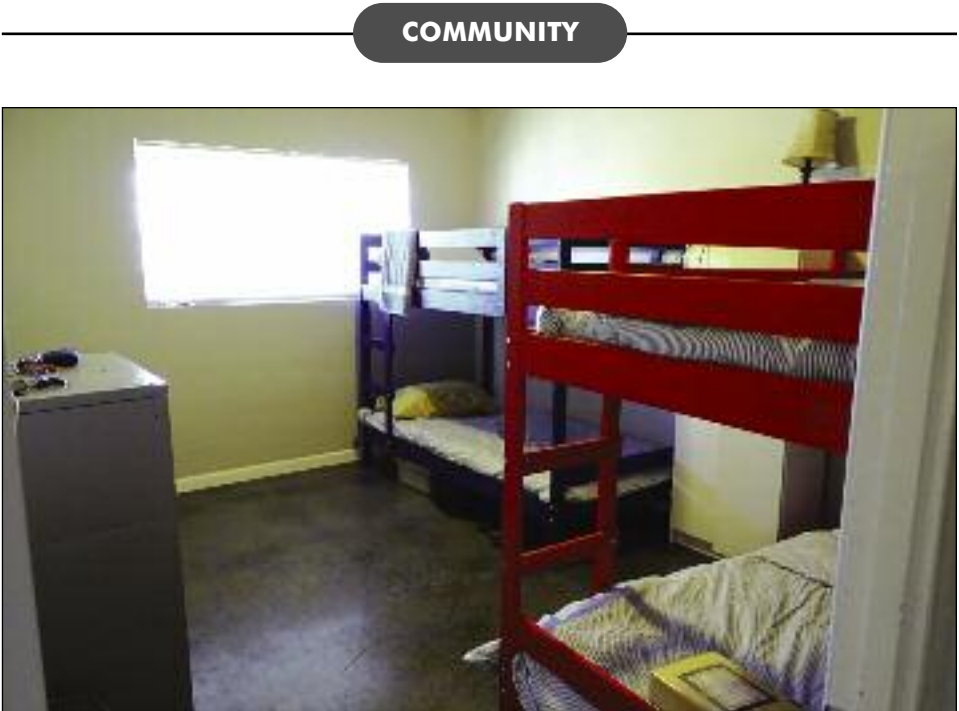
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Though somewhat sparse, this shared bedroom at the new Soul Sanctuary Veterans Home is a welcome haven for Phoenix veterans needing transitional housing while they find financial stability and deal with issues such as PTSD (submitted photo).

Nonprofit opens home for veterans

A local nonprofit recently opened a second home specifically for Phoenix veterans working to get back on their feet financially—and emotionally. The home can house up to 9-10 men at a time and is a licensed dehp therapeutic

treatment facility, helping provide veterans with the tools to overcome the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Soul Sanctuary in the Desert was first established to work with at-risk families to break the generational cycle of substance abuse and domestic violence through its support of women and children. In 2004, Soul Sanctuary opened its first nonprofit housing program for women, allowing mothers and children to have their own bedroom and personal space. It has since branched out to include its nonprofit housing program for veterans.

An open house was held at the second veterans' home, near 20th Street and Indian School Road, on April 22, as a way to welcome the veterans to their new home and the neighborhood. A local troop of Boy Scouts held an official flag raising ceremony to open the event.

The Veterans Home is a transitional program to help veterans reach financial and emotional stability and return as a productive members of society. The home was made possible due to supporters like Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald, who has been a past supporter of Soul Sanctuary's transitional housing for women and also contributed to the new Veterans Home.

Other donors to the newly converted house included Sandi Young, Peter G. Thomas, Theresa Romero, Char Hubble, and Roberta Thomas.

Soul Sanctuary in the Desert's offices are located at 24 W. Camelback Road, Ste. A176. For more information, call 602-566-7627 or visit <http://soul-sanctuary.org>.

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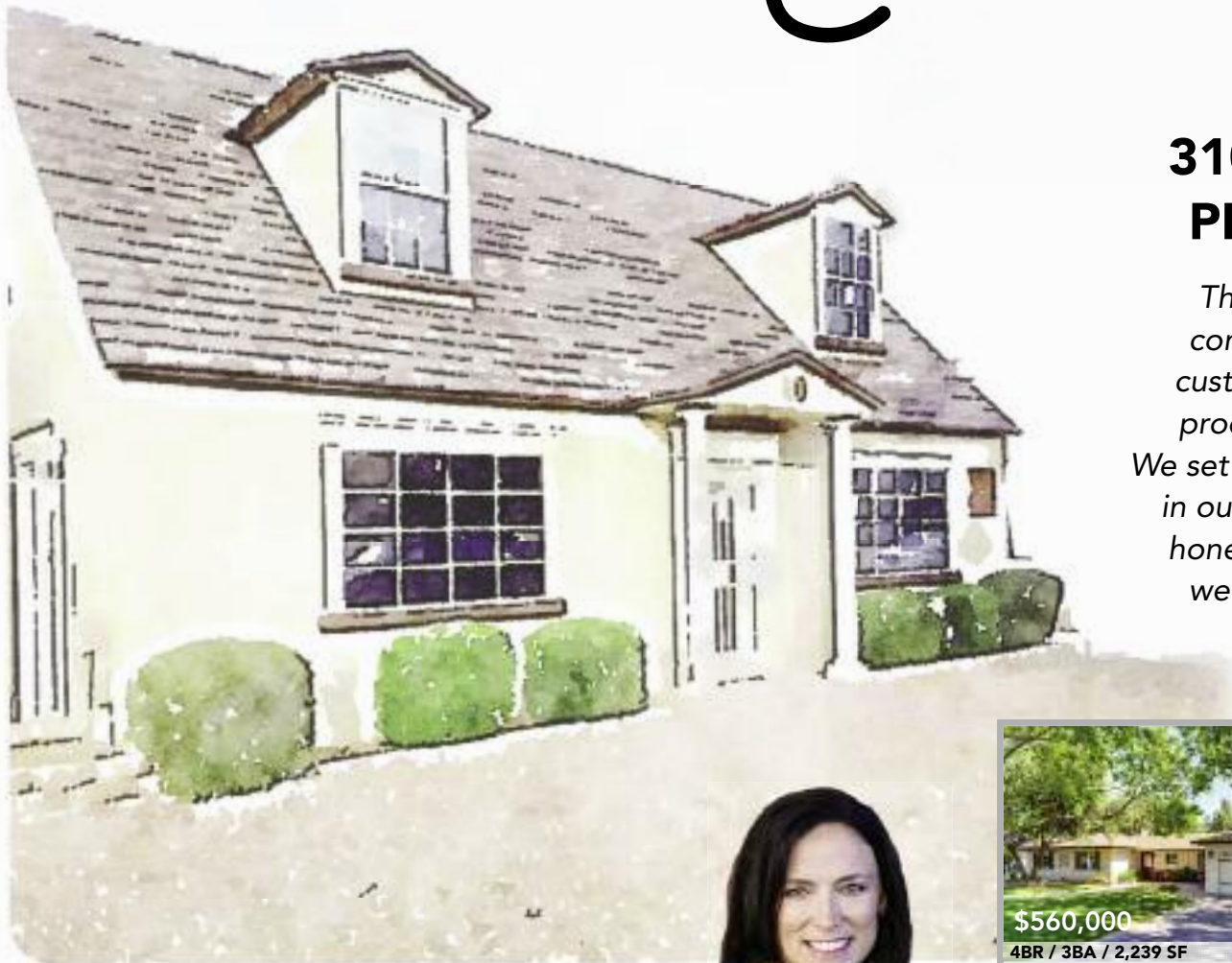
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Proposed apartments raise density concerns

By Teri Carnicelli

Scottsdale-based Wood Partners is in the process of acquiring a large chunk of assembled land just east of 7th Street and south of Maryland Avenue, in order to build approximately 245 high-end apartments. However, in order to build that many units, a Planned Urban Development (PUD) rezoning must first be approved by the city.

Several neighbors have come out in opposition of the PUD, saying the density is too high for the area that is largely single-story commercial and two-story older apartments which taper into single-story residential. The bulk of the project lies behind the strip center that includes Christo’s Ristorante and C&S Sporting Goods, and also juts to the north behind Inman & Sons.

Neighbors also worry about the only access and exit to the development being off Stella Lane, which means the new residents would have to turn left or right onto 7th Street, including during reverse lane hours.

It’s a safety concern and a traffic issue, meaning the new tenants might choose to cut through the neighborhood instead, opponents contend.

Wood Partners and its zoning attorney, Earl Curley & Lagarde, have held two community meetings, the first on June 6 the most recent on June 20. Large renderings of the proposed “Alta Marlette” development were available to view, and results of a traffic study commissioned by the developer also were laid out on several large poster boards.

The results compiled by J2 Engineering show little impact on the overall 7th Street traffic flow, and noted regular “gap” periods where the lights at Maryland Avenue and Rose Lane are red, allowing cars from Stella—which falls between the two lights—to exit onto 7th Street with little traffic flowing at that time. Some neighbors disputed the results, saying it is already very difficult to get in and out of the neighborhood off of 7th Street during reverse lane hours, and adding hundreds more cars to that equation is only going to make things worse.

Alta Marlette would offer high-end one- and two-bedroom apartments ranging in rent from \$1,500 to \$3,000, with some three-bedroom penthouse units available. A 420-space, four-story parking garage would lie within the interior of the project, not visible from the street. Zoning standards require one parking space per bedroom. That’s a lot more cars heading in and out of the area, opponents point out.

Neighbors also are worried that if the PUD is approved, it will open the door for other developers to come to the city with high-density infill projects in the midtown corridor using the same rezoning method to get around existing zoning height and density limits. Currently at least two other developers are considering similar projects within a couple of miles of Alta Marlette, but much closer to existing homes.

According to the Alta Marlette proposal, “This type of new housing in appropriate locations upgrades residential living choices and expands diversity, which in turn supports the existing and new restaurant venues as

well as other commercial retail shops.”

The proposal has gone before the Camelback East Village Planning Committee for information purposes only, but the more detailed draft is still being reviewed by the Phoenix Planning Department and a staff report had not yet been issued as of press time. Once a staff report has been generated, the developer has the option to move the plan forward for a formal review and recommendation at the VPC, before it moves on to the Phoenix Planning Commission and finally the Phoenix City Council.

