



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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Ways to stay active during pandemic

By Colleen Sparks

Summer looks different this year as city of Phoenix pools are closed, family vacations have been canceled and many day camps and businesses have shut down temporarily because of the Coronavirus pandemic.

However, with some creativity and adjustments, families can find ways to keep entertained and educated during these hot months.

The city of Phoenix public pools are closed for this summer after the City Council could not reach consensus on whether and how to open them during a meeting last month. Typically thousands of residents every summer participate in the city's aquatic programs via swimming lessons and open swim sessions. City officials debated whether it would be safe for people to use the public pools, including how to require swimmers to maintain the recommended social distancing in order to try to prevent the spread

please see ACTIVE on page 6



Gabriel Marcelo, a Jesuit volunteer through a partner of Catholic Charities, interacts with children in the garden at Rosewood Court Apartments on North 16th Avenue. These apartments are among many affordable housing units Catholic Charities has spearheaded that are either built with residents living in them or being constructed in North Central Phoenix (photo courtesy of Catholic Charities).

Non-profits, city partner to add housing

By Colleen Sparks

The city of Phoenix, non-profit organizations and developers are teaming up to address the critical need for affordable housing, an issue exacerbated by financial struggles people are facing due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Experts say incomes have not been keeping pace with increasing rents in North Central Phoenix and other parts of the city in recent years, putting people at risk of becoming homeless or being forced to bounce between family and friends' homes. The Coronavirus pandemic has caused many residents to struggle even more as many have lost their jobs or been required to reduce their hours at work.

Catholic Charities has spearheaded and managed many affordable housing communities around the Valley.

"The need is great," said Steve Capobres, vice president of business development for Catholic Charities and executive director of Housing for Hope, a non-profit affiliate of Catholic Charities. "There's a long way to go to try to fill the demand. We've been seeing rent rise twice as fast as income."

Catholic Charities is partnering with the Foundation for Senior Living to build affordable apart-

ments on 7th Avenue, slightly south of Camelback Road that will be called Acacia Heights. There will be 78 units in the first phase of the apartments, which will be for residents ages 55 and older, and 66 units for families in phase two. The first phase of the apartments is expected to be ready for residents to move in by early January. The seniors' apartments will each have one bedroom with rent averaging about \$650 a month. Capobres said the city of Phoenix committed to providing \$750,000 for phase one of the apartments and \$1 million for phase two.

Catholic Charities also is planning to open a 297-

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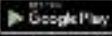
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COMMUNITY

City budget adds funds for police, oversight

By Colleen Sparks

More money for raises and additional police officers amid tensions between the public and law enforcement around the country are some of the ways the city of Phoenix will boost funding in its fiscal year 2020-21 budget.

The Phoenix City Council at a meeting last month approved its operating budget for the new fiscal year, which starts July 1, in a 6-3 vote. Many members of the public urged the City Council not to approve additional funding for the Phoenix Police Department, criticizing police officers' interactions with the public. Some rallied outside of City Hall, one of the recent protests around the country against police officers after the death of George Floyd, a man who died after former Minneapolis Police Officer Derek Chauvin's knee was pressed on his neck for several minutes in May.

The City Council approved a budget of \$744 million for the police department for the 2020-21 fiscal year, which will end June 30, 2021, an increase from \$719 million approved for the police department in the last fiscal year. The city's goal is to have 3,125 active sworn police officers on staff, said Amber Williamson, deputy Budget and Research director for the city of Phoenix. There were 3,042 sworn police officers in the department as of May. It is unknown when and how many officers will be hired this fiscal year. The funding increase also will pay for technology and staff members' work related to police officers' use of body-worn cameras.

The City Council also previously approved spending \$3 million for the newly created Office of Accountability and Transparency (OAT), which will aim to "strengthen public safety in the city of Phoenix and increase accountability and transparency" between the police department and the residents it serves, Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego said. This department is separate from the police department. It will support a civilian review board that will provide more oversight of the Phoenix Police Department.

Funding for the OAT is possible because of significant savings related to COVID-19, including closed city-run centers and decreased jail costs, Gallego said.

Originally the proposed budget for

the OAT was \$400,000, but after a push from advocates to increase the money, the City Council boosted the amount to \$3 million.

"The City Council wanted to send a signal to our community that we understand we have to work to strengthen the relationship between the community and police officers, help support our city as we understand what are the best practices in policing," Gallego said days prior to the City Council meeting where the budget was approved. "We are having a national discussion."

The total budget the City Council approved for this 2020-21 fiscal year was \$5,020,460,241. That is about a 10-percent increase over the 2019-20 fiscal year's total budget. It includes raises for all city employees. The total increase in compensation, which includes salaries and benefits, is 1.5 percent but every unit negotiated it differently, so different employees will see different percentage raises, Williamson said.



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HOUSING continued from page 1

unit affordable housing apartment complex on 19th Avenue, a block north of Camelback Road called Mesquite Terrace. The apartments will have one, two and three bedrooms and a playground. Those apartments will likely be completed in about two years.

Veterans will have the opportunity to seek affordable housing in another apartment complex Catholic Charities is building on 9th Avenue between Mountain View Road and Peoria Avenue. There will be 10, one-bedroom apartments for anyone who has served in the military. The rent will be about \$650 a month. The plan is to open those apartments by Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Catholic Charities already opened Laurel Tree at Northern Apartments at 1825 W. Northern Ave. There are 70 apartment units, with one, two and three bedrooms. Rent is based on tenants' income with the average rent for a one-bedroom unit at about \$650 a month, two-bedrooms on average costing \$750 a month and three bedrooms renting at \$850 a month. Recently there were 150

people on the waiting list to rent an apartment there.

Rosewood Court Apartments at 5104 N. 16th Ave. is another affordable housing community owned by Catholic Charities and Housing for Hope. Of the 80 units, some are reserved for senior citizens and disabled residents.

Multi-family developer Greenlight Communities also is trying to provide affordable housing to people who work in the city. Some residents have already moved in to units at its Cabana on 12th, an apartment complex at 4225 N. 12th St. Studio apartments in Cabana on 12th cost about \$850 a month, while one-bedroom apartments are \$1,000 a month and two-bedrooms run residents \$1,200 a month, said Rob Lyles, partner at Greenlight Communities.

Lyles said these apartments are affordable for teachers, healthcare workers, firefighters and police officers who work in the city.

"You see the ultra-luxury apartments being built all over town," he said. "Only 18-percent of the rental population can afford to live there."

Greenlight Communities also is leas-

ing for Cabana on Washington, apartments at 5300 E. Washington St.

Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego praised Catholic Charities and other non-profit organizations for addressing affordable housing. A lack of affordable housing has been a problem for the city made worse by COVID-19, she said.

"The amount of our residents who are spending too much of their income on housing has grown," Gallego said. "Catholic Charities has been a wonderful partner. They build sustainable, attractive communities and they stay involved and continue to invest in their properties."

The Phoenix City Council last month approved a citywide affordable housing measure that will address the need for another 163,000 housing units in Phoenix, including redeveloping city-owned land with mixed-income housing.

Cynthia Zwick, executive director of Wildfire, a state association that aims to end poverty, said lack of affordable housing is a big issue. Zwick said she believes that the city, non-profit organizations and developers have a "shared responsibility" of bringing more affordable housing to Phoenix.

First Place AZ founder, president and CEO Denise Resnik said the demand for affordable housing is greater than the supply. Her non-profit organization is focused on ensuring that housing and community options for people who have autism and other neurodiversities are as plentiful as they are for everyone else. The organization recently received a \$100,000 grant from a partnership of the Phoenix IDA and the Phoenix Community Development & Investment Corporation to conduct a housing study.

COVID-19 has made it more challenging to help people who are struggling with homelessness, said Amy Schwabenlender, executive director of the Human Services Campus, a collaborative force of many organizations that partner on one campus to end homelessness.

Besides economic challenges people are facing, mental illnesses can make it more difficult for some residents to find housing on their own, Schwabenlender said. Supportive housing where residents can receive help accessing healthcare, as well as support groups, counseling, cooking lessons, financial literacy and other resources is needed in Phoenix, she said.

"If we want to ensure that everyone in Arizona can access safe, affordable housing, it takes all levels of government working with private developers, non-profits," Schwabenlender said.

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hotels and restaurants are open.

I was fortunate to list 18 homes in our area the past 30 days ranging from

\$375,000 to \$1.2 million. We have now sold 59 homes in 2020 and have another 12 in escrow. The major question I get asked by buyers and sellers today is about the impact that COVID-19 has on our market.

The crazy answer it has very little impact on the many buyers and sellers that are out there. Certainly we are all keeping our social distancing in viewing homes but our real estate market is on fire and as good as I have seen it in over 25 years. I am seeing multiple offers on homes and I even had multiple offers the past few weeks on a million-dollar North Central home.

There are a few reasons for the demand to buy and sell homes in our area and it all starts with our great low interest rates. The second reason is that there is a huge demand to live in North Central/Biltmore areas, not only for the location but our home values are still at a reasonable number compared to Arcadia and Paradise Valley. I am always asked whether there are many buyers coming from out of state to our area and, again, the answer really is no. The buyers in our area typically grew up in this area,

or work in the area or my best reasoning is mom and dad are convincing their kids to move back to this area so they can see the grand kids more and are helping their kids with buying some of these homes.

The one request I have for you guys is that there is a big demand for luxury homes that are valued over a million dollars. I have four or five buyers right now that are looking to buy a high-end home in our area and would like to move to North Central with in the next two to three months. I have sold 11 homes priced at more than a million in 2020 (including a Bartlett States home for \$4.1 million) and I am seeing more families moving to our 'hood from PV and Arcadia because it is closer to their schools and because they get more bang for their buck here.

Please call me if you are thinking about selling any priced home that you currently reside in because there now are more buyers that there is inventory. I work seven days a week so there never is a day that will not work for me unless it is a few days in July while I am in California playing golf!!

Have a safe July and I look forward to hearing from you if you are either wanting to sell or buy a home.

Thank you!