Camelback East VPC agendas are posted 10 days prior to scheduled meetings, which are 6 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month at the Devonshire Senior Center, 2802 E. Devonshire Ave. Agendas can be viewed online at www.phoenix.gov, under “Public Meetings.”

Comments regarding Alta Marlette can be sent to Stephen C. Earl at searl@eclaw.com, and to City Planner Adam Stranieri at adam.stranieri@phoenix.gov. Reference zoning case Z-27-17-6 in your communications.

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COMMUNITY

Spotlight On ... Two Sisters of Charity mark 50 years of service

Two members of the Catholic Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) with ties to North Central Phoenix will celebrate their golden jubilees on July 30, with a liturgy and dinner at Mount Carmel, Dubuque, Iowa.

Sister Joan Nuckols, BVM, and Sister Lynn Winsor, BVM, both members of the Xavier College Preparatory administrative staff, are marking their golden jubilees, which signify 50 years of answering the call to live the mission of Jesus through core values of freedom, charity, edu-



Sister Joan Nuckols



Sister Lynn Winsor

cation and justice. They entered the BVM congregation on July 31, 1967. Nuckols currently serves as principal at Xavier, and Winsor is vice principal for Activities/Athletic Director. A celebration Mass and reception will be held for the two at Xavier College Preparatory in the Chapel of Our Lady on Oct. 21. To send a congratulatory message to a sister or to donate to the BVM congregation on behalf of these sisters, go to www.bvmcong.org/whatsnew_jubs.cfm.

Local couple honored for years of volunteering

St. Vincent de Paul recently awarded Larry and Ann Schmitt of North Central Phoenix with the Bob Russell Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is presented once a year to volunteers who go above and beyond to help serve their community, and who exemplify an exception spirit of service and love of others. Together, Larry and Ann have served the community for a combined 24 years. The couple can be found at St. Vincent de Paul's downtown dining room every week where they serve 500



North Central resident Ann Schmitt and her husband, Larry (right) recently were given the Bob Russell Lifetime Achievement Award by the St. Vincent de Paul Society, for their years of volunteer service. On hand to present the award was volunteer and board member Bob Russell (submitted photo).

homeless men and women breakfast and lunch. The dining rooms give those in need a chance to have a sit-down meal in a safe and comfortable environment. Volunteers create an experience many of us take for granted—an opportunity not only to eat but to meet-and-greet as well.

The award was named after Bob Russell, who has been part of the St. Vincent de Paul family for more than 20 years, as both a board member and volunteer. He has been involved with major initiatives, including the building of the nonprofit's downtown campus.

Brothers earn Eagle Scout rankings

Twin brothers, Jan and Alan K. Hernandez, achieved their Eagle Scout ranks in April and May of this year, respectively. Jan and Alan, who live in North Central Phoenix, are members of Troop 329 that meets on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at Madison Meadows Middle School. They are both Order of the Arrow Brotherhood members, the Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America.



Jan and Alan K. Hernandez

Their Eagle projects benefited the Rio Salado Audubon Center at 3131 S. Central Ave. They each contributed to the restoration of the Visitor's Center gardens by removing invasive plants and replacing them with native desert flowers and bushes that attract butterflies, bees and other native species. Jan and Alan both attend Sunnyslope High School.

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COMMUNITY



This American shorthair may be named Tiger but her personality is sweet and affectionate, and she's ready to be spoiled rotten (submitted photo).

Pet of the Month

**Tiger's sweet demeanor
belies her fierce name**

Tiger truly is the "cat's meow." The 5-year-old has moon-like eyes that widen with curiosity as she intently studies a twisted pipe cleaner as it's slowly drug along the sofa, floor, or bed. When the anticipation finally overwhelms her she pounces, and the fun begins.

At the same time, the American shorthair has an affectionate side, and is especially fond of gentle neck scratches. She leans from side to side, purring with satisfaction, and her fur is softer than a rabbit. Tiger loves kids and being part of a family. She promises to not only keep you entertained with her antics, but also shower you with love.

Meet Tiger at the Arizona Humane Society, located at 9226 N. 13th Ave. Her adoption fee is \$40 and includes a microchip. For more information, call 602-997-7585 and ask for animal number A498239.

Tiger may have been adopted by the time you visit the shelter but there are many other pets just like her who need a forever home. See them all by visiting www.azhumane.org.

Comedy show benefits animal rescue groups

Pet rescue organizations from across the Valley will unite on July 15 for the 5th Annual Dog Days of Summer Benefit Comedy Show.

It's a fun night—with a serious side. Maricopa County boasts the second-highest euthanasia rate in the United States, behind Los Angeles County. There are more than 140 rescue groups in the Valley, yet healthy, adoptable

animals are still euthanized daily. With more funds, Valley rescue groups can save more dogs and cats from this fate. The night of comedy for a cause features Sean Hoy (host), Isaac "Doc" Farm and Kristofer Royer. Dinner is included and vegan options will be available. Adults 18 and older are invited and tickets are \$55, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting participating animal rescue groups.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Shrine Auditorium, 522 N. 40th St., just a few blocks south of the Loop 202. Seating is by ticket number; the lower the number, the closer to the stage—so buy early! A cash bar (with ID) will be available. Auctions, raffles, and other fun will occur before and after the show.

No adoptable animals will be at the event, and no animal companions are allowed, other than service animals.

Contact Christa Sorenson at christasboxers@gmail.com or 602-292-3200 for more information regarding group ticket sales, raffle donations, and corporate partnership opportunities. Tickets can be purchased online through a participating rescue group, including 2nd Chance Dog Rescue, Follow Your Heart Animal Rescue, and Medical Animals in Need. Participating groups will earn \$20 from each ticket sold through their link. A list of all participating organizations is available at: www.twistedevents.org.

Get your Chihuahua fixed for just \$20

In celebration of Independence Day and thanks to a grant from Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Altered Tails offers a special \$20 Fix Your Firecracker spay/neuter promotion for all Chihuahua owners in Maricopa County during the month of July. This special rate also includes rabies, DA2PP and Bordetella vaccinations.

This special rate for spay and neuter surgeries is available to all Chihuahua owners in Maricopa County simply by making an appointment at the clinic, located at 950 W. Hatcher Road. Chihuahua parents who wish to take advantage of this offer must mention the "Fix Your Firecracker" campaign when they schedule their appointment. This campaign is based on availability.

Visit www.AlteredTails.org or call 602-943-7729 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

COMMUNITY

Help reduce crime by volunteering

Phoenix residents who want to be more active in reducing crime in their neighborhoods have an opportunity this month to join the Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol (PNP) program.

The Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol Program began in 1994 as Block Watchers on Patrol and was associated with the Block Watch McGruff logo. The name and logo changed in 1999.

Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol participants are citizens, not police officers or police department volunteers. They have no powers of arrest beyond that of any private citizen. They are trained for observation purposes only and participate for benefit of their community or neighborhood.

To join the Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol, you must be at least 18 years old and a resident of Phoenix. You also must complete four hours of training in the areas of patrol procedures, observation skills, the 9-1-1 system, reporting techniques, confrontation avoidance, safety practices and Block Watch grants.

The citywide classes are held on Saturday mornings from 8 a.m. to Noon at the Mountain View Police Precinct, 2075 E. Maryland Ave. Seating is limited to 45 people. Doors open at 7:30 a.m. Upcoming training classes include July 22 and Sept. 16. RSVP to deborah.iodice@phoenix.gov or call 602-495-0597.

Fun, educational programs for adults

The Phoenix Public Library doesn't just offer programming for toddlers and youth. Programs geared toward adults take place this month at some of the North Central-area branches.

Rachel Bess presents "Planting a Garden in the Valley," 2-4 p.m. Saturday, July 8, in the Century Library Meeting Room, 1750 E. Highland Ave. Come learn about what you can plant in your garden now, and what you can plant in fall. Attendees also will make a pot from newspaper and plant a seed that you can take home for your garden. Pre-registration required.

Get some "Laptop Computer Lab and Device Advice," 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, July 9, in the Saguaro Library Meeting Room, 2808 N. 46th St. Have computer questions? Curious about the Internet? Want to know how to use your

handheld device to access library e-materials? Laptops will be provided for this lab in the meeting room; however, you will need to bring your own fully charged handheld device for device assistance. Pre-registration suggested.

Enjoy an art history presentation on Frida Khalo, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Friday, July 14, in the Yucca Library Meeting Room, 5649 N. 15th Ave. Every second Friday of the month, the library hosts a free discussion group for adults 50 and older. The group discussion is hosted by a librarian, subject specialist or guest speaker.

Suzette Smith of Garden Goddess will discuss "Fermented Foods" 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, at the Acacia Library, 750 E. Townley Ave. Smith will demonstrate her cooking methods for fermenting food and teach you the art of fermenting vegetables. She will tell you why you should be eating fermented foods and how this can revolutionize your health. Space is limited, so register early.

To register, visit www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org and search for the program in the Calendar section.

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COMMUNITY



Phoenix Dist. 3 Councilwoman Debra Stark, right, talks with students from VH Lassen Elementary School about the benefits of working in the food and services industry as Executive Chef Mike Williams and Kitchen Manager Jacob Schlink from Scramble demonstrate how to make the eatery's famous breakfast pizza (submitted photo).

Helping kids get hands-on in club

Organizers of the Roosevelt School District's Summer Culinary Club approached Phoenix City Councilwoman Deb Stark to ask her to invite one of her favorite restaurants from her north Phoenix district to do a presentation to the club.

Scramble, located at 9832 N. 7th St., has been a longtime favorite of Stark's, and owner Don Talbot is someone she considers a close friend.

Stark and Scramble's Executive Chef Mike Williams and Kitchen Manager Jacob Schlink visited the program on June 14, where the chefs demonstrated how to make the restaurant's signature Brizzas (breakfast

pizza), including making the dough, the hollandaise sauce and various toppings. They also spoke to the students, who were from VH Lassen Elementary School, about what it takes to be a chef, and the benefits of being in the restaurant industry.

According to the National Restaurant Association, one in three Americans get their first job in a restaurant, and half of all American adults have worked in one at some point during their lives.

"The benefits of a program like this are far-reaching," said Stark. "The food and service industries are such a huge part of the Phoenix landscape, and being able to teach these kids skills that they can possibly use down the road will be a great opportunity for them."