Bobby Lieb

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COMMUNITY

ACTIVE continued from page 1

of COVID-19. They tried to weigh the merits of public pools providing recreation and exercise to residents with the risks of the public possibly contracting the virus during a long discussion that raised many questions but no clear answers as much is still unknown about Coronavirus.

Phoenix City Councilmember Carlos Garcia said he enjoyed city pools as a child but he had safety concerns about opening them this season.

“It doesn’t make sense to me that we open the pools, put people at risk,” Garcia said at the June City Council meeting. “I don’t see how we’re able to keep social distancing. It feels like we’d have to go out of our way, spend the resources and at the end of the day we don’t know (if) we’re protecting them.”

Phoenix City Council Vice Mayor Betty Guardado said she was concerned about the number of people in the city’s Parks and Recreation Department who had already been infected with COVID-19. She also questioned whether employees would

have to take residents at their word when asked if they had COVID-19 symptoms before going into the pools.

The city of Phoenix has extended summer hours for three of its popular hiking spots – North Mountain Park, Piestewa Peak Trailhead in the Phoenix Mountains Preserve and Pima Canyon Trailhead in South Mountain Park/Preserve. In order to offer an additional two hours of availability for hiking in those areas, parking lot entrances are open until 9 p.m. The parking lots at those three trailheads open at 5 a.m. and the trails are open until 11 p.m. year-round.

Phoenix Park rangers recommend hiking either early in the morning or in the evening when it is cooler outside and there is more shade.

Children and teens can keep busy, exercise and socialize through the sports that Recreation Association of Madison Meadows & Simis (RAMMS) non-profit organization offers. Registration begins Saturday, July 11 for flag football (for boys and girls) and for girls and boys volleyball. The flag football and volleyball teams are

expected to start games for the season on Sept. 12. Youths around the Valley play sports through RAMMS, a competitive recreational league, said Damon Boyd, president of RAMMS and director of baseball, as well as a parent of three children.

Practices and games for RAMMS teams are held around North Central Phoenix.

“For the safety of our kids and families we canceled spring softball and baseball season,” Boyd said. “It was tremendously disappointing. We’re hopeful, just like everyone is...that things will be better by the time August rolls around. We’re recognizing, too, that it will probably be different.”

He and other officials with RAMMS are determining what safety measures they will take, including social distancing of athletes when feasible and possibly prohibiting youths from shaking hands with opposing teams after games. For the 2019-20 season, there were more than 2,200 children and teens that participated in RAMMS sports.

To learn more about RAMMS, visit

ramms.org.

Adults and children have many choices in activities to do inside or online this summer.

Arizona Science Center at 600 E. Washington St. reopened its physical building to members and the public last month for small group guided experiences. Besides maintaining a high level of sanitation and cleanliness practices, the science center is asking anyone at least 2 years old to wear appropriate face masks or cloth face coverings. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own masks but disposable masks are available in the center.

Guests will not be able to explore the Arizona Science Center in self-guided tours. Small-group, guided experiences will allow the operation to control guest flow and perform additional cleaning in between groups’ visits. Each guided experience will be limited to 10 people per journey. It is recommended customers buy tickets to the science center online ahead of time at azscience.org or by calling 602-716-2028.

Phoenix Art Museum at 1625 N.

please see ACTIVE on page 8

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COMMUNITY

ACTIVE *continued from page 6*

Central Ave. was temporarily closed in its physical space, as of press time, but is offering many programs online.

In order to try to relieve anxiety, depression, pain and stress, you can participate in the weekly virtual mindfulness sessions the Phoenix Art Museum is offering at noon July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. These 30-minute mindfulness sessions aim to help people live in the moment and are presented in collaboration with Hospice of the Valley. Sessions are hosted on the video conferencing platform Zoom. To learn more about the classes, visit hov.org/for-the-community. To learn more about Phoenix Art Museum, visit phxart.org.

The Heard Museum reopened its physical setting last month with some new safety measures in place. Attendance at the museum at 2301 N. Central Ave. is limited to 100 people per hour. Staff members and visitors must wear face coverings for all indoor spaces. Disposable masks and gloves are at the museum for anyone to use free-

of-charge. To learn more, visit heard.org.

For those who like performance art, The School of Ballet Arizona is offering in-person and online dance classes this summer. Adult intermediate/advanced ballet classes are taught from 9 to 10:15 a.m. Wednesdays and 9 to 10:15 a.m. Thursdays online and at the school at 2835 E. Washington St. Advanced adult ballet classes are being given from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays and beginning/intermediate adult ballet classes are delivered from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays. The classes online cost \$10 and pre-registration is required. Anyone ages 14 and older can take the adult classes. It costs \$18 per class for the in-studio ballet classes. To learn more, visit balletaz.org/open-special-classes/adult-open-classes.

Boys can stay busy, as well as learn new skills and bond with others through Boy Scout Troop 41, which serves boys ages 11 to 17. The Boy Scouts have been meeting online through Zoom Wednesday nights when the COVID-19 pandemic struck but hope to take trips to other parts of

Arizona and possibly San Diego this summer, said Brian Cook, Scout master for the troop. While the troop takes a break for part of the summer, it is hoping to meet again in person sometime in August, Cook said. Boys interested in getting involved in Boy Scout Troop 41 can contact him at brian_cook@shamrockfoods.com.

Phoenix job losses less than other cities

There is a silver lining when it comes to jobs in Phoenix and around the state.

That is according to the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity, which said job gains were demolished in 30 days with the metropolitan area unemployment rate increasing from 3.7 percent in December to 12.6 percent in April. However, compared to the rest of the country, Phoenix did much better, said Eric Jay Toll, communications manager with the city of Phoenix. He said around the country the unemployment rate dropped to 14.7 percent.

While job losses in the metropoli-

tan area service industries were significant in April compared to that month in 2019, some employment trends are improving. Phoenix revealed strong job gains in the advanced industry sectors, Toll said. The wholesale trade industry added 1,200 positions while financial activities created 9,500 jobs. The Phoenix metro area added 22,100 jobs between the advanced industries.

Even with the job losses in April, the workforce that month was still larger than it was in Phoenix during the pre-Great Recession peak month of October of 2007. The city of Phoenix put a big emphasis on creating an export economy and guided the state to three consecutive record years of export growth. Data reveals that new migrants to Arizona move here with more college degrees and high levels of professional skills, a mix that helps make the Phoenix workforce more attractive.

To learn more about job trends in Phoenix, visit phoenix.gov/newsroom/ced/1340.

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COMMUNITY

New animal shelter helps ease burden

A new animal shelter and veterinary clinic is providing temporary boarding for dogs and cats when other organizations' space and resources for furry friends are limited.

Heidi's Village, an animal welfare organization, recently opened on a five-acre property at 600 N. 40th St. It partners with animal shelters and rescue organizations to offer temporary boarding for dogs and cats. Heidi's Village's mission is to cultivate a community where animals are treated with respect, compassion and dignity to reduce the number of animals euthanized and abandoned.

Cawley Architects and Iconic Design Studio designed the organization's 48,000-square-foot facility. Chasse Building Team built the structure while Foursite managed the construction. Every dog's kennel is screened from nearby kennels to offer them space where they can enjoy a safe, distraction-free and safe environment. They overlook a play yard they can



Heidi's Village, an animal welfare organization, has opened at 600 N. 40th St. It is an animal shelter and veterinary clinic that partners with other organizations (submitted photo).

access through their kennel doors. One of the big outdoor play areas is in the shape of a giant bone and it has a real fire hydrant.

Maricopa County animal welfare centers are overburdened and many small, private, non-profit rescue organizations in the Valley do not have the ability to accommodate the demand

for care. Heidi's Village will incorporate and partner with nearly 100 of these smaller centers. It has boarding space for up to 250 dogs and 200 cats but the goal is to never house that many animals at the same time. Dogs and cats surrendered to Heidi's Village will be ready for adoption as soon as they have undergone medical and

behavioral clearances.

Volunteers are a key part of the operation of Heidi's Village. Community members are encouraged to seek one of the many volunteer positions available. To learn more about Heidi's Village, visit heidisvillage.org.

Kodi's to provide dog dental clinic

Kodi's Natural Pet Foods is holding a no-anesthesia dental clinic for dogs on Tuesday, July 21.

The clinic will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the store at 6058 N. 16th St. An integrative veterinarian will examine dogs' mouths and clean their teeth. If the dogs have other issues or do not seem able to accept the cleaning then they will be referred to their own veterinarians.

It will cost \$165 for the teeth cleaning for dogs up to 60 pounds and \$185 for dogs more than 60 pounds.

You must make an appointment in order to bring your dog for the treatment. To make an appointment, call 602-265-0462.

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COMMUNITY



Ed the Hyena is a domestic, medium-hair, one-year-old cat who was shy but blossomed once the Arizona Humane Society took him in. He and many other pets are available for adoption (photo courtesy of Arizona Humane Society).

Pet of the Month

Shy Ed blossoms, needs loving home

Handsome, one-year-old, domestic medium-hair Ed the Hyena was shy early on while living in his previous home but the Arizona Humane Society is hoping he will come out of his shell in his new surroundings.

He was named after the quirky Disney character in “The Lion King” but you may call him Ed for short. This kitty has blossomed in a big way since being taken in by the Arizona Humane Society after the organization said his previous caretakers could no longer offer him the type of home he deserves.

This fun feline’s story is a good reminder to have a plan in place for your pets in case of any emergencies. The Arizona Humane Society recommends everyone have a conversation with friends and family members and to be prepared for any long or short-term situation that might require them to give up their pets. The Pet Resource Center of the Arizona Humane Society also is a good resource to gather ideas and information on how to cope with caring for animals during difficult times.

While all Arizona Humane Society adoption locations are temporarily closed, its Virtual Adoption Matchmaker Program is available to place Ed and other pets in “fur-ever” homes. Ed’s pet number is 636632. Ed might have been adopted by the time you meet with the Virtual Adoption Matchmaker, but the Arizona Humane Society has dozens more other pets who also are seeking loving homes.

To learn more about available pets including Ed, visit azhumane.org/adopt.

Prepare pets to stay calm during fireworks

July 5 is the busiest day of the year for animal shelters around the country as many pets, spooked by fireworks on the Fourth of July, run away from home.

Behavior specialists at the Arizona Humane Society said pet owners can try to desensitize their animals from fireworks. They recommend pet owners play a recording with the sound of fireworks at a low level. Feed your pet coveted treats including hot dogs and chicken while the recording of fireworks is playing and stop feeding them treats once the recording is done. Gradually increase the volume of the recording over many sessions. If your pet exhibits fear or anxiety during this training then stop the recording immediately and begin it next time at a lower volume.

Furry friends can wear ThunderShirts, which are calming wraps that deliver constant, gentle pressure to a dog’s torso to help them feel safe.

If you see an animal in distress, call the Arizona Humane Society’s Emergency Animal Medical Technicians at 602-997-7585, ext. 2073.

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COMMUNITY

City earns bike-friendly community honor

Phoenix is on a roll when it comes to providing bicycle-friendly routes.

Recently the League of American Bicyclists announced that Phoenix has again earned the Bronze-level award for being a Bicycle Friendly Community. The city was honored for its dedication to making Phoenix a safer, better place to bicycle. Phoenix joins 482 other communities around the country striving to form safer streets and improved bicycling for everyone.

This award honors Phoenix for its commitment to enhancing transportation corridors and recreational opportunities that people of all ages and abilities may enjoy. Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego said the city has 1,062 bike lane miles and that number is consistently increasing. She added that multi-modal transportation “is the key to a healthier and more equitable future.”

The League of American Bicyclists Bicycle Friendly America program has taken more than 1,800 applications for

awards. There are nearly 500 Bicycle Friendly Communities in the 50 states, as well as in the District of Columbia.

To learn more about the Bicycle Friendly Community program, visit bikeleague.org/community.

Deadline extended to respond to census

There is still time to respond to the 2020 Census, something officials say is important to complete in order to generate money for the community.

The deadline to respond to the census has been extended to Oct. 31 due to the COVID-19 crisis. This questionnaire is used to determine funding for education, health, child welfare and infrastructure, as well as to decide how to configure Congressional district boundaries. Participating in the census can help Phoenix and other cities obtain the resources they need for the coming ten years.

Phoenix City Councilmember Thelda Williams said that 57.4 percent of households in Phoenix had responded to the census, as of May 14. That

was below the national average of 59.3 percent but above the Arizona response rate of 55.8 percent. Williams said it is important to have an accurate population count in Phoenix because it will help with funding for items needed for emergencies including COVID-19. Some of the questions in the census include how many people live in a home, if the household is rented or owned and the residents’ race.

In order to answer the questions in the 2020 Census, visit icount2020.info or call 844-330-2020 for English or 844-468-2020 for Spanish.

Wait times decreased at pedestrian signals

In order to try to improve safety as people walk and ride bicycles, the city of Phoenix’s Street Transportation Department has reprogrammed its HAWK pedestrian signals.

The city announced recently the signals will minimize the amount of time people spend waiting to cross streets at the HAWK signals. HAWKs are traffic signals that permit people to

travel across the roads safely and run in a yellow-red-flashing red sequence to show drivers there are people who need to walk across the streets. All HAWKs will be reset to decrease wait delays by up to 50-percent. Some HAWK signals had a 60 to 90-second delay between each time they were activated. Now the gap between the time they are activated is only 30 to 40 seconds at most locations.

Fewer vehicles are on the roads so decreasing wait times for pedestrians walking or riding bikes will discourage anyone from crossing the road without a signal, Phoenix City Councilmember Thelda Williams said. She is chairwoman of the Transportation, Infrastructure and Innovation Subcommittee.

HAWKs that are programmed to work in conjunction with nearby traffic signals will still operate in a coordinated fashion but wait times also have been improved in these spots.

Phoenix has 65 HAWK signals that have been updated in recent weeks. To find a HAWK location, visit phoenix.gov/streets/hawk.



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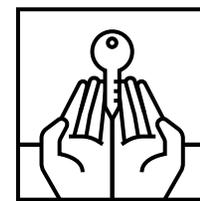
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ESSENTIAL

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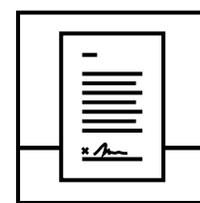


TOTAL TRANSACTIONS

2

9

2

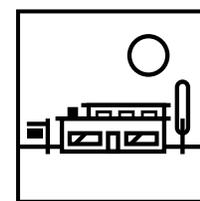


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9

9



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\$1,150,000



6626 N 1ST PL
PHOENIX, AZ 85012

\$1,149,000



6509 N 29TH ST
PHOENIX, AZ 85016

\$1,625,000



4430 E MADEROS DEL CUENTA DR
PARADISE VALLEY, AZ 85253

\$1,695,000



3701 E HAZELWOOD ST
PHOENIX, AZ 85018

\$2,400,000



4357 N 66TH ST
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251

\$2,470,000



4302 E VERMONT AVE
PHOENIX, AZ 85018

\$2,750,000



2111 E COLTER ST
PHOENIX, AZ 85016

\$3,200,000



5201 N SADDLE ROCK DR
PHOENIX, AZ 85018

\$3,499,000



5415 E EXETER BLVD
PHOENIX, AZ 85018

\$4,795,000



3827 E MARLETTE AVE
PARADISE VALLEY, AZ 85253

\$4,590,000



4715 N DROMEDARY RD
PHOENIX, AZ 85018

\$4,895,000



5521 E EXETER BLVD
PHOENIX, AZ 85018

\$6,450,000



5200 E ARCADIA LN
PHOENIX, AZ 85018

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\$640,000 SOLD



3 / 11 / 20

6011 N 3RD ST
PHOENIX, AZ 85012

\$640,000 SOLD



3 / 12 / 20

4410 E CALLE ALLEGRE
PHOENIX, AZ 85018

\$707,500 SOLD



4 / 10 / 20

4014 E CAMPUS DR
PHOENIX, AZ 85018

\$739,900 SOLD



3 / 19 / 20

4003 E CAMPUS DR
PHOENIX, AZ 85018

\$763,000 SOLD



3 / 25 / 20

3302 N 63RD PL
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85251

\$985,000 SOLD



3 / 24 / 20

4533 E MONTECITO AVE
PHOENIX, AZ 85018

\$1,125,000 SOLD



3 / 27 / 20

1919 E ROVEY CIR
PHOENIX, AZ 85016

\$1,172,500 SOLD



5 / 15 / 20

18 W VISTA AVE
PHOENIX, AZ 85021

\$1,267,388 SOLD



3 / 4 / 20

7345 N 2ND AVE
PHOENIX, AZ 85021

\$1,270,000 SOLD



3 / 12 / 20

2532 E MARSHALL AVE
PHOENIX, AZ 85016

\$1,362,500 SOLD



4 / 15 / 20

5101 N CASA BLANCA DR #326
PARADISE VALLEY, AZ 85253

\$1,400,000 SOLD



4 / 17 / 20

4438 N 47TH ST
PHOENIX, AZ 85018

\$2,325,000 SOLD



3 / 13 / 20

5605 E LAFAYETTE BLVD
PHOENIX, AZ 85018

\$2,350,000 SOLD



3 / 25 / 20

5727 N 3RD AVE
PHOENIX, AZ 85013

\$3,322,000 SOLD



3 / 20 / 20

4931 E CALLE DEL NORTE
PHOENIX, AZ 85018

\$4,418,683 SOLD



3 / 13 / 20

3838 E STELLA LN
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Laura Valenzuela, a customer-facing outside sales executive at Grand Canyon Title Agency, moved her workspace outdoors and changed how she conducts business when the Coronavirus pandemic started (photo courtesy of Laura Valenzuela).

Sales executive pivots during COVID-19 crisis

A customer-facing outside sales executive for Grand Canyon Title Agency is finding new inspiration and hope during the COVID-19 crisis.

Laura Valenzuela decided after starting to work from home to move her workspace into her backyard. She said she decided to tap into her “innovation, creativity, gratitude and authentic passion” to set up her outdoor work area. She placed pillows, throw rugs, drink carts, serving trays and other items in her yard.

Besides changing her physical environment, Valenzuela also has adapted her methods of selling escrow/title services to real estate agents, developers, investors, lenders and other people through her work. Ordinarily she would spend much of her day engaged in face-to-face meetings, taking professional development training, going to industry events and touring properties.

Because the Coronavirus pandemic has forced many professionals to cancel in-person gatherings, Valenzuela has been relying on FaceTime, the WhatsApp messaging video app and Zoom to interact with clients for chats, collaboration, webinars and general communication. She has been creating video marketing ads and utilizing social media to share her experiences, providing her perspective. Valenzuela said she has been “embracing a return to the

modest phone call” as a way to help bridge gaps and have a greater impact.

She said she has been trying to strengthen qualities she values in a good leader, including showing more empathy, listening more, talking less, being introspective and focusing on being grateful. To learn more about Grand Canyon Title Agency, visit gcta.com.

Business Briefs

Beatitudes Campus official nominated for award

Barbara Wood, the director of development for the community at 1610 W. Glendale Ave., was nominated for a MatrixCare Hero honor, which honors post-acute workers who exceed expectations during the COVID-19 crisis. Wood was recognized for the creative ways in which she has helped her patients connect with others during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Beatitudes Campus combines senior living, healthcare and a holistic philosophy to wellness. While social distancing guidelines are in place at care centers and assisted living facilities, Wood has headed communications with Beatitudes residents. She has created online resources to help those with internet access read the latest COVID-19 information and she distributes paper copies to those without internet access. The weekly updates are sent via text and email and through the paper copies. Wood also coordinates weekly



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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

meal menus that are posted online for residents whose family members usually help them pick their meals.

Wood has worked with Beatitudes Campus CEO Michelle Just to facilitate daily video updates to answer residents' questions and talk about plans for reopening. The videos also provide recognition to Wood's colleagues who have gone above and beyond during these challenging times.