HAPPY HOUR WITH HERSCH

Change is so hard for most of us, yet it is what keeps us moving forward and progressing. Without change the rights of many would not be what they are currently and what they should be in the future. Yet when change is occurring it is so hard to embrace, yet we all know the end result typically is a better result. Not sure why we forget that. Socrates once said, “The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.” Recently my work environment has seen significant movement with people I am very fond of making new paths for themselves. And of course I did what I usually do, like Socrates said, focused my energy on fighting the old. But at some point a light went off and I realized what change has meant for society and me in my life and focused on the opportunity and building new. I am going to try to remember this the next time there is change in my life and instead of initially fighting I am going to accept it with a warm embrace.

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COMMUNITY

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6-10 p.m. Tuesday, July 4
Steele Indian School Park
300 E. Indian School Road
602-534-3378

The fireworks display begins at 9:30 p.m. The free celebration will feature two stages of live, local entertainment, free inflatable kids rides, the Phoenix Fire Department's "Spray Zone" where kids can cool off, informational booths, a classic car display, and a wide variety of beverage and food for purchase. No alcohol or glass containers allowed. To avoid traffic congestion, use the Metro light rail. Find detailed Metro light rail information at www.metrolighttrail.org.

Sizzling Summer Water Safety Event

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, July 8
Coronado Pool
1717 N. 12 St.
602-206-3173

Enjoy CPR demonstrations, infor-

mation booths, life jacket demonstrations, swimming lesson giveaways, and free food and drink. Bring your bathing suits and towels and take a dip in the pool as well.

'GPLET and its Future'

11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Tuesday, July 11
Phoenix Country Club
2901 N. 7th St.
602-240-AAED

The Government Property Lease Excise Tax (GPLET) will be the topic at the Arizona Association for Economic Development's (AAED) July luncheon. Laura Sever Blanco and Frank Tomkins of Gust Rosenfeld P.L.C. will analyze the impact of the new Arizona legislation on the GPLET process. They will discuss projects that have benefited from this economic development tool and will examine pending lawsuits and their potential impact going forward. The cost of the luncheon is \$45 for AAED members and guests, \$65 for non-members and \$75 for late registrants. Register by July 6 at www.aaed.com/event/july11. Vegetarian meals must be requested in advance.

Literacy Tutor Orientation

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 19
Burton Barr Central Library
1221 N. Central Ave.
602-256-4388

ARP Experience Corps in partnership with Read On Phoenix need adult volunteers to help children strengthen their fluency and improve their reading skills by third grade. Learn how you can become involved and help students grow a love for reading. No prior tutoring experience is required.

Family H2O Science Lab

2-5 p.m. Friday, July 28
Burton Barr Central Library
1221 N. Central Ave.

Parents with children will travel from station to station throughout the event. The entire event is exploration-focused, relaxed, and fun for families. Possible stations may include: Learn about the water cycle; groundwater flow; and where we get our water here in Phoenix. Each station has materials for exploration, demonstration, or arts and crafts for families to do together. Volunteers also are needed to man the

stations. Contact Christian or Canyon at conservation@phoenix.gov or 602-534-3950 if you are interested in volunteering at this event.

Chris Bianco Book Signing

7 p.m. Monday, July 31
Changing Hands-Phoenix
300 W. Camelback Road

The owner of Phoenix's Pizzeria Bianco and James Beard award-winning chef, Chris Bianco, shares his highly anticipated cookbook, "Bianco: Pizza, Pasta and Other Foods I Like." When Chris Bianco started Pizzeria Bianco inside the back corner of a neighborhood grocery store in 1988, he had no idea that he would be a driving force in the artisanal pizza movement. Seating is determined by letter group (on ticket) and opens at 6:30 p.m. Pre-purchase the book (\$34.99 plus tax) and receive admission to the event for two people. Signing line forms after the event by letter group printed on ticket. To purchase the book and tickets, visit <http://www.changinghands.com/chris-bianco>.

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- What questions should you ask before going through donation?
- How can you help at end of life?

Andrea will be available to answer additional questions such as:

- Can my trust include end of life planning?
- How will people know what my final wishes are?

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Business Briefs

Fierro joins law firm; Speth on YWCA board

Stephanie Fierro has joined the law firm of Jaburg Wilk as a partner in its business law group. Fierro assists clients with general business and corporate representation, employment law, business planning, estate planning and probate.

Before joining Jaburg Wilk, Fierro represented business clients at Radix Law as well as founded and managed her own firm. She is active in the community as a former Hospice of the Valley committee member, alumni mentor and was founding member of MindingHerBiz, a woman-owned business advisory council.

In other news, Maria Speth was named to the Board of Directors of the YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix. Speth, an IP attorney and shareholder at Jaburg Wilk, said, "The mission of YWCA—eliminating racism and empowering women—aligns with my values perfectly. I am excited to join their board and help support Arizona women."

Jaburg Wilk, 3200 N. Central Ave., Ste. 2000, is an AV rated Phoenix law firm, the highest level of professionalism according to Martindale-Hubbell. For more information, visit www.jaburgwilk.com.

New yoga teacher training course

Kharma Life Center, 700 W. Campbell Ave., now offers Yoga Teacher Training to any student who is interested in gaining deeper understanding of the Yoga Practice or who wants to become a certified teacher.

Now an approved school by the national organization, Yoga Alliance, Kharma Life Center has added a 200-hour yoga certification course to its list of offerings among yoga classes, massage, acupuncture and other holistic therapies. Jane Mayer, a veteran yoga teacher and trainer, will be the lead teacher in the program that will cover an intention-driven Hatha yoga practice.

Students will learn the foundations of philosophy, anatomy, how to offer the yoga poses, an insight into the business of yoga and how the practice applies to daily living. "You don't have

to be an experienced practitioner to take the course," says Mayer. "This program is a great way to find a deep connection to yourself and others, creating self-empowerment and clarity of purpose." Students may use the course for their own knowledge and deeper understanding and/or to teach others.

The 200-hour Yoga Teacher Training Program begins Tuesday, Sept. 5 and finishes on Jan. 11, 2018. Students may register online or at the center. For more information, visit www.kharmalife.com or call 602-795-9767.

A shift in name, a shift in focus

Phoenix-based Venue Builders, known for crafting some of the Valley's inspired hospitality environments like The Newton and The Orchard, has a new name and a renewed focus.

Jon Kitchell and Lorenzo Perez, owners and partners at Venue Projects, have opted to convey their interest in Venue Builders to fellow founders Aaron Genova and Cal Detwiler, who have renamed the company Genova-Detwiler Custom Builders.

Genova and Detwiler are two of the luxury construction market's leaders with premium brands in the custom home market including Desert Star Construction, Linthicum Custom Builders, and Kitchell Custom Homes. "While this is a change of name for the business, everything else remains the same operationally, including the people, systems, location and leadership," said Cal Detwiler. "The change is a natural transition for the growth of both Venue Projects, as developer, and Venue Builders, as contractor and serves to simplify and streamline both entities going forward."

Detwiler and Genova combined offer more than 40 years of construction industry experience, both are graduates of the Del E. Webb School of Construction Management at ASU and both hail from multi-generational custom building families.

"We're excited to return to our roots and focus our energy on our custom building clients," said Genova. "I think there is a movement to up the game at the top end of the townhome, condo and production market. The

please see SHIFT on page 22



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COMMUNITY

SHIFT continued from page 20

intelligent builders occupying that space realize that they need to deliver to those customers in a different way. They're reaching out to us and others with similar experience to team on those projects."

Genova-Detwiler Custom Builders is located at 4650 E. Thomas Road. Visit <http://www.gdbuilt.com> for more information or call 602-368-8582.

Kinesphere is on the move

Kinesphere Center for Movement Education permanently shut its doors at 7th Street and Missouri Avenue on June 24, and plans to reopen in a new studio on July 10 at 4144 N. 44th St., Suite 4.

The new studio space is smaller, but owner Dominika Borovansky Gaines says it will allow the business to better focus on incorporating the Gyrotonic Expansion System and Z-Health Performance Movement Re-Education more specifically into work that is done with clients. Offerings will include private sessions and Gyrotonic Trios.

Gaines says that she is working to move Pilates Quartet classes to other local studios and is making arrangements to offer group classes at nearby locations.

The new studio is off a lushly landscaped courtyard in the midcentury-styled building with anchor tenant Park & Co.

For more information, call 602-532-3111 or visit <https://kinesphere-studio.com>

New model McDonald's hosts event July 29

The relocated McDonald's restaurant at 3149 E. Indian School Road is scheduled to open July 24 and will be the first U.S. restaurant to debut a new McDonald's interior design scheme.

The restaurant's design scheme, called Alphabet, uses black-and-white crafted alphabet letters and food illustrations in picture frames to create a simple and sophisticated environment.

Described as "comfortable modern," the lobby interior will feature black, white, yellow and natural wood colors; zoned seating areas with a variety of seating types and comfortable configurations; and lower lighting levels in the dining area utilizing pendant fixtures. The restaurant also has free Wi-Fi.

The exterior incorporates glass and metal for a modern look and a dual-lane drive thru that will provide faster service.

The restaurant will host a grand opening celebration on Saturday, July 29, offering the Egg McMuffin and Big Mac for \$1 each.

Family friendly activities will be featured from 12 to 2 p.m. Ronald McDonald will perform his magic show at 1 p.m. The first 500 customers, beginning at noon, will receive a "Lovin' Arcadia" prize.

Second class of SheLEADS grads

Thirty-five career-and-community focused women graduated from the second SheLEADS class on June 24 after completing Arizona Women's Education & Employment (AWEE)'s six-month professional development, training and sharing network program. SheLEADS is a professional development and skills training workshop series for women invested in career success, community and each other. When a woman is connected to a better job by generous people in the community, her life is transformed.

SheLEADS is open to professional women in all sectors and industries who are launching, or have launched their career and want to advance in management and leadership roles.

Graduation ceremonies were held at McCord Hall on the Arizona State University campus in Tempe. Graduates represent industries that include banking, education, construction, law, human resources, healthcare, nonprofits, government, sports, utilities and travel among others. Thirty-one women graduated from the inaugural SheLEADS class last year.

The third SheLEADS class will begin in January 2018 and the application process starts in the fall. More information will be provided in the coming months. The program includes six monthly training workshops with topic-based panel discussions and conversations. For more information, visit www.AWEE.org.