MatrixCare Heroes are employees at long-term care facilities and home-based care organizations who have gone beyond the call of duty to help keep their residents safe, informed, healthy and protected during the pandemic.

Couple buys area dental practice

A local couple is operating a local dental practice after having sold their successful business in Oregon.

Dr. Rick Campbell and his wife, Juanita, are the new owners of Sunrise Smile Design at 7227 N. Dreamy Draw Drive, Suite 2. They purchased the practice from Dr. Robert Foster after having sold their dental practice in

southern Oregon and relocating to Phoenix. Campbell expects the practice to grow quickly as it is expanding the number of dental insurance companies that it will serve as preferred providers for when treating patients. He said he had previously worked as a dental associate with a large dental corporation but soon learned that was not a good fit for him. Campbell said he likes taking a "more personable approach" to the dentist-patient relationship so he decided to go into private practice.

The dental practice provides routine and "deep" cleanings when needed.

The practice is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and by appointment on Fridays.

Insurance broker offers tips on safely reopening

A local insurance broker is urging other businesses to carefully evaluate governmental requirements and safety before reopening their physical doors during this Coronavirus pandemic.

AssuredPartners, located at 7500 N. Dreamy Draw Drive, has allowed its employees to work from home since

mid-March. Some of its workers choose to keep working in the office, which has been allowed as it was deemed an "essential business."

When deciding whether it is okay to reopen, businesses should study guidance from state and local governments. The insurance broker also urges businesses to understand the health risks of resuming their physical operations. Some businesses might have a higher chance of exposing employees or customers to COVID-19.

Before deciding to reopen, AssuredPartners recommends businesses conduct a risk assessment to figure out what steps should be taken. Such an assessment should include hazards that are present in their buildings, including break rooms and other high-risk areas. Businesses should consider whether any tasks employees are performing will expose them to COVID-19 risks. Businesses can look at risk avoidance, including eliminating some hazards, activities and exposures from their operations. They also should consider ways to try to control risks and the possibility of risk transfer, when a business transfers its

exposures to a third party. Risk management is a continuous, evolving process and businesses should monitor its effectiveness and reevaluate everything.

AssuredPartners recommends businesses set up a pandemic response team to ensure workers receive clear communication about safety measures. The team would suggest and monitor workplace protocols to try to control the spread of the virus. It also is important to understand signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and to tell employees who are experiencing them to stay home. Employees also should clean their hands frequently, with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water.

To learn more, visit assuredpartners.com/PhoenixAZ.

New tenants open in Camelback Colonnade

There are new businesses open in the Camelback Colonnade shopping, dining and entertainment center.

RED Development recently announced that two new tenants had moved in and two more tenants had

please see COLONNADE on page 18

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

COLONNADE continued from page 17

signed leases with plans to open in the center this summer. Dori Hand Roll Bar and Ramen opened its 2,069-square-foot restaurant next to Great Clips and Daily Dose MidTown Grill. It offers an intimate dining experience with made-to-order sushi rolls served directly from the chef. The Camelback Barber Shop also opened recently in the Camelback Colonnade, behind Orangetheory Fitness, just south of Fry's Food Store. This traditional barbershop specializes in haircuts, beard trims, shaves and other types of grooming for men.

RED Development also carried out two new leases for tenants expected to open this summer. Five Below will be a specialty discount store with tech and beauty products, candy, toys and other items from \$1 to \$10. IPolish Nail Bar, a day spa and nail salon, will open next to Elements Massage.

Camelback Colonnade is located at the corner of 20th Street and Camelback Road. It is home to more than 40 shops and eateries. To learn more, visit redevelopment.com.

Metrocenter Mall closes due to COVID-19

Metrocenter Mall is no longer in business, another victim of the Coronavirus pandemic.

The mall's general manager Kim Ramirez in a letter said "with a heavy heart" that after 47 years of being in operation the mall made the difficult decision to close at the end of business on June 30. Despite the mall's best attempts to bring back value to the mall, finish maintenance work and boost foot traffic, the decrease in occupancy levels because of COVID-19 made it impossible to keep the large property going, the letter said.

Metrocenter Mall, located at 9617 N. Metro Parkway West, opened in 1973 and has been a popular hangout for people to walk around on the weekends, skate in the ice-skating rink and later a skate park, as well as watch movies in the theater, according to Ramirez's letter.

Documentary to focus on small businesses' resilience

Small businesses in North Central Phoenix and around the country have been struggling financially but a new documentary will reveal their resilience.

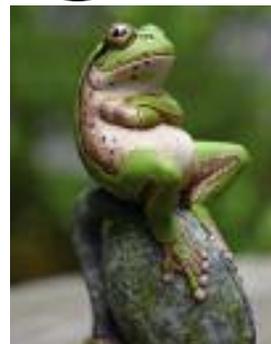
Amoroma Productions, a local video company, has started working on a documentary to show how small businesses have dealt with the issues from the COVID-19 crisis by adapting and reinventing themselves. In order to capture these stories, Amoroma is looking for a diverse group of small business owners who will share their stories in the film, which also will include viewpoints of Arizona's public and private community leaders. Through July 17, Arizona-based business owners are encouraged to share a short video or written document about how their company has been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic and what they have been doing to address the challenges. They should submit their stories at amoromaproductions.com/silverliningsproject.

The video company will choose small businesses from various industries to show their candid trials and stories of perseverance in the documentary. It will contact the businesses it has chosen for the documentary by the end of this month. The documentary is expected to debut in the fall.

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My conscience has been rocked by the events in our country. The amount of pain and despair evident in the actions and faces of the African American community and others relegated to the fringe breaks my heart. I cannot stand violence of any sort and I do not condone the practice of looting, rioting and setting our cities ablaze. To those using these tools to divide us and those who are just being opportunistic – shame on you. The damage to shop keepers, business owners and law enforcement, the majority of which are decent beings who would walk lock step in a just fight for racial equality, saddens me deeply.

There is no way for me to fully understand the plight of the African American community, I am considered part of the “privileged” white male class. I have never had to worry about proper education, healthcare, shelter, nourishment, a fear of authority, being heard or being judged by the color of my skin. Most importantly it has given me a foundation of support and love from my family, friends and community that allows me to stumble without fear of being swallowed up or forgotten. That the African American community and others on the fringe desire the same does not seem like much of a request. It is time we all make this happen! Peace.

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6611 N Central Ave	IN ESCROW	6339SF	6BR/4.5BA	\$1,300,000
8255 N 18th St	JUST LISTED	3900SF	5BR/4.5BA	\$1,200,000
2214 E San Juan Ave	IN ESCROW	3655SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 999,500
815 E Circle Dr	IN ESCROW	3848SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 998,500
11 W San Juan Ave	NEW PRICE	3226SF	4BR/2.5BA	\$ 959,000
1439 E Echo Ln	IN ESCROW	3650SF	5BR/3BA	\$ 850,000
4714 E Lewis Ave	IN ESCROW	3096SF	4BR/2.5BA	\$ 825,000
5130 N 6th St	NEW PRICE	3304SF	5BR/4BA	\$ 799,900
8051 N 15th Ave	IN ESCROW	3583SF	4BR/4BA	\$ 799,000
6522 N 14th St	IN ESCROW	2906SF	4BR/2.5BA	\$ 750,000
505 E Missouri Ave	JUST LISTED	3277SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 750,000
1512 W Palmaire Ave	NEW PRICE	2886SF	4BR/2.5BA	\$ 725,000
6621 N 14th Pl	IN ESCROW	3050SF	4BR/3.5BA	\$ 688,500
1404 W Gardenia Ave	IN ESCROW	3753SF	5BR/4BA	\$ 674,900
724 E Claremont St	NEW PRICE	2500SF	4BR/2BA	\$ 650,000
7045 N 7th Ave	NEW PRICE	2368SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 649,000
1744 E. Missouri Ave	JUST LISTED	29070SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 639,000
902 W Claremont St	IN ESCROW	3479SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 660,000
15368 N 18th St	IN ESCROW	3529SF	4BR/3.5BA	\$ 650,000
27525 N 113th Pl	IN ESCROW	LAND		\$ 540,000
4827 E Weldon Ave	IN ESCROW	1837SF	4BR/2.5BA	\$ 529,900
1133 E Gardenia Dr	JUST LISTED	2113SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 499,500
1029 E Vista Ave		1879SF	2BR/2BA	\$ 475,000
3137 E Hazelwood St	IN ESCROW	1660SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 429,900
1102 W Glendale Ave #125	IN ESCROW	2103SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 369,000
8225 N Central Ave #15	JUST LISTED	1316SF	2BR/1.5BA	\$ 234,900

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1133 E. Gardenia Dr. • \$499,500



1102 W. Glendale Ave. #125 • \$369,000



1029 E. Vista • \$475,000



1744 E. Missouri Ave. • \$639,000



6621 N. 14th Pl. • \$698,500



724 E. Claremont St. • \$650,000



1512 W. Palmyra Ave. • \$725,000

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5450 E Arcadia Ln	\$2,500,000	1441 E Missouri Ave	\$ 740,000	6118 N 9th Ave	\$ 475,000	509 W. Missouri Ave.	\$ 339,800
7020 N. Wilder Rd.	\$2,400,000	1002 E Kaler Dr	\$ 726,000	1312 W Georgia Ave	\$ 445,000	1636 E Cactus Wren Dr	\$ 365,000
6020 E. Doubletree Ranch Rd.	\$1,860,000	5301 N. 6th St.	\$ 675,000	1525 W Vernon Ave	\$ 445,000	4301 N. 21st St. #61	\$ 335,000
9824 N 53rd Pl	\$1,700,000	3853 E. Crittenden Ln.	\$ 675,000	6302 N. 11th St.	\$ 439,900	7330 N 11th St	\$ 330,000
10825 N 55th St	\$1,275,000	412 E. McLellan Blvd.	\$ 659,000	8145 N 13th Pl	\$ 434,000	732 W. Pierson St.	\$ 301,000
321 E. Pomona Rd.	\$1,250,000	517 W. Lamar Rd.	\$ 600,000	1711 E Solano Dr	\$ 420,000	1124 E. Rose Ln. #6	\$ 255,000
9904 E. Quarry Trail	\$1,050,000	216 E Keim Dr	\$ 600,000	1902 E Coolidge St	\$ 415,000	350 W Maryland Ave	\$ 239,000
245 E Ashwood Pl	\$ 990,000	1516 W. Winter Dr.	\$ 585,000	3120 E Coolidge	\$ 400,000	750 E. Northern Ave. #2003	\$ 147,000
209 W. Lamar Rd.	\$ 860,000	4430 N.22nd St. #13	\$ 550,000	7340 N. 11th St.	\$ 400,000	1525 E Cortez Lot	\$ 65,000
5112 N. 34th Pl.	\$ 784,000	534 W. El Camino Dr.	\$ 515,000	6163 N 28th Pl	\$ 399,000		
719 W Claremont St	\$ 769,000	6811 N 11th Pl	\$ 505,000	3015 E Coolidge #6	\$ 385,000		



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HEALTHY LIVING

way things were.” The county department and its partners educate the public, facilitate testing for the virus in high-risk settings and conduct investigations, as well as perform contact tracing for positive COVID-19 cases.

Dr. Rebecca Sunenshine, medical director for Maricopa County Department of Public Health, said everyone should avoid being in settings where there are more than 10 people gathered. She also said people should keep six feet of distance between themselves and others when in public and to limit contact with people outside of their homes, especially if they are in the high-risk group. Sunenshine said people should stay home if they are sick. Scientific evidence reveals wearing a well-fitting cloth face mask could prevent COVID-19 from spreading, she added.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said the virus is believed to spread mostly from person-to-person, including through respiratory droplets made when an infected person sneezes, coughs or talks. It recommends cleaning and disinfecting tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, countertops and other frequently touched surfaces every day.

To learn more about COVID-19, visit the CDC at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov), the Arizona Department of Health Services at [azdhs.gov](https://www.azdhs.gov) or Maricopa County Department of Public Health at [maricopa.gov/5302/Public-Health](https://www.maricopa.gov/5302/Public-Health).

Banner Health offers tips for returning to sports

When your young athletes return to sports and outdoor recreation, there are steps you should take to ensure they stay healthy.

That is according to Banner Health’s sports medicine experts, who stress it is important for children and teens to be careful when they become physically active again if they have not engaged in as many strenuous games and events during this Coronavirus pandemic. They might be at greater risk of suffering injuries or getting heat illness.

Dr. Steven Erickson, medical director for Banner Sports Medicine and Concussion Specialists, said children returning to sports should stay well hydrated, drinking 20 ounces of water two to three hours before exercising and 20 more ounces of water half an hour before starting to exercise. They should drink three liters of fluid a day

even if they are not exercising and not wait until they feel thirsty to drink.

Erickson recommends youths stay out of the sun from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. when it is the strongest and seek shade whenever possible. He said children should wear mineral sunscreens that contain zinc oxide and titanium dioxide that protect them from UVA and UVB rays, with an SPF 15 or higher and apply it 15 minutes before sun exposure.

In order to reduce the risk of injuries, children should warm up and stretch before starting physical activities, Erickson said. He said they should wear required equipment for every sport that is properly fitted.

For more tips, visit [bannerhealth.com/services/sports-medicine](https://www.bannerhealth.com/services/sports-medicine).

MinuteClinics offer quick medical relief

If you are experiencing sinus problems, flu-like symptoms, minor cuts and other health issues, you may visit a CVS Pharmacy MinuteClinic.

The MinuteClinics in Phoenix including the one at 1610 E. Camelback

Road are now open by appointment. Video visit appointments also are being offered. Walk-in service without an appointment is not being provided during this Coronavirus pandemic.

When you make an appointment to visit a MinuteClinic, you will be asked pre-screening questions before you may come inside the store. You will be asked if you have experienced a fever with a cough, shortness of breath or a sore throat and also if you have traveled to impacted COVID-19 geographical areas or been exposed to anyone who has had the virus within the last 14 days. If you are at risk for COVID-19, based on your answers to those questions, you will be asked not to schedule a MinuteClinic visit.

There are many MinuteClinic locations at CVS pharmacies in Arizona that also are offering COVID-19 drive-thru testing. You must register ahead of time to schedule a COVID-19 test by visiting [CVS.com](https://www.cvs.com). To find a testing site, visit [cvshealth.com/covid-19/testing-locations](https://www.cvshealth.com/covid-19/testing-locations). For more information about the MinuteClinics, visit [cvs.com/minuteclinic](https://www.cvs.com/minuteclinic).

Workshops, planning, can help you lose weight

If you have gained weight during the Coronavirus pandemic, a local doctor says there are many simple things you can do today to start shedding unwanted pounds.

Dr. Suzanne Bentz, board certified in Obesity Medicine and the founder and chief medical officer of Red Mountain Weight Loss, recommends you set realistic goals when planning to lose weight. She suggests you plan ahead, including anticipating whether you might consume extra calories if you are going on vacation. Bentz said people should try their best to keep track of their daily caloric intake and to include daily exercise and/or physical activities they like into their routine. Walking a golf course, playing basketball, hiking with your dog and riding bicycles are some ways to get exercise.

Bentz recommends you avoid desserts and mini-bars. She also advises you to eat small portions and eat slowly.

To learn more, visit [redmountain-weightloss.com](https://www.redmountain-weightloss.com).

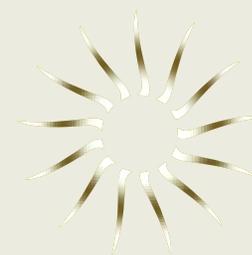


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SCHOOL DAYS

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Faith Mackenzie Duwal, 17, of Sunnyslope, a recent Thunderbird High School graduate who helps take care of her mother, who is ill, and worked in the high school cafeteria, received a scholarship from Desert Financial Credit Union to attend ASU (photo by Hugo Torrado).

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Caregiving student earns scholarship

By Colleen Sparks

A Thunderbird High School recent graduate who not only excelled in classes but juggled a job and caring for her ill mother will use a special scholarship to attend Arizona State University this fall.

Faith Mackenzie Duwal, 17, of Sunnyslope, graduated in May from Thunderbird and will study biomedical engineering when she begins at ASU. She is among 19 Valley graduating seniors to receive scholarships through Desert Financial Credit Union announced during its 16th Annual Community Service Scholarship Awards broadcast on Facebook live. These scholarships are open to all members of the credit union and their family members. They are given every year to tremendous students who have

contributed at least 50 hours of service in the community last year. Eligible students must be planning to attend an in-state university or college in the fall. Faith and 15 other students received scholarships of \$2,500 each, while the other graduates received scholarships worth \$5,000, \$7,500 or \$10,000 each.

Faith worked in the Thunderbird cafeteria in the morning and during lunch to earn extra money for her family, her mother, Jessica Duwal said. Duwal has suffered several strokes and has spinal cancer. She said Faith has helped her walk, assists her with her medicine and cooks for her family, which also includes Faith's three siblings and stepfather.

"She's like heaven-sent," Duwal said. "She's my little angel. She's my star. She started driving me around and doing things for me. She's unbelievably mature."

Faith participated in theater and

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SCHOOL DAYS

took part in Naval Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) at Thunderbird. She said she wants to become a doctor and was not expecting to receive the scholarship.

“I feel honored,” Faith said. “I was really surprised.”

School Briefs

GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Task force discussing reopening schools

The Glendale Union High School District sent information via email and phone dialer to parents to report it is working with its Reopening Task Force to develop plans to ensure students and employees safely go back to classes. Gov. Doug Ducey required schools in the state to close for in-person instruction in March due to COVID-19, and then extended the closure date through the end of the school year. In May Ducey announced students may return to schools in the new academic year.

The task force has parents, students, teachers, a social worker, a nurse and



Yolanda Abel, a third-grade teacher at Madison Simis Elementary School, receives a sign expressing gratitude for her work. Simis principal Laura Webb and assistant principal Lindsay Murray surprised all their teachers by delivering signs to their homes, placing them in their yards to show their appreciation for their work (submitted photo).

school administrators from all schools working on recommendations for reopening. The group is using guidance from a recent survey of district parents and students as well as the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Arizona’s Roadmap for Reopening Schools and local, state and national health agencies.

An online learning option will be provided for students/families that want to keep learning remotely when

the next school year starts.

For the latest news on the district’s plans for reopening, visit guhdsaz.org.

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT Leaders’ special delivery a sign of the times

Madison Simis administrators are spreading good cheer and showing appreciation for their teachers.

Simis principal Laura Webb and assistant principal Lindsay Murray recently surprised teachers by bringing signs to their yards at their homes to thank them for their work, especially during the Coronavirus pandemic. Teachers in the Madison School District and around the state had to transition to educating students online after schools were closed due to COVID-19. Webb wanted teachers to know they were appreciated for their hard work, dedication and professionalism.

The principal did not have much money to spend but found some signs she thought would be great ways of publicly thanking the teachers. She and Murray drove to teachers’ homes all over the Valley to deliver the signs. Every sign had a note on the back saying where it came from and teachers thanked the administrators for their support.

Schools to reopen, safety being discussed

Campuses in the Madison Elementary School District will reopen for in-person classes next month while

please see SAFETY on page 26

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SCHOOL DAYS

SAFETY continued from page 25

plans to enhance safety due to COVID-19 are being discussed.

District Superintendent Kenneth Baca revealed results of a survey sent to parents about their opinions on schools reopening during a virtual town hall last month. The plan is to open schools on Aug. 11 but the district has applied for approval from the Arizona Online Instruction Program for an online learning platform that also could be offered to students in the fall. This program would be subject to the State Board of Education's approval.

Baca said the district administrative team is creating an opening plan to address the health, safety and social/emotional needs of students and staff members. Some ways the district administrative team has talked about aiming to meet the needs of children and employees include possibly providing face shields and Plexiglas barriers in schools, as well as requiring social distancing in classrooms, offering alternative schedules for classes and lunches and making ventilation/HVAC upgrades.