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Current Listings/Escrows

3920 E. Mountain View Rd.	NEW PRICE	6039 SF	7BR/6.5BA	\$1,695,000
6001 N. 21st Pl.	NEW PRICE	4254 SF	4BR/4.5BA	\$1,195,000
5750 N. Central Ave.	NEW PRICE	6555 SF	5BR/4.5BA	\$1,049,000
146 E. Claremont St.		4189 SF	4BR/4.5BA	\$ 975,000
230 W. Linger Ln.	NEW PRICE	4618 SF	5BR/5.5BA	\$ 760,000
101 W. Morten Ave.	JUST LISTED	3435 SF	4BR/4.5BA	\$ 750,000
11 W. San Juan Ave.	JUST LISTED	3226 SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 750,000
1511 W. Myrtle Ave.	NEW CONSTRUCTION	2880 SF	4BR/2.5BA	\$ 698,980
1512 W. Palmaire Ave.	IN ESCROW	2880 SF	4BR/2.5BA	\$ 694,800
1020 E. Maryland Ave.		Lot		\$ 675,000
1300 W. Myrtle Ave.	NEW CONSTRUCTION	3581 SF	4BR/3.5BA	\$ 654,900
3150 E. Rose Ln.	JUST LISTED	1849 SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 650,000
1504 W. Palmaire Ave.	JUST LISTED	2722 SF	4BR/2.5BA	\$ 642,800
1508 W. Palmaire Ave.	JUST LISTED	2616 SF	4BR/2.5BA	\$ 625,800
1503 W. Myrtle Ave.	JUST LISTED	2616 SF	4BR/2.5BA	\$ 615,800
7519 N. 3rd St	IN ESCROW	2553 SF	4BR/2.5BA	\$ 599,000
30 W. Frier Dr.		22,208 SF lot		\$ 595,000
6010 N. 5th Ave.	NEW PRICE	3300 SF	5BR/3BA	\$ 594,000
20 W. Frier Dr.		24,785 SF lot		\$ 585,000
1430 W. Myrtle Ave.	NEW CONSTRUCTION	2863 SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 584,900
1320 W. Myrtle Ave.	IN ESCROW	2863 SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 574,900
1410 W. Myrtle Ave.	IN ESCROW	2863 SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 569,900
336 E. Wagon Wheel Dr.	IN ESCROW	2319 SF	4BR/2BA	\$ 565,000
10 W. Frier Dr.		18,807 SF lot		\$ 555,000
40 W. Frier Dr.		15,815 SF lot		\$ 535,000
8103 N. 9th Ave.	IN ESCROW	2701 SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 485,000
10265 N. Central Ave.	NEW PRICE	3122 SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 455,000
7229 N. 11th Ave.	NEW PRICE	2118 SF	3BR/3BA	\$ 445,000
243 W. Harmont Dr.	IN ESCROW	3000 SF	4BR/4BA	\$ 455,000
6814 N. 11th St.	IN ESCROW	1894 SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 420,000
8074 N. 16th Ave.	IN ESCROW	2395 SF	3BR/3BA	\$ 359,000
1903 E. Bethany Home Rd.	NEW PRICE	1862 SF	4BR/2.5BA	\$ 350,000
722 E. Boca Raton Rd.	NEW CONSTRUCTION	1784 SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 316,500
723 E. Boca Raton Rd.	IN ESCROW	1640 SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 312,011
706 E. Boca Raton Rd.	NEW CONSTRUCTION	1912 SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 307,900
724 E. Boca Raton Rd.	IN ESCROW	1640 SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 300,000
726 E. Boca Raton Rd.	IN ESCROW	1640 SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 300,000
710 E. Boca Raton Rd.	NEW CONSTRUCTION	1640 SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 296,713
723 E. Boca Raton Rd.	IN ESCROW	1640 SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 290,100
719 E. Boca Raton Rd.	IN ESCROW	1784 SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 289,900
718 E. Boca Raton Rd.	NEW CONSTRUCTION	1640 SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 281,900
707 E. Boca Raton Rd.	NEW CONSTRUCTION	1640 SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 270,900
6020 N. 5th Ave.	JUST LISTED	10,530 SF LOT		\$ 269,900
5830 N. 12th Pl.	IN ESCROW	1736 SF	2BR/2BA	\$ 255,000
3662 W. Michigan Ave.	JUST LISTED	1720 SF	4BR/2BA	\$ 230,000
5350 N. Central Ave. #38	IN ESCROW	1188 SF	2BR/2.5BA	\$ 215,000

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Associate Broker

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Featured Homes for July



11 W. San Juan Ave. • \$750,000



5350 N. Central Ave., #38 • \$215,000



7229 N. 11th Ave. • \$445,000



10265 N. Central Ave. • \$459,000



336 E. Wagon Wheel Dr. • \$565,000



6001 N. 21st Pl. • \$1,195,000



7519 N. 3rd St. • \$599,000



5750 N. Central Ave. • \$1,049,000



146 E. Claremont St. • \$975,000

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SOLD Homes for 2017

8634 N. 52nd St.	\$1,675,000	709 E. El Camino Dr.	\$ 709,000	*7726 N. 11th Ave.	\$ 440,000	1 E. Butler Dr.	\$ 335,000	1745 E. Aurelius Ave.	\$ 225,000
5645 E. Exeter Blvd.	\$1,575,000	1823 E. Palmarie Dr.	\$ 659,000	1135 E. Lawrence Rd.	\$ 439,000	7118 N. 11th Dr.	\$ 333,500	1755 E. Aurelius Ave.	\$ 225,000
5045 N. 22nd St.	\$1,525,000	735 W. Las Palmaritas Dr.	\$ 643,000	7623 N. 7th Pl.	\$ 418,000	719 E. Boca Raton Rd.	\$ 329,409	4055 E. Calavar Rd.	\$ 223,500
512 E. Tuckey Ln.	\$1,037,000	2101 E. Bethany Home Rd.	\$ 615,000	8449 N. 1st Dr.	\$ 415,000	6913 N. 10th St.	\$ 328,500	*5350 N. Central Ave. #38	\$ 173,250
2135 E. Colter St.	\$1,000,000	*6837 N. 23rd Pl	\$ 590,000	101 W. Southern Hills Dr	\$ 405,000	*6608 N. 13th St.	\$ 325,000	7300 N. Dreamy Draw Dr. #105	\$ 160,000
7026 N. 23rd Pl.	\$ 935,000	15815 E. Burro Dr.	\$ 590,000	504 E. Flynn Dr.	\$ 396,950	7349 N. 11th Pl.	\$ 315,000	4600 N. 68th St. #351	\$ 129,900
130 E. Glendale Ave.	\$ 852,500	7747 N. 13th Pl.	\$ 585,000	739 E. Palmarie Ave.	\$ 380,000	*9007 N. 14th Dr.	\$ 312,500	750 E. Northern Ave. #1138	\$ 118,000
6402 N. 28th St.	\$ 825,000	1232 E. Oregon Ave.	\$ 485,000	1326 E. Stella Ln.	\$ 375,000	1124 E. Rose Ln. #10	\$ 253,000	1880 E. Morten Ave. #137	\$ 94,500
321 E. Montebello Ave.	\$ 805,000	8816 N. 18th Pl.	\$ 465,000	1102 W. Keim Dr.	\$ 365,000	6527 N. 10th Pl.	\$ 246,000	*represented both buyer and seller	
1819 E. Palmarie Ave.	\$ 750,000	*3150 E Rose Ln .	\$ 460,000	2027 E. Glendale Ave.	\$ 350,000	6509 N. 10th Pl.	\$ 245,000		
6030 N. 5th Ave.	\$ 720,000	709 W. El Camino Dr.	\$ 450,000	1433 E. Mission Ln.	\$ 336,000	7231 N. 6th Way	\$ 225,000		

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HEALTHY LIVING

Health Briefs

Helping kids, adults find 'healthy smiles'

Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation has awarded a grant in the amount of \$15,000 to Esperança's "Learning with a Smile Program" that takes place in Head Start programs and the Washington and Osborn elementary school districts, among others.

In addition, Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation has donated \$1,196 in dental supplies to provide patients with "smile bags," which contain a toothbrush, toothpaste and floss. "Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation is a long-standing partner with Esperança," said James Hoyt, president and CEO of Esperança, located at 1911 W. Earll Drive. "Our goal is to prevent poor oral health that can lead to a host of other health problems experienced later in life."

The Learning with a Smile Program allows Esperança health educators to

provide oral health education to children and adults from low-income, primarily Spanish-speaking communities. These individuals reside at or below 135 percent of the federal poverty level and are typically un- or under-insured. Esperança also provides referrals for free or low-cost dental care in conjunction with its partnering dental clinics.

To learn more about the grant or the Learning with a Smile Program, contact Maria Valenzuela, Phoenix program director, at 602-252-7772.

Hanson joins team at Artistic Dental

Artistic Dental has hired a new Registered Dental Hygienist, TeVona Hanson. Hanson joins Artistic Dental's growing team with more than two years' experience in private practice. In her new position, Hansen will be responsible for patient care, specifically teeth cleaning and ensuring patients have a healthy mouth in relation to the rest of their bodies to maintain optimal

wellbeing and results.

Hanson grew up in Phoenix where she attended Phoenix College for Dental Hygiene and is enrolled at Northern Arizona University to earn her Bachelor's of Dental Hygiene.

Artistic Dental specializes in cosmetic dentistry, family dentistry and orthodontics. The office is located in the Biltmore area at 2333 E. Campbell Ave. To learn more, visit www.artisticd.com or call 602-840-5400.

Medical school adds sonography program

Pima Medical Institute is now enrolling for its newly added Diagnostic Medical Sonography program at the Phoenix campus, 13610 N. Black Canyon Highway. In approximately 22 months graduates can complete the program, earning their associate degree.

Diagnostic medical sonography students learn how to use ultrasound equipment to create images of internal body structures that doctors use to make a

diagnosis. The career field was just recently named one of the top healthcare support jobs for 2017 by *U.S. News & World Report*, and according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the career field is projected to grow 24 percent.

Those who enter the career field may specialize in vascular, cardiac, obstetrics/gynecology, or general ultrasound. Diagnostic medical sonographers typically work in the hospital setting, while others work in doctor's offices or medical and diagnostic laboratories. The career is completely hands-on with patients.

Pima Medical students study pathophysiology, ultrasound scanning techniques, patient care, medical communications and professional medical ethics. Graduates are eligible to sit for the American Registry of Diagnostic Medical Sonographers Examinations.

For more information, visit www.pmi.edu or call 1-888-442-5998.

Free valet service at heart hospital

As a convenience for patients and visitors, free valet parking is now available at Abrazo Arizona Heart Hospital.