To learn more about the latest plans for reopening, visit madisonaz.org.

District receives honor for healthy practices

The Madison Elementary School District is receiving recognition for its practices to keep employees, families and the community healthy.

The Healthy Arizona Worksite Program honored the Madison district with the Gold level of excellence in worksite wellness award, which is given to businesses that are evaluating and documenting outcomes and behavior change.

The Madison district created a fall and spring wellness challenge to encourage employees to participate in healthy activities. This past school year the district focused on Catch Your Breath, a program emphasizing rest, relaxation and recharging, as well as Water Wise, which urged staff members to make water their number one drink and drink at least six to eight glasses of water a day.

Madison district officials also use data from an annual health assessment and an annual open enrollment wellness survey to make choices about future wellness events.

OSBORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Groups discussing reopening plans

Three groups are considering and planning for all different, possible scenarios for reopening Osborn District schools this coming academic year.

The District Operations, School Operations and Teaching & Learning task forces are meeting weekly to discuss reopening options. These committees are reviewing employees and families' survey data, as well as many different guidance documents from the Arizona Department of Education, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Arizona School Risk Retention Trust, Inc. and the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching.

The task forces will finish their work on July 2, after which the reopening plan will be revealed to staff members, families and the community.

Encanto teacher receives Intel grant

Rebecca Greenberg, an art teacher at Encanto Elementary School, will be able to move full steam ahead with hands-on

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SCHOOL DAYS

lessons as she has received one of “40 for 40 Teacher Grants.” Forty-four educators were chosen for the grants funded by Intel Corporation. She received a grant of \$1,800 for her future “Makers Empire 3-D Printer and Curriculum.” Greenberg plans to incorporate 3-D printing and design projects with her kindergarten through third-grade students. Students will be able to make 3-D objects and work together on designs via the Makers Empire interactive platform.

The grants were awarded for projects focused on science, technology, engineering, the arts and math (STEAM). The goal of the grants is to support the work of Arizona teachers and to inspire more students to consider pursuing STEAM careers.

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Donate to help families in need

The Phoenix Union Foundation for Education (PUFE) has set up a \$30,000 Emergency Relief Fund to help families in the Phoenix Union High School District affected by the

economic issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This fund was created to buy items the school district is unable to purchase including food, toiletries and mobile hot spots.

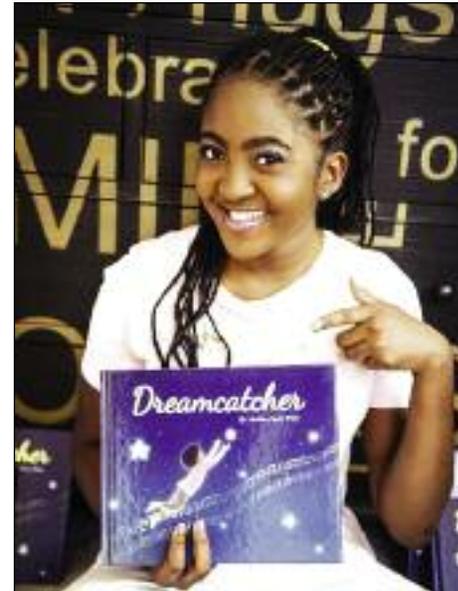
Make a financial donation or buy PXU Apparel and proceeds from the items you buy will go to families in need. To buy district clothes and other items, visit stores.inksoft.com/PXU/shop/home. If you want to make a donation directly to the Emergency Relief Fund, visit foundation4education.org/COVID-19.

North High teen makes ‘18 Under 18’ list

A North High School student has the “write stuff” when it comes to achieving her goals and pursuing a career while still a teen.

Jordan Davis-Wiley, who was a sophomore this past school year, was recently named to the 2020 Junior Achievement 18 Under 18 list. Junior Achievement of Arizona and Republic Media present this awards program to recognize students who are making a difference in the world.

Jordan heard a song in her head one



North High School student Jordan Davis-Wiley was selected for the 2020 Junior Achievement 18 Under 18 list (photo courtesy of Phoenix Union High School District).

day and decided to turn that lyric into the draft of a book. Then she self-published the book, “Dreamcatcher,” that is sold in airport bookstores around the United States. Jordan is enrolled in the International Baccalaureate program at North High and is in the process of starting her own publishing house, Nickelberry.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Two new principals to start in new year

Desert View and Richard E. Miller elementary schools will start the 2020-21 school year with new principals.

John Mospan, assistant principal at Mountain Sky Junior High for the last five years, will take the reins as principal at Desert View. He replaces Maria Farmer, who retired after 10 years as principal. Mospan has worked as the instructional leadership coordinator for math and science in the Tolleson Union High School District and has been active on Washington Elementary School District committees.

Pamela Hall will become the new principal at Richard E. Miller. She will take over from Amanda Wilber, who has been principal for four years. Hall has spent 16 years in the district as a Head Start assistant, teacher and most recently as the instructional coach and assistant principal at Shaw Butte Elementary. She also is a mentor teacher, as well as a specialized English Language coach.



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SCHOOL DAYS

PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS
MHP graduate earns soccer scholarship

Madison Highland Prep student Shammai Camara recently accepted an athletic scholarship to play men's soccer at California State University at Bakersfield. The May graduate will study business and sports management at the university.



Shammai Camara

Camara earned one season assist and one season scoring titles during his time at Madison Highland Prep. He was a two-year starter and forward. Camara earned the most goals for the 2019 season.

Xavier student drives Navajo Nation donations

A Xavier College Preparatory student spearheaded efforts that will offer some relief to the Navajo Nation, which has been hit hard by COVID-19.



Xavier College Preparatory student Caroline Purtill spearheaded a supply drive for the Navajo Nation, which has been heavily impacted by COVID-19. Pictured are (from left) Sierra Goldstein, Caroline Purtill, Ben Richardson, Max Goldstein, Alex Goldstein and Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez (photo courtesy of Xavier College Preparatory).

Caroline Purtill, an incoming junior, and her friends raised more than \$15,000 to buy supplies for the Navajo Nation. She and her fellow students contacted Navajo Nation officials to ask what items citizens there needed.

Caroline and her friends reached out through their Twitter account, @FundNavajo, and a GoFundMe pro-

ject called Navajo Supply Project to take in donations. The students took the money raised to Costco and Walmart to buy sanitizer, water, cleaning supplies, diapers, baby formula and non-perishable food. Then the students and their parents brought the supplies to Window Rock in the Navajo Nation. Students were humbled when they met

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, who helped them with the supplies.

Caroline said the experience makes her want to keep giving back. To donate to the Navajo Nation Supply Project, visit [gofundme.com/f/uu8sh-navajo-nation-relief-fund](https://www.gofundme.com/f/uu8sh-navajo-nation-relief-fund).

Midtown Primary School feeding children, teens

Midtown Primary School is providing meals to children and teens in need though Aug. 4.

The school is providing grab-and-go meals with two breakfasts and two lunches for each serving. They are being provided from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Park Lee Apartments, next to the recreation center, at 1600 W. Highland Ave. and from 9 a.m. to noon Mondays through Fridays at Proper Play at 9617 N. Metro Parkway. Anyone ages 18 and younger can accept the meals. Children must be present to obtain the meals or a parent may take the meals home to their kids.

For more information, call Midtown Primary School at 602-265-5133.

Summer programs give kids jump on learning

Children are getting a head start on the next academic year in summer classes at Midtown Primary School.

Spaces are still available for children to enroll in the school's Kindergarten Jump Start summer program. Students learn about letters and numbers, how to be involved in a group, following playground rules and where the bathroom is located. Midtown Primary's Summer STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) program offers first through fourth-graders a chance to engage in art and hands-on science and engineering lessons.

Both summer programs are held Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The kindergarten groups meet from 8 to 11 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. STEAM camp meets from 8 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Children are given breakfast, lunch and snacks. Midtown Primary is using safety measures including taking temperatures, doing wellness checks and disinfecting the campus, while children work in small groups in order to try to keep everyone safe due to COVID-19.

To request a spot for your child in one of these programs, call 602-265-5133 and ask for Belinda.

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While these are uncertain times, please be assured that RAMMS will be following all recommended guidelines to ensure the safety of our players, coaches and families.

Follow us on social media to stay up-to-date!



2020-2021 SPORTS SCHEDULE*

FALL

FLAG FOOTBALL (GRADES 1-8)

Registration Opens: 7/11/20
Evaluations: 8/15/20
Season Starts: 9/12/20
Playoffs End: 11/6/20

VOLLEYBALL (Girls and Boys Leagues) (GRADES 3-8)

Registration Opens: 7/11/20
Player's Clinic: TBD
Evaluations: 8/15/20
Coach's Clinic: TBD
Season Starts: 9/12/20
Playoffs End: 10/31/20

WINTER

BOYS BASKETBALL (GRADES K-8)

Registration Opens: 9/26/20
Evaluations: 11/7/20
Season Starts: 12/2/20
Playoffs End: 2/28/21

GIRLS BASKETBALL (GRADES K-8)

Registration Opens: 9/26/20
Evaluations: 11/7/20
Season Starts: 12/2/20
Playoffs End: 2/28/21

SPRING

BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, FARM & T-BALL (GRADES PREK-8)

Registration Opens: 1/2/21
Evaluations: 1/30/21
Season Starts: 2/27/21
Playoffs End: 5/26/21

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Visit www.ramms.org for more information and to register.

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RAMMS is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that relies on registration fees and sponsorship money to provide quality game venues, uniforms that the players are proud to wear, sports equipment to each team and capital improvements to local schools.

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GENERATIONS



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Senior Living Dance, move in virtual Memory Café

People with changes in their thinking or memory and their caregivers can dance during the online Memory Café offered on Zoom on Thursday, July 2.

Jewish Family & Children's Service's Memory Café normally meets in person but in order to protect participants due to COVID-19, it is being offered online.

This month Michelle Dionisio will lead a movement and dance session from 10 to 11 a.m. Dionisio is a popular instructor with skills in movement and dance for older adults. The movements are designed to do standing or sitting.

This class is free but you must have a computer, tablet, laptop or phone to take part in it. Volunteers are available to help people access Zoom.

To participate in the Memory Café, RSVP to janet.rees@jfcasaz.org.

Senior centers delivering meals to seniors

While many businesses have opened again after closing because of the COVID-19 crisis, Phoenix senior citizens still can obtain meals delivered to their homes.

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, the city of Phoenix has closed its 15 senior centers temporarily due to the higher risk for COVID-19 complica-

tions because of age or underlying medical issues. However, staff members are delivering meals to seniors who had been receiving the food on-site at the senior centers. They are receiving frozen meals, fruit and milk brought to their homes by Selrico Services Inc., a city food vendor.

Senior centers employees also are contacting members every week to try to ensure they are emotionally supported.

In order to receive a meal, call the senior center where you are a member to arrange for a meal delivery. To find your senior center, visit phoenix.gov/humanservices/programs/older/senior-centers.

Kids & Families

Library offers reading game, online classes

Summer is in full swing but you may keep your children and teens learning and entertained with Phoenix Public Library programs.

Encourage your children to engage in games to boost their desire to read over the summer through Aug. 1 via the Phoenix Public Library Summer Reading Game. Adults also can participate in the free program. Participants will receive a free, gently used book just for signing up for it.

There is a pre-reader game board for youths from birth to age 4 and their caregivers. For every activity the children complete, they color one brick on

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GENERATIONS

a picture of a castle. For example, kids have to read a book, sing a song, draw a picture, talk about feelings or tell a story together, in order to color a brick on the page. Youths who complete 20 bricks receive a new book to keep.

Older children and adults also are encouraged to read to receive books and can enter a contest to win other prizes. Experts say it is important for children to read over the summer because otherwise they will lose their literacy skills when school resumes in the fall.

To sign up and access the summer reading game, visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org.

Youths can prepare for college online

Teens and pre-teens can take several online classes and access programs and services through College Depot, a free, full service, college planning center that is part of Phoenix Public Library.

College Depot offers online classes, using pre-recorded videos or livestream events in English and Spanish for students who will be going into seventh through 12th grades. Some of the class-

es include Collegepalooza, which will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 11, where students who are about to start college in the fall will learn tips, strategies and hacks to succeed their freshman year. Essay Essentials, which will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15, will help students learn techniques for writing college applications and workshop essays. Students will learn the basics of financial aid for college and discover how to seek scholarships for college at the Scholarships + Financial Aid Essentials class from 5 to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 15.

Those who recently graduated from high school also can engage in one-on-one mentoring with a College Depot advisor this summer to help them transition to college. They can receive help with the college application process, creating individualized college plans, interpreting ACT and SAT results and many other services.

To register for a College Depot class or make an appointment with a mentor, visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org/collegedepot or call 602-261-8847.

Channel creativity in Irish-themed art event

Artists 25 years old or younger in Arizona can channel their creative energy from the comfort of home as part of the Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library's Creative Art Showcase.

Children ages 5 and younger can pick from various images posted at azirish.org/creative-art-showcase to color with crayon, coloring pencils, paint, markers or other tools. Kids ages 6 to 10 can create artwork to represent the theme "My Family" using drawings, paintings, lollipop sticks, paper mache, chalk, clay and other materials. Those ages 11 to 15 can create art pieces with the theme "Irish Legends," including family portraits, family trees, pictures of best friends and illustrations of memories, among other ideas.

Artists ages 16 to 25 can enter in the "Irish landmarks" category, creating pieces of notable locations significant to Irish culture.

To enter, take a photo of your artwork and email it to artshowcase@azirish.org. The deadline

is Sept. 12. Artists under age 18 must have their parent's permission to enter the showcase. To learn more, visit azirish.org/creative-art-showcase.

Enchanted Island features rides, games, boats

Enchanted Island Amusement Park, an unusual park with rides, pedal boats, food and other entertainment, is open from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Fridays and 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 1202 W. Encanto Blvd. The city of Phoenix park offers a carousel, parachute tower, kiddie cars, "Castle Clash" game, bumper boats, and other rides for children and adults. Visitors may ride a one-third replica C.P. Huntington Train finished and installed in 1991.

A giant climbing wall and canoes are among the other forms of entertainment in the park. You also can rent areas for birthday parties.

Admission is free but there are charges for rides, games and food. There also are specials certain days and times of year. To learn more, visit enchantedisland.com.



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Sunday, Aug. 2, at 4 p.m. – Monday, Aug. 3, at 4 p.m.
Purchase online for \$20 at bit.ly/lunafestphx2020

LUNAFEST, which is dedicated to championing women filmmakers, features seven short films by and about women, which are inspiring and demanding equality be a right – a very timely message these days.

All proceeds will benefit local nonprofit Soroptimist International of Phoenix, whose mission socially and financially empowers women and girls, and Chicken & Egg Pictures, a nonprofit that supports women nonfiction filmmakers whose storytelling catalyzes social change.

For more information visit www.facebook.com/lunafestphoenix2020

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Ballet school, company leaps into larger space

By Colleen Sparks

Budding ballerinas and professional dancers will have a chance to spread their wings when Ballet Theatre of Phoenix takes the leap into its new, more expansive home on North 7th Street in August.

The dance school and home of Convergence Ballet will host its grand opening Aug. 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. while classes will officially start in the new location at 6201 N. 7th St. on Aug. 24. The modern, new dance education center will feature four studios, a faculty lounge, dressing rooms, showers and curbside drop-off to offer convenience and a safe entry.

The 7,500-square-foot center will fulfill a long-awaited dream for Ballet Theatre of Phoenix and its director and founder Jennifer Cafarella. She also is artistic director of Convergence Ballet. The dance school and resident dance company have been operating at 2326 E. Indian School Road in Phoenix since 2016. Cafarella started Ballet Theatre of Phoenix in 2016 and founded Convergence Ballet in 2010.

"Seeing the growth of central Phoenix, it just felt like a natural move when this building came up available," Cafarella said. "The traffic flow is very nice. It's a safe area...I see businesses really being transformed in that area. I am excited about meeting more people, expanding the community."

The current dance school and professional company space on Indian School Road is about 4,500 square feet with two studios. With the larger building, Ballet Theatre of Phoenix will be able to add children's yoga classes and a contemporary dance program, as well as provide additional evening adult ballet classes, Cafarella said. She also will be able to rent out space to other businesses including dance teachers working with private students and a theater company.

Convergence Ballet also plans to elevate its PLIES Program (Providing Leaps in Elementary Schools), which offers free dance lessons to students at Loma Linda Elementary School. Cafarella is hoping other Title I schools can partner with the dance company to allow students to participate in the pro-



Katherine Chang and Fan Shi dance in the new studio for Convergence Ballet and Ballet Theatre of Phoenix on north 7th Street. A grand opening will be held Aug. 15 (photo by JT Turner/JALT Media).

gram. Besides the free classes, Convergence Ballet also provides tights, leotards and snacks to students.

Madison School District students receive a discount on classes. The new headquarters will be close to Madison Rose Lane Elementary School, which is at 1155 E. Rose Lane.

Dance students who study at Ballet Theatre of Phoenix perform with Convergence Ballet in "Nutcracker Swing" every winter. Any dancer in the community can audition for Convergence Ballet's "Alice in Wonderland" ballet each year.

Students can enroll in fall classes that start Aug. 2, with the school taking many steps to keep students and staff members healthy amid the Coronavirus pandemic. Children and teens are never turned away but undergo assessments to determine their levels before beginning classes. Adult classes are being taught via Zoom.

To learn more about Ballet Theatre of Phoenix, visit ballettheatreofphx.org and for details about Convergence Ballet, visit convergenceballet.org.

Music Works offers piano, theory classes

Keep children engaged in music this summer and fall with piano lessons through Music Works Community of Teachers.

The school at 302 W. Bethany Home Road is accepting new students and providing a Virtual Musicianship Lab, which is an online program in theory and ear training with music activities for piano players of all levels. This

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

program is open to students who are enrolled in lessons already.

Music Works also provides piano lessons this summer through Aug. 8 and is enrolling students for its fall classes.

The fall PRELUDE classes will begin Aug. 26. The goal is to have these fall classes inside the studio, as long as it is safe to do so. These classes will have a maximum of four students per class in order to practice social distancing due to COVID-19. The PRELUDE small group classes are for children in preschool through first grade. Classes for other ages also will begin again for the fall on Aug. 10.

To register for classes and learn more, call 602-264-5188, visit musicworkscommunity.com or email Director@MusicWorksCommunity.com.

Encanto Music Fest delayed until next year

Encanto Music Fest will be postponed because of the COVID-19 crisis.

The festival that had been scheduled for Oct. 3 of this year has been rescheduled to Oct. 9, 2021 as the Coronavirus pandemic keeps evolving and positive cases keep increasing in the state. This event would have been held at Encanto Park at 2605 N. 15th Ave. and featured Desert Overture, Phoenix's Premier LGBT & Ally Wind Symphony, The Kassi Jayde Band and other acts. It also features local artists and vendors.

All 2020 tickets already purchased will be honored for Encanto Music Fest 2021. If you want a refund, rather than using your tickets next year, contact hello@encantomusicfest.com.

Coffeehouse seeks volunteers

Fiddler's Dream Coffeehouse is in need of volunteers to help keep the music and drinks going.

The coffeehouse at 1702 E. Glendale Ave., as of press time, was closed until further notice to try to help limit the spread of COVID-19. However, when events resume, it will need more volunteers to greet guests, as well as make and pour coffee and other drinks, take admission from customers and serve as emcees. Volunteers are able to receive free admission for the night they are helping out. Currently the coffee shop is hosting online Open Stage Nights from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays.

To volunteer, contact the volunteer coordinator through text or phone call at 602-997-9795.

LUNAFEST moves to virtual film festival

LUNAFEST will highlight the talents of female filmmakers from around the globe while helping to transform the lives of local women during a virtual film festival at 4 p.m on Sunday, Aug. 2, and Monday, Aug. 3.

Watch seven, short films ranging from animation to drama made by women filmmakers during this virtual event hosted by Soroptimist International of Phoenix. This event was postponed from its original date in April at Madison Center for the Arts due to COVID-19.

All proceeds from LUNAFEST will benefit Soroptimist International of Phoenix, whose mission is to empower girls and women by offering access to and support of their educational objectives, as well as Chicken & Egg Pictures, a non-profit organization that supports female, non-fiction filmmakers. The cost is \$20 per household.

For tickets, visit bit.ly/LunaFestPhx.

Kids can perform online via academy

Prestige Music Academy, based at 4745 N. 7th St., has brought back in-person lessons in its studios but also is continuing online lessons this month for those who are interested.

Prestige will present its Music Theatre Workshop online Thursday, July 9, to Thursday, July 30. There will be groups for kids ages 8 to 12 and for youths ages 13 to 18 with a maximum of five students per class. Classes will meet weekly. The cost is \$125 per session per child. Kids will polish their acting and singing skills and collaborate to perform a scene with music and dialogue online.

Students can perform songs and comedy acts, conduct interviews and serve as news anchors in Prestige Music Academy's virtual Summer Show July 9-30. A show will be made to share with friends and family members. It costs \$125 per session per child.

Prestige Music Academy offers music instruction to people of all ages and abilities for string, band, orchestra, folk, percussion, vocal, piano or guitars. To learn more, visit prestigemusicacademy.com.



Who We Are

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

Location & Meeting

Our meetings are held on the first, third and fifth Friday of each month. The meetings begin at 9:00 am and are held at the North Phoenix Baptist Church at the SE corner of Central Avenue and Bethany Home Road. Following the meeting, we tour 10 homes new to the market. The tour is 'caravan-style.' We require those REALTORS who have a property on the tour to attend the meeting and then tour all houses on that day's tour. Each agent provides constructive feedback on price, condition, and key features of the home. The goal is to network with fellow REALTORS who also specialize in North Central Phoenix neighborhoods and help sell the property.

Tour Boundaries

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

Join Us!

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**For more information or to become a member,
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<https://northcentraltour.com/>



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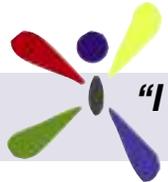


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Richard Hernandez readies a pizza to slide into the 900-degree oven at Pomo Pizzeria Napoletana in downtown Phoenix (photo by Marjorie Rice).

Café Chat
Pomo Pizzeria offers true taste of Naples

By Marjorie Rice

The thing you need to know about Pomo Pizzeria Napoletana right up front is that the name doesn't just happen.

To be certified as authentic "Napoletana" pizza, several stringent requirements must be met, said Paola Picchi, manager of Pomo's downtown Phoenix and Gilbert locations.

"The oven has to be made of bricks from Italy so they can reach 900 degrees and not break," Picchi said. "The flour has to come from Italy. The tomato sauce has to be made from San Marzano tomatoes. Also the pizza makers have to be trained to make this particular kind of pizza."

Napoletana pizza is notable for its thin, crispy crust, puffy and blistered and charred in spots from that 900-degree oven (heated with oak and pecan, which impart their own flavors to the pies).

But don't mistake it for typical thin-crust pizzas that too often have the taste and texture of something close to sardine crackers. This crust has a decidedly yeasty character, crisp but still chewy.

"Some people say it's not cooked but it has to be that way – moist in the center, puffy and blistered," Picchi said.

The oven is so hot the pizzas are

cooked 60 to 90 seconds – a bit longer if there are several pies in the oven on a busy night.

Pomo is the brainchild of owner Stefano Fabbri. Like many successful entrepreneurs, he saw a need and filled it.

"When Stefano came to Phoenix, he saw there was no certified Napoletana pizzeria," Picchi said. So he decided to open one.

That was almost 10 years ago at the Borgata (that Pomo since moved to a new Scottsdale location). It was quickly followed by another Pomo in downtown Phoenix, as well as Luna Gelateria & Cafeteria in Scottsdale and a Gilbert location. Just this March, a smaller Pomo – what Fabbri calls a "mini Pomo" – opened in Biltmore Fashion Park.

After pandemic-related closures for all but takeout service, the Scottsdale and downtown locations are open for in-house dining. As of press time, hours and service at the Biltmore restaurant were still to be determined. The Gilbert location was closed for remodeling, but Picchi hoped it would be open by this month.

Napoletana pizza is the specialty of the house at the Scottsdale, downtown and Gilbert locations, along with Pinsa, a fairly new arrival to Phoenix – again thanks to Fabbri – and pizza Romana. Pinsa is a thin-crust pie made from dough that is proofed over 72 hours to develop an intense flavor and a light



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airy texture. Pizza Romana's thick, focaccia-style crust is made with dough proofed 48 hours before baking. Several toppings are available, and a favorite is "Patata" Romana with thinly sliced potato, mozzarella and rosemary (no tomato sauce).

The Biltmore Pomo serves the Pinsa and Romana, along with pizzas, but since there's no brick oven they're not labeled "Napoletana." They're paired with pastas served at all the Pomos. Strozzapreti salsiccia, with sausage, tomato sauce, cream, parmigiana and rosemary is a favorite, along with gramigna boscaiola, with crimini mushrooms, sausage, cream and parmigiana. And there's a wide selection of antipasti, soups and salads.

Pomo also developed gluten-free and vegan pizzas, especially popular with Arizona State University students at the downtown location. The gluten-free dough, which can be ordered with any of the toppings, is made with cornstarch and rice and the non-dairy mozzarella is from the Follow Your Heart vegan and vegetarian food company, Picchi said.

"The pizza dough and cheese are so good people ask, 'Are you sure this is really gluten-free or vegan?' and we assure them it is," she added. "Young people especially seem to want vegan and vegetarian options, and we sell a ton of them."

One popular option is torchio arrabiata, which is a swirled vegan pasta that's especially good for soaking up sauces, served with tomato sauce, Calabrian chili, garlic and parsley

"We do everything with passion, and heart," Picchi said. "We put everything we know into it. My grandma, Stefano's grandma, my husband's grandma (he's the general manager of

the company) – all we can do to make it authentic Italian. All the pizza dough and pasta – lasagne, gnocchi, tagliatelle – is freshly made in the house. Every sauce is made here. The tomato and sausage sauce takes 12 hours to reach that flavor -- you can get that smell only at grandma's house. It's exactly what I want people to feel – you come in here and you say 'home.'"

Pomo Pizzeria Napoletana, at 705 N. First St. is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. for delivery, pickup and in-restaurant dining. Pomo Pizzeria is at the Biltmore, 2502 E. Camelback Road, Suite 148A&B. At presstime, the Biltmore location was closed, but expected to open by July 1, with hours from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. for in-house dining and pickup. Hours for both restaurants may change, based on conditions. For more information, visit pomo2go.com.

Dining Briefs

Aunt Chilada's spices up menu, boosts safety

Aunt Chilada's restaurant is celebrating its reopening for dine-in service with new menu items available all the time and special drinks for the Fourth of July weekend.

The restaurant at 7330 N. Dreamy Draw Drive opened back up for dine-in customers recently after having to close for dine-in services like other restaurants in the state due to COVID-19. It is open from 3 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays; from 3 to 10 p.m. Fridays; from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturdays and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays. Tables are now spaced 6 feet apart, employees wear masks and hand sanitizer is at every table.

please see AUNT CHILADA'S on page 36

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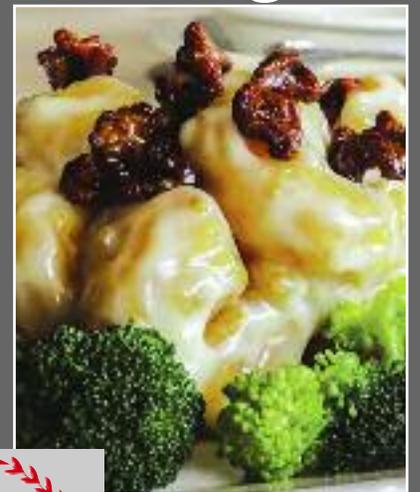
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

AUNT CHILADA'S continued from page 35

The restaurant added a stuffed Poblano pepper, mini tacos and super taquitos to its menu. The pepper is filled with customers' choice of chicken, beef or vegetables and smothered in a jalapeno cream cheese sauce. Aunt Chilada's mini tacos are filled with "Picadillo" ground sirloin. Super taquitos feature machaca, which is a seasoned, shredded beef, covered with sour cream and Cotija cheese, paired with beans and rice.

You may cool off with red, white and blue frozen margaritas at Aunt Chilada's Friday, July 3, Saturday, July 4 and Sunday, July 5. To learn more, visit auntchiladas.com.

Matty G's steakburger eatery opens new spot

If you are craving meat, there is a new, family-owned restaurant in the area that offers a huge selection of steakburgers and other sandwiches.

Matty G's Steakburgers recently opened a location at 6025 N. 16th St. It also has locations in Scottsdale and Mesa. Its menu includes an All-Star signature burger with two steakburger patties, Matty G's fry sauce, applewood smoked bacon, American cheese, grilled onions, lettuce and tomato. Field of Dreams, which has won awards, has two steakburger patties, ghost pepper cheese, sautéed mushrooms, pickled jalapeno and chipotle aioli. Matty G's fry sauce has a ketchup/mayonnaise base with some smokiness, said Matt Gorman, who owns the Matty G's restaurants with his wife, Doreen Rios.

The restaurant also carries several beers from local brewers including SanTan Brewing Company and Huss Brewing.

Many different hot dogs, salads, wraps and side dishes including carne asada fries and homemade, deep-fried jalapenos also are on the menu. Matty G's 16th Street location is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. To learn more, visit matty-gs.com.

Mark Fourth of July with Phoenix City Grille specials

Celebrate the Fourth of July with rich, savory