The valet service can be accessed at the main entrance of Abrazo Arizona Heart Hospital, 1930 E. Thomas Road. The service, which is provided by a private company, is available from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Hospital gets award for stroke treatment

Abrazo Central Campus was one of four Abrazo Community Health Network hospitals to recently receive the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award.

On average, someone in the United States suffers a stroke every 40 seconds, someone dies of a stroke every four minutes, and nearly 800,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year, according to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

The national award recognizes the Abrazo hospitals' commitment to providing the most appropriate stroke treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

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\$315,000



8518 N. 17th Drive
1,806 sf, 3 bed/2 bath
\$365,000



121 W. Southern Hills
3,521 sf, 4 bed/2.5bath
\$659,000



321 W. Stella
2,331 sf, 3 bed/3 bath
\$550,000



7637 N. 5th Ave.
3,338 sf, 4 bed/3.5 bath
\$635,000



8928 N. 17th Ave.
1,494 sf, 3 bed/2 bath



732 W. Rose Lane
1,834 sf, 4 bed/3 bath
\$399,000



5227 N. 179th Dr.
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SCHOOL DAYS

Student turns ‘wish’ into shaded hangout

Make-A-Wish Arizona wanted to grant Camelback High School student Joseph Grant a wish, but Joseph had another idea. The senior gave his wish away to his high school in the form of a new shade structure with outdoor seating. Joseph presented his wish, called “Joseph’s Hangout,” to his fellow students, March 24 at two assemblies.

Joseph, 18, who has a life-threatening heart condition that required a transplant, has been working on his wish for more than two years, deciding how to leave his legacy to a school that has been amazingly supportive during his illness. He approached then-principal Dr. Quintin Boyce, and with the help of the school, district facilities personnel, and local builders, the wish came true, with construction taking place during spring break.

McCarthy Construction and



Camelback High senior Joseph Grant stands in front of the new shaded seating area he presented to his school as part of his “wish” from Make-A-Wish Arizona (submitted photo).

SunShades Arizona donated a large percentage of the wish, in one of the largest undertakings this year for Make-A-Wish Arizona.

“I first hooked up with Make-A-Wish my sophomore year, when they

wanted to know what my wish was,” Joseph recalls. “I wanted to hold off, and then I said, let’s do something for my school. There are a lot of kids here, and they like to congregate outside the cafeteria, and there was no place to sit, and a

space like this was very much needed.”

Joseph worked with the companies, and the school to create a plan and color scheme that complements the school colors—orange and blue.

“They wanted to call it Joseph’s Corner, but ‘Hangout’ sounded better,” Joseph explains. “It has a ring to it. I like the way it sounds.”

Joseph’s gift did come with some anxiety. The seating area replaced the bell tower. During the assembly he was a little worried. He hoped students wouldn’t remember him as the kid who got rid of the bell tower.

But on the plaque that will designate the space, his true message is recorded: *Selflessness is all the heart needs.*

Joseph, a former football player at Camelback, also was recognized by the Phoenix Union High School District just prior to his graduation with a Community Outreach Award, presented at the All-Phoenix Union Sports Awards event on May 9.

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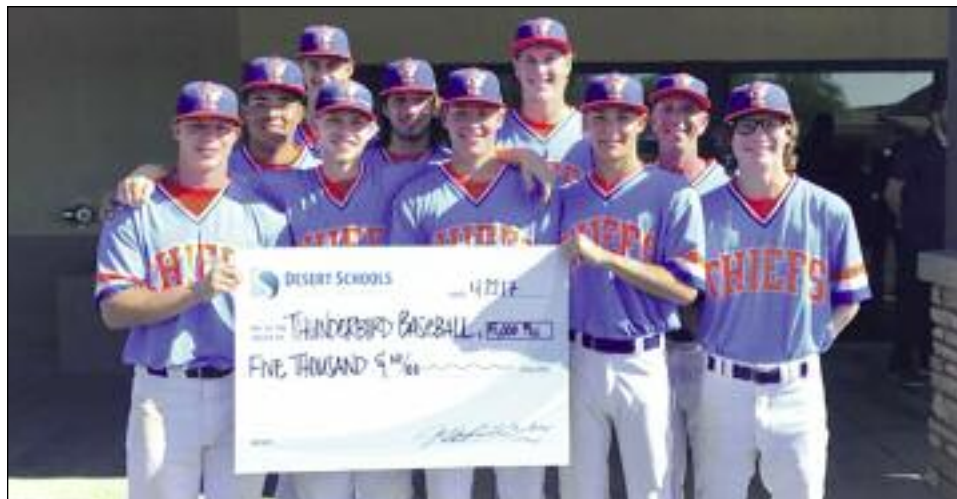
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SCHOOL DAYS



Members of the Thunderbird High School baseball team accept a check for \$5,000 from Desert Schools Federal Credit Union (submitted photo).

RMHC awards scholarships

Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) of Phoenix, with the support of the McDonald's Owner/Operators of Phoenix and Northern Arizona, will assist 90 Arizona high school students attend college this fall with scholarships totaling \$225,000.

Among the recipients are: Douglas Bencomo, George Bougas, Bethani Lechuga and Oniya Silas of North High School; Christopher Caceres of Sunnyslope High School; Carmen Cazares of Washington High School; Katelyn Flesch and Peter Lukaszewski of Bourgade Catholic High School; Makali Gomez of Arizona School for the Arts; Rafael Javalera Vera of Brophy College Prep; Angelina Luangphon, Leslie Mora Hernandez and Justin Rainge of Camelback High School; Evan Pittman of Phoenix Country Day School; and Ahmad Stanikzai of Metro Tech High School.

Scholarships awarded range from \$1,500 to \$2,500. The students may attend any college or technical school of their choice. They are selected based on academic achievement, financial need and community involvement.

The recipients were honored June 3 at the RMHC Phoenix Scholarship Breakfast, an annual event raises more than \$225,000 to help Arizona high school seniors attend college. This is one of the largest scholarship programs available to Arizona high school seniors.

The RMHC Phoenix Scholarship Program is supported through the efforts of neighborhood McDonald's owner/operators, local and national Ronald McDonald House Charities, McDonald's Corporation and other community donors.

School Briefs

GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Credit union donates to baseball team

Thunderbird High School's baseball team recently received a \$5,000 donation to the sports program from Desert Schools Federal Credit Union, which opened a new branch in March

please see DONATION on page 30

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SCHOOL DAYS

DONATION *continued from page 29*

at 406 E. Thunderbird Road.

A grand opening for the new branch was held April 22, at which time the check was presented to the Thunderbird Chiefs.

“We intend to participate as a member in the community right from the get go and are proud to kick off our relationship with a donation to Thunderbird baseball,” said Lori Sevensky, SVP of retail sales and operations at Desert Schools.

GUHSD schools ranked among best in country

U.S. News & World Report announced in late April that Glendale Union High School District schools once again received recognition by the national publication. Of the schools, seven ranked among the top 100 for the state of Arizona and four were nationally recognized on the America’s Best High Schools list.

GUHSD schools have continuously made the U.S. News & World Report – America’s Best High Schools list since



Members of the Madison Rose Lane Children’s Choir get a chance to “turn the dirt” on the future site of the new Madison Center for the Arts, where they will no doubt be performing next school year (submitted photo).

2008, adding to its impressive resume of academic achievements. In 2013, GUHSD earned the National Advanced Placement District of the Year recognition by the College Board; and the Arizona Department of Education has rated GUHSD as an “A” district.

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Ground broken on Center for the Arts

The Madison Elementary School District recently celebrated the ground-breaking of its 24,547-square-foot

Madison Center for the Arts, which will include a 900-seat auditorium as well as a spacious lobby that can seat 200 for pre-function events.

The district’s more than 5,800 high achieving elementary and middle school students will be able to share talents and build confidence through artistic, musical and dramatic performances, as well as developing technical and operational skills with hands-on behind-the-scenes learning.

Students from Madison Rose Lane, Madison Park Middle School and Madison No.1 Middle School demonstrated their talents at the ground-breaking event through dance, instrumental and singing performances. Madison Rose Lane and Madison No. 1 both offer Performing and Visual Arts Signature Programs.

The students, Superintendent Quinn Kellis and board members expressed gratitude to voters for recognizing the impact of arts education on a student’s overall growth and development. Funding for the new Center for the Arts, located adjacent to the district office, is through a recent bond override and demonstrates the commitment the community has for Madison and its student’s success.

CORE Construction serves as General Contractor and ADM Group is the Architect on the project. The Center will be complete Spring 2018 in time for 8th Grade Commencement. Madison Schools are now enrolling for the 2017-2018 School year. Visit <http://www.madisonaz.org/> to learn more.

OSBORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Two schools receive A+ designation from AEF

Two schools in the Osborn Elementary School District were among just 39 Arizona public schools receiving the coveted A+ School of Excellence™ award for the 2016-2017 academic year from the Arizona Educational Foundation (AEF).

AEF has identified and honored exemplary pre-kindergarten through 12th grade public schools in Arizona since 1983. The 2017 A+ School of Excellence winning schools and principals from the Osborn District included: Osborn Middle School and Principal Marty Makar; and Clarendon Elementary School and Principal



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SCHOOL DAYS

Theresa Nickolich.

“The A+ School of Excellence program celebrates outstanding schools throughout Arizona and calls attention to the positive stories and successes occurring in public schools,” explained AEF Executive Director, Bobbie O’Boyle. “The application and evaluation process for this program is comprehensive and rigorous. We applaud these schools for going above and beyond the norm to meet their students’ needs and for achieving overall success despite the many challenges that face the education community statewide.”

Applicant schools are evaluated in the areas of student focus and support, school culture, active teaching and learning, curriculum, leadership, community and parent involvement and assessment data.

Schools receive \$500 and a banner designating them as an A+ School of Excellence winner. All staff and faculty at the award-winning schools will be eligible for partial scholarships from Argosy University Phoenix. The award is valid for three and a half years.

OMS and Clarendon Elementary join Encanto Elementary, which was named an A+ school in 2016. The district now boasts three schools that have earned this label.

PHOENIX UNION
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Lopez honored by
Phoenix Suns, NAU

Metro Tech Chemistry teacher Gerardo Lopez was the Phoenix Suns-Northern Arizona University Educator of the month for April. He attended the April 2 Suns-Houston game, receiving four tickets, and complementary food and beverages, and a \$50 team shop gift card. The student who nominated him, Ailyn Melendrez, also was invited to the game. The two were introduced on the court prior to the game.

“I am definitely excited and humbled. Honestly, I am a little shocked,” Lopez said.

Lopez earned an undergraduate degree at NAU, a master’s degree from Arizona State University, and currently



Gerardo Lopez

is in the Educational Leadership program at NAU. He also was able to see his former student, Alan Williams of North High, play in person. Lopez was his chemistry tutor.

Casillas named principal for North

Vanessa Casillas will be the new North High School principal, beginning in July of 2017.

Casillas returns to the district where she went to school, and where she began her educational career. A Carl Hayden graduate, she began her career at the school in 2003 as an English teacher.

Casillas most recently was an assistant principal at Mesa High School, a post she has held for four years. Her first administrative assignment was as an assistant principal at Pueblo Magnet High School in the Tucson Unified School District, from



Vanessa Casillas

2010-2012.

Casillas has a B.S. in Secondary Education, and two Masters- Bilingual Multicultural Education, and Educational Leadership, all from Northern Arizona University.

Empowering students to create change

This past school year, North High and Cesar Chavez High School piloted a new curriculum called SEED SPOT NEXT. After years of success working with adult entrepreneurs, SEED SPOT launched the NEXT program to empower students to create change through entrepreneurship, providing curriculum, training and resources to teach entrepreneurship.

The students’ objective was to create a social venture team solving a problem from topics related to home, school, local and state, or national and global.

As a continuation of the program, North High School had its first Demo Day on April 21. Thirty venture teams from Rita Lopez’ Business 1-2 classes pitched their venture to judges. Four

teams were selected to continue to pitch their venture at SEED SPOT NEXT National Demo Day on May 6 at Camelback High School, with the winning team receiving \$5,000 towards their venture.

North winning presenters were Ruryck Adame; Mercedes Devian; the team of Yessy Garcia, Ivan Loza Morales, and Josue Fabela Martinez; and the team of Marco Bustos and Chiara Castiglione, an exchange student from Italy. Student ventures ranged from solving domestic violence, health and environment, to academics.

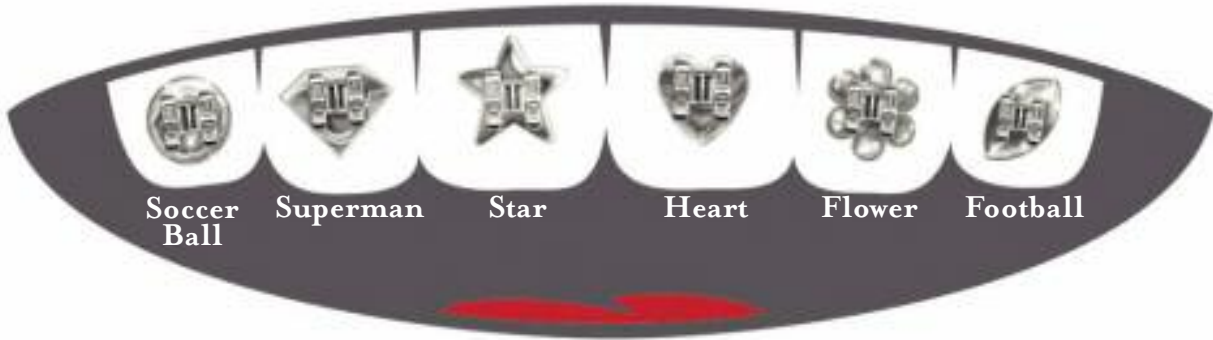
Toastmasters support Camelback DECA Club

One of the ways in which Camelback High’s Marketing DECA Club can take field trips to Chicago and New York and go to DECA national competitions is through the generous support of the community, particularly the local Toastmasters Speak E’s Annual Auction.

For 31 years, this event, which was in the winter, has supported the DECA

please see DECA on page 32

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SCHOOL DAYS

DECA continued from page 31

program at Camelback. The Toastmasters club also encourages its members to contribute through the Arizona Education Tax Credit program.

“They have continued to give opportunities to our students beyond their dreams,” Marketing teacher Julia Bourdo said. “Last year Speak E’s Toastmaster Club raised thousands of dollars for our DECA students. Every teacher would benefit so greatly with this kind of community support.”

This past school year, Camelback competed at the DECA State Competition and qualified 25 students to the DECA International Competition to Anaheim, Calif. in April. This was the school’s largest total ever. Camelback students joined 17,000 students throughout the world for the DECA International Career Development Conference.

There were 2,400 students from 72 schools that attended the DECA State Competition and Camelback had the second-largest number of students



Helping to distribute donated hygiene supplies to their peers are Sunnylope Elementary students in the PAL program, from left: Isabel Gonzalez, Saw Soe, Brian Bravo and Rose Briggs (submitted photo).

attending in the state. Among their wins, the students who won the Verizon Best in State App contest also won in the Innovation Competition, the second year in a row that Camelback has won with the Verizon challenge winners.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Anti-bullying program
a success at Sunnyslope

Since its inception 20 years ago, North Star Youth Partnership has been

providing positive, life-changing services to youth in the community. With the concern of bullying at the forefront, North Star created the Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) program, aimed at combating bullying in schools.

Diane DeLong, Program Manager of North Star explains, “Bullying has escalated over the past 20 years and has now reached epidemic proportions due to social media. The bullying continues, long after the school day has ended.”

Christine Williams manages the PAL program at three local schools—including Sunnyslope Elementary. “Participants in the program use the peer helping model, which includes communication, group dynamics, active listening and problem-solving. It was through the participants in the program that we identified a major source of bullying: limitations in the ability to practice good hygiene,” explains Williams.

To eradicate this need, the program accepted donations of soaps and toiletry items throughout the school year. To coincide with North Star Youth Partnership’s 20th anniversary, these donations were distributed to local schools.

North Star also combats bullying by empowering youth through mentorship programs, linking younger students with older students. This encourages social support and builds confidence in teens.

For more information or to become involved in the North Star Youth Partnership program, contact Diane DeLong at ddelong@cc-az.org.

PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS
Brophy grad accepted
to Air Force Academy

North Central resident Stephen H. Scott III, who goes by “Trip,” was accepted into the U.S. Air Force Academy. He was nominated to the military university by Congressman Ruben Gallego, and reported to Colorado Springs on June 29.



Trip Scott

Scott is a graduate of Brophy College Prep (2017) and All Saints’ Episcopal Day School (2013). He was



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SCHOOL DAYS



Madison Highland Prep honors its first graduates, from left: Alma Rojas, Harrison Dagher, Jada Easter, Christian Lopez, Monet Mitchell, Michael McCann, Damiann Pacheco, Jeremysam Gillman, Darby Watters and Collin Chattom (submitted photo).

in the top of his class at Brophy with a 3.945 weighted GPA and was a member of the National Honor Society.

In addition to excelling academically, Scott distinguished himself as an active member of his community. He was a volunteer member of Brophy’s Big Brothers and Best Buddies programs, helped burn victims at the Maricopa Medical Center, and tutored young children from underserved communities. He was also a three-year member of the Broncos varsity football team.

“As a congressman and a veteran, I wish Stephen much success as a military officer,” Gallego said. “I hope that his hard work and willingness to serve inspires other young boys and girls to consider a rewarding career in military service.”

Charter high school holds inaugural commencement

Donning blue caps and gowns, the first graduating class at Madison Highland Prep accepted diplomas and turned tassels at the end of the school year.

Ten seniors were honored at the commencement held at Embassy Suites Biltmore on May 25.

MHP, a STEM charter school, opened in 2014 with the enrollment of ninth and 10th graders. Three years later, its first class of seniors graduated.

Principal Kerry Clark praised the seniors and their families for their commitment to the school and noted that all graduates are on track for higher education.

“MHP’s first families stayed the course and now here we all are, recognizing your children’s accomplishments and readiness to enter college and university-- and ready they are,” Clark

said. “Each of these graduates has been accepted to two or more 4-year colleges or universities.”

MHP is a STEM college-preparatory charter high school located at 1431 E. Campbell Ave. serving grades 9-12. For information, visit <http://madison-highlandprep.com/h/> or call the school at 602-745-3800.

Celebrating a big win-- and some new sand

Xavier College Preparatory’s beach volleyball team captured its sixth straight state title on May 2 by defeating Goodyear Millennium High School in this year’s Division I state championship match. The Gators have won all six title matches since sand/beach volleyball became an Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) varsity sport during the 2010-2011 school year.

In related news, Xavier officially dedicated its new Cavanaugh Family Beach Volleyball Courts in an April 25 ceremony. Construction of the four sand courts, named for the family whose generosity enabled the school to build them, began last August so that Xavier’s beach volleyball team could play this year’s season on its new home courts. Previously, the Gators had played at both the Phoenix Swim Club and at Grand Canyon University.

School receives check, Lunch from Überrito

Christ Lutheran School was named the winner of the “Überrito Burrito Battle,” receiving a \$500 check and a specially catered lunch for teachers and staff. The fundraiser offered a friendly school spirit competition between area
please see CHECK on page 34

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MARICOPA COUNTY COLLEGE DISTRICT



SCHOOL DAYS

CHECK continued from page 33

schools that included Arcadia High School, Camelback High School and Christ Lutheran School.

The battle was the culmination of the grand opening celebration for Überrito’s newest restaurant, located at 4325 E. Indian School Road. Over a two-week time period, customers were encouraged to visit the Arcadia Überrito and mention the school they would like to support at checkout. Überrito then donated 15 percent of sales from every school purchase and then matched that amount for the school with the most sales.

“We are so pleased to be able to give back to the community in such a fun and beneficial way that celebrates our exceptional Phoenix-area schools and teachers,” said Marcus Jundt, CEO of Überrito.

Bicycle Club a fun, healthy activity

At the conclusion of its seventh year, the AmeriSchools Bike Club broke many records and had many



Participants in the AmeriSchools Bike Club celebrate their accomplishments at the end of the school year, including most improved, highest mileage, induction in the 100 Mile Club and the 200 Mile Club, and more (submitted photo).

accomplishments, including completing a total of 2,543 total miles by 15 riders (combined), with five riders topping 200 miles each and 8 riders posting more than 100 miles apiece.

The Bike Club is intended to offer an opportunity for students in sixth through eighth grades to explore the world of bicycling and what bicycling has to offer as a lifetime hobby or sport. As an afterschool activity, the students

engaged in a variety of educational presentations covering all aspects of safe bicycling and put these practices in play as they rode the streets throughout the Central Phoenix area.

The riding activities took place mostly during the week after school, but students also completed two Saturday morning rides, one ride to a local restaurant, and a year-end ride to Tempe Town Lake using companion trans-

portation such as the Light Rail system. AmeriSchools Academy, an “A” rated k-8 public charter school, is located at 1333 W. Camelback Road. For more information, call 602-532-0100 or visit <http://amerischools.org>.

Phoenix Christian hosts Open House

Phoenix Christian Preparatory School, 1751 W. Indian School Road, hosts an Open House on Thursday, July 20, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Families preparing for fall enrollment, as well as those looking ahead to the 2018-2019 school year, are welcome to visit the school, which offers a K-13 Christian education experience. Visitors can learn more about the school’s new concentration programs coming this fall, which will allow students to dive deeper into specific areas of study such as STEM and fine arts. The open house also will have information about current dual-enrollment, AP and honors opportunities at PCPS.

For more information, call 602-265-4707, ext. 270, or visit www.phoenixchristian.org.

Joyce honored for exemplary coaching

C. Ryan Joyce of Phoenix Country Day Middle School was selected as the 2017 Middle School Coach of the Year by The National Speech & Debate Association.

Joyce, the director of Advancement at Phoenix Country Day School, has been coaching middle school speech and debate for the past three years, leaving an impact on hundreds of young students.

“Ryan [has] played a huge role in bringing this incredible ‘sport of the mind’ to our middle school for the first time in its 50-year existence,” said middle school parent Deb Lambert.

Within just three years, Joyce has created a strong middle school speech and debate team with over 150 students.

Joyce was presented the Middle School Coach of the Year Award at the National Speech & Debate Tournament in Birmingham, Ala., last month. The Coach of the Year is selected through a committee comprised of members of the National Speech & Debate Association Board of Directors and the Executive Director, who review nominations submitted by member schools.

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Laura Neill (left) and her daughter, Susan Albright, stand in front of their new pool fence with Albright's toddler grandson, who she is currently raising (submitted photo).

Local woman gets free pool fence

Fulton Homes awarded a North Central Phoenix grandmother a free pool fence, which is vital in her being allowed by the state to foster her grandson.

Susan Albright currently is caring for her toddler grandson, with the assistance of her mother, the child's great-grandmother. The two women currently live in a multigenerational home that has a pool, but no fence. Albright's willingness to take in her grandchild has taken a toll on her finances, leaving her unable to afford a pool fence, which is a requirement of the state for her to continue to keep the child.

Albright received her free pool fence through the Fence Patrol program; it was installed on May 9.

The Fence Patrol program is conducted in partnership with KMLE 107.9 and Ironman Pool Fence. 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. Nominations will be accepted through Aug. 15.

Senior Living Vouchers help with caregiver respite

Family caregivers work tirelessly and selflessly—often to the detriment of their own health and emotional well-being—to provide assistance to loved ones who are living with disabilities. The Arizona Caregiver Coalition aims to provide these family caregivers temporary respite (a break) from their full-time roles as caregivers.

Respite “rebates” can be used by family caregivers to recover costs for in-home or facility-based respite care services that they secure on their own, so they can

please see VOUCHERS on page 38

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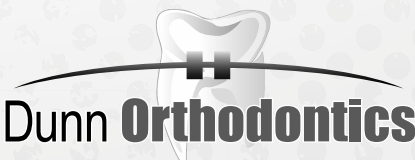
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Business owners, if you are looking for a way to support youth sports and advertise your business in the community, please consider supporting RAMMS. For a fee, your business can become a team sponsor and have its name on the back of a team's jersey. For more information, please contact a RAMMS Director.

RAMMS is a parent run, volunteer organization that was founded in 1961 to provide recreational youth sports opportunities for children in North Central Phoenix. To learn more about RAMMS, please visit us at www.ramms.org or at www.facebook.com/rammsphoenix

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O most loving Father, who willest us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of thee, and to cast all our cares on thee, who carest for us; Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which thou hast manifested unto us in Thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday Masses at 7:30 and 10 a.m.

GENERATIONS

VOUCHERS *continued from page 36*

relax and enjoy a short break from their duties. Qualified caregivers who complete the application process and meet the eligibility are issued respite rebate vouchers worth up to \$300.

The caregiver is reimbursed \$12 an hour for each hour invoiced by the respite provider or agency. Caregivers are responsible for any fees that exceed the maximum hourly rate of \$12 or \$300.

Call the Caregiver Resource Line at 888-737-7494 to inquire about eligibility. Out-of-home service agencies in North Central Phoenix that qualify for this rebate program include Foundation for Senior Living (FSL), and SunTree Adult Day Health & School.

Summer activities at senior center

Several new classes kick off at the Sunnyslope Senior Center, 802 E. Vogel Ave., this month, including Line Dancing (10:30 a.m. Thursdays beginning July 6) and Song Writing (10 a.m. Fridays beginning July 7).

In addition, several one-time health presentations are scheduled, such as “Just A Dash” (sodium consumption) on Monday, July 17; “Hygiene for Health” on Monday, July 24; and Federal & State Benefits on Monday, July 31. All presentations begin at 10 a.m.

Other events include a Watermelon Seed-Spitting Contest at 12:30 p.m. on July 27. Enjoy some delicious watermelon, and if you are feeling daring, see how far you can spit the seeds to win a take-home trophy.

All programs are free with Senior Center membership (\$20 annually). No RSVP is needed.

Kids & Families

Sunrays offers two fun ‘theme’ camps

Arizona Sunrays Dance Center, 13832 N. 32nd St., offers a dance camp July 10-14 for both boys and girls ages 6 to 12. The theme for this week’s camp is “I Love the ‘80s” and kids will have a great time dancing, tumbling, acting, modeling, enjoying a photo shoot, and more.

Then from July 17-21, Sunrays hosts a “Disney Dance Camp,” also for boys and girls ages 6 to 12. They can come dressed in their favorite Disney character, and costumes also will be provided for a photo shoot.

Both camps are offered from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Late pick-up is available until 6 p.m. Cost is \$283 per child. Advanced registration is required. There’s also a special parent show on each Friday at 2:30 p.m.

For more information, call 602-992-5790 or visit www.arizona.sunrays.com.

VBS for your ‘Starveyors’

Dust off your telescope and discover the mysteries of the “God of the Universe,” during a free vacation bible school (VBS) set for July 17-21 at Royal Palm Baptist Church, 8802 N. 19th Ave.

Children from kindergarten through sixth grade graduates will enjoy a week of searching the visible to discover the invisible at Galactic Starveyors. Kids will begin each day at Worship Rally, then will gather at the Starveyors Clubhouse where they will explore God’s Word.

The vacation bible school runs from 8:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. For more information, call 602-944-3306 or visit www.royalpalms.org.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

A & E Briefs

'Disney's Beauty and the Beast'

Arizona Broadway Theatre

July 7-16

Herberger Theater

222 E. Monroe

602-252-8497

This "tale as old as time" tells the story of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love, and be loved in return, the curse will end and he will be transformed to his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity. Tickets are \$37.50-\$77.50, plus fees. Visit www.herbergertheater.org.

Turbulent Landscape'**Artist's Reception**

6-10 p.m. Friday, July 7

Modified Arts

407 E. Roosevelt St.

480-326-6551

The exhibit explores the themes of "turbulence" and "landscape" in a curated exhibition of works on paper, screen, and other media from local and regional artists. It runs through July 15. For more information including gallery hours, visit <http://www.modifiedarts.org>.

'Tyrus'

1 p.m. Sunday, July 16

Third Street Theater,

Phoenix Center for the Arts

1202 N 3rd St.

A feature-length documentary film that tells the unlikely story of 104-year-old Chinese American artist Tyrus Wong, and how he overcame poverty and racism to become a celebrated modernist painter, Hollywood sketch artist, and "Disney Legend" for his groundbreaking work on the classic animated film, "Bambi." New and gently used children's books will be collected to donate to the APCA learning center; get \$1 admission with your book donation at the door. Advance seats are \$10, \$12 at the door, and \$11 for students with ID. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. For tickets, visit www.tyrus-movie.brownpapertickets.com.

'3 Redneck Tenors'

Through July 16

Phoenix Theatre

100 E. McDowell Road

602-254-2151

Get ready for one sidesplitting ride with songs ranging from gospel to country, Broadway to pop and even some classical. The Three Redneck Tenors offers down-home laughs with big city music. Tickets are \$35-\$65 plus fees. Visit <http://www.phoenixtheatre.com>.

'Catch A Rising Star'**Concert**

7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 14

The Nash

110 E. Roosevelt St.

602-795-0464

Featuring young Arizona jazz artist and local resident Eric Nakamoto on bass. He will be accompanied by Alex Price on trumpet, Joe Thomas on saxophone, Greg Hasson on guitar, Ben Cortez on piano, and Sam Russo on drums. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$8 for students with ID.

Summer Music Series

July 21-22 & 28-29

Phoenix Theatre

100 E. McDowell Road

602-254-2151

The series celebrates local musicians, with tickets at just \$31 per concert. The lineup includes: Brian Chartrand and Friends (American Folk/Rock) on July 21; Leon J. (Americana Blues) on July 22; Walt Richardson and Friends (Reggae, 60s and 70s) on July 28; and We 3 (vocal, piano and violin) on July 29. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information and tickets, visit <http://www.phoenixtheatre.com/summer-music-series>.

'Shrek the Musical'

Valley Youth Theatre

Aug. 11-27

Herberger Theater

222 E. Monroe

602-252-8497

An unlikely hero finds himself on a life-changing journey alongside a wise-cracking donkey and a feisty princess who resists her rescue. Irreverently fun for the whole family, Shrek proves that beauty is truly in the eye of the ogre. Tickets are \$20-\$38.50 plus fees. Visit www.herbergertheater.org.

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Arts Camp

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Creative Arts Camp is Back!

We're gearing up for our 5th annual Creative Arts Camp which will take place July 31-August 4 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. This week-long camp gives children who have finished Kindergarten through 9th grade the opportunity to participate in a variety of classes from painting and T-shirt design to singing and cooking. We also have a 'mini-camp' for children aged 3-5 years old. Registration for camp is now available online at firstchurch.church. Before and after care is also available for an additional fee. This camp is always a great way for kids to wrap up their summer, so don't delay in registering your little artists and musicians. First United Methodist Church Creative Arts Camp is back!

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firstchurch.church
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Café Chat
Popular sushi spot
is a hidden gem

By Patty Talahongva

At the start of each shift at Akai Hana Sushi and Grill (8041 N. Black Canyon Hwy., Suite 112) the chefs sharpen their knives and prepare for a day of sushi, sashimi, teriyaki and tempura. Since 1986, when the restaurant opened as Mr. Sushi, thousands of rolls have been made and served at this location.

In 2003, Kazuo Tashiro purchased the restaurant and took over, renaming it Akai Hana, which means “red flower.” Tashiro is from the small village of Nagasaki, Japan. He’s worked in the restaurant business his entire life and as a sushi chef for much of that time. America was always his dream destination.

“America is the center of the world,” he says. His grandparents spoke often about the riches to be



Kazuo Tashiro and his wife Farideh show off an array of sushi offered at their restaurant, Akai Hana Sushi and Grill, including the Aloha wrapped in pink soy paper, Chicken Teriyaki with California Roll, the Rainbow Roll, and the Six Shooter (photo by Teri Carnicelli).

found in America. “You could grab the gold off the ground in the city,” they would tell him. It was the land of opportunity and he was encouraged to

move to the United States. Still, it was a huge choice for the self-described country boy. He went to college in the big city of Osaka, Japan.

“Country boy moved to the big city, wow!” he laughs at the memory. His plan included traveling the world before settling down somewhere, so Tashiro traveled and worked in many countries including Australia and Central and South America. In 1974 he immigrated to the United States.

Tashiro settled in New York and quickly went to work for a sushi restaurant. It wasn’t long before he met Farideh, his future wife. She had spent time in Spain, Germany and Japan doing missionary work. “In the beginning I couldn’t understand his English,” she says. “But I’m polite,” so she says she didn’t question him or correct him. She also wasn’t too keen on sushi. “Who eats raw fish?” she asked herself. Undaunted, Tashiro took her to the sushi restaurant inside the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York and ordered for her. “I was hooked,” she says and marveled, “I am going to eat this for the rest of my life? Wow!”

The couple has been married since

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1982. Their one son is not in the family business.

After years of braving the New York winters, they decided they wanted some sunshine so they moved to Phoenix in 2003. “We missed the heat,” he says and they both laugh. At first he worked for a friend in the Valley who had a fish distribution company—and one of Tashiro’s delivery stops was at Mr. Sushi.

In 2003 he took over Mr. Sushi and brought his years of culinary experience to Phoenix. He recently expanded the seating area to 125 people, with a full bar.

The lunchtime crowd is mostly business people from nearby offices. Akai Hana offers traditional sushi but also sushi with a Southwestern flair, which includes jalapeños and cilantro.

Hand rolls range in price from \$5 to \$6.50, sushi averages \$4.50 for two pieces unless you order the sea urchin, which is \$10 or the toro, which is \$12. Sashimi averages \$10 for five pieces. There is a large selection of appetizers such as baby squid, edamame, and tem-pura vegetables.

Happy Hour is daily at different hours; check the website or Facebook and look for discounted prices on select appetizers, sushi rolls and beverages.

Tashiro likes the wide variety on his menu and says it makes it unique to Phoenix. “If a Japanese chef came today, (he would ask) what is this sushi?” Tashiro laughs.

He wants to bring people happiness, he says. “We try to improve, add new things.” When he visits New York or Las Vegas, he watches for new ideas and trends in the food industry to introduce at his restaurant.

Tashiro also offers etiquette tips for customers. Sushi, he explains, is a finger food. You don’t have to use chopsticks to eat. You can eat sashimi with chopsticks or a fork. “We don’t say no,” he says. “The point is to enjoy.” Akai Hana provides a spoon to eat the brown rice, which is hard to pick up with chopsticks.

At the Phoenix location (there also is a location in Goodyear), there are many regulars who enjoy eating casual dinners at the restaurant but also celebrate milestones such as birthdays, anniversaries or prom. “We see so many families,” he says. “First, second and third generations come together.”

As the country celebrates its Independence Day this month, Kazuo

and Farideh Tashiro will also celebrate in America in Phoenix, the land of opportunity. But, he points out, they won’t be eating sushi. Traditional hot dogs off the barbecue most likely will be on the holiday menu at their home.

Akai Hana is open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and for dinner Mon through Thursday from 4 to 9 p.m. Lunch on weekends is from Noon to 4 p.m. and dinner is served Friday and Saturday from 4 to 10 p.m. Sundays dinner is served from 4 to 9 p.m. Visit www.sushiakaihana.com or call 602-864-9202 for more information. You also can follow them on Facebook, Akai Hana Sushi & Grill.

Dining Briefs

Grown-Ups Table communal dining

Beckett’s Table, 3717 E. Indian School Road, invites guests to relax and unwind from the stresses of being a “grown-up” at the returning Grown-Ups Table event.

The experience features a three-course meal and drinks by Chef Justin Beckett, enjoyed around the community table. On select Wednesday evenings in July and August, guests are invited to savor a flavorful, family-style meal complete with beverage pairings and a to-go bag of leftovers to enjoy at home.

Each week, Beckett will keep diners on their toes releasing the night’s one-of-a-kind themed menu on social media. Previous Grown-Ups Table menus have included Spanish Tapas, Baja Peninsula, Asian Wok and more. Starting at 6 p.m. and available for \$45 per person, Grown-Ups Table is the perfect way to break the mid-week slump.

Upcoming dates include July 19 and 26, and Aug. 9 and 16. Reservations can be made under the Events tab on the Beckett’s Table Facebook page. For more information, call 602-954-1700.

Breakfast Weekend returns July 27-30

The third-annual Arizona Breakfast Weekend, sponsored by Hickman’s Family Farms, hits eateries July 27-30. Diners will enjoy special dishes at breakfast and brunch spots around the Valley.

Confirmed restaurants in North Central Phoenix so far include: The
please see WEEKEND on page 42



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FRIDAY NIGHT FISH FRY & SALAD BAR

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5:30 pm/\$14 per person/LIVE MUSIC 7:30 pm

MUSIC AT THE CLUB ...

Saturday 7/1: **AAIC BLUES & BBQ 4TH OF JULY PARTY** – Burgers, beans and sides. \$15 advance purchase tickets at the bar. Day of event \$20. Mangia, drinks, music by JC and the Juke Rockers and FIREWORKS! – 7:30 - 10:30 pm

Friday 7/7: **THE CHUCK HALL BAND** – Always one of the top local draws! – 7:30 - 10:30 pm

Friday 7/14: **TOUCAN EDDY** – Rhythm and roll - a Club favorite! – 7:30 - 10:30 pm

Friday 7/21: **PROFUSION** – From Classic Rock Fan to Country, something for all! – 7:30 - 10:30 pm

Saturday 7/22: **PARTY BINGO & THE TOMMY WASHINGTON BAND** – Bingo starts at 6 pm; enjoy live music from 8 - 10:30 pm. Dance to Motown, R & B and dance favorites!

Friday 7/28: **BACKSTAGE CREW** – Arizona’s premier Classic Rock / Variety Cover band – 7:30 - 10:30 pm

All events are open to the public. One person in your party must be a member for alcohol service.

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- VEGGIE VALET - C-CAP will be indoors all summer -- stop by to have your produce **CHOPPED & PREPPED** onsite for the week!
- We have a fridge and freezer onsite for **COLD DAIRY** -- ensuring your milk, butter, half-and-half, farm cheese and ice cream are at temp during these hot months.
- EASY to PAY! -- vendors accept cash, most accept credit cards, but we have a token system available at the info booth where you can swipe your card for tokens which all vendors accept.
- We accept WIC + FMNP + SNAP + DUFEB -- just stop by the info booth and we will guide you.
- We have a number of dedicated VEGAN vendors who we have placed together indoors -- just ask at the info booth!
- Our main information booth is BILINGUAL - stop by with any questions.
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SUMMER FARE continued from page 42

Caipirinha, Tito's Handmade Vodka in the Citrus Cooler, and Dripping Springs Artisan Gin in the Gin & Juice.

TEXAZ Grill's Summer Lunch Specials are offered 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and the Summer Cocktails are available seven days a week. The restaurant is located at 6003 N. 16th St. For more information, call 602-248-STAR (7827) or visit www.texazgrill.com.

New sandwiches available at Zookz

Several new toasted round sandwiches are hitting the menu at Zookz this summer. Among them are the chicken marinated in Zookz honey bal-

samic vinaigrette and tossed with black beans, sweet corn, feta cheese and sunflower seeds (\$8.50), and the Zookz crunchy chicken salad with apples, cranberries and roasted almonds in Zookz sweet heat mustard sauce (\$8.50). Both include a side salad.

Or stop by for breakfast and check out the new Parmesan cheese, egg white frittata topped with tomatoes, avocados and kale tossed in Zookz zinger sauce (\$5.75). Any sandwich can be substituted with gluten-free bread for an additional fee.

Zookz, located at 100 E. Camelback Road, is open 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information, visit www.zookzsandwiches.com or call 602-279-0906.

Special dinner aids ailing local chef

The "Arizona Seven" are reuniting for the "7 Chef Fund Up," a dining event hosted in support of fellow chef Kelly Fletcher (formerly of House of Tricks and Zen Culinary).

Fletcher recently fell seriously ill to a life-threatening infection that spread through his body, rendering him bedridden in the ICU for weeks, and on home rest thereafter. His medical bills have skyrocketed, and without health insurance, he could fall into financial crisis.

The Arizona Seven will host a Multi-Course Dinner at Crudo, 3603 E. Indian School Road, at 6 p.m. on Monday, July 31. Cost is for \$150++ per person, with 100 percent of the proceeds going to pay

down Fletcher's medical expenses. Even tastier, this one-night-only dinner will feature a menu penned by Fletcher, but with each of the chefs doing their own riff on his dishes. Chefs of the Arizona Seven include Keenan Bosworth (Pig & Pickle), Cullen Campbell (Crudo, Okra Cookhouse & Cocktails), Jacob Cutino (Homeboy's Hot Sauce), Josh Hebert (Posh Improvisational Cuisine, Hot Noodles Cold Sake), Scott Holmes (Little Miss BBQ), Stephen Jones (The Larder + The Delta), Bernie Kantak (Citizen Public House, The Gladly) and Gio Osso (Nico, Virtù Honest Craft).

For reservations, call 602-358-8666 and mention the Fletcher fundraising dinner, or visit <https://www.crudoaz.com/happenings/>.

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

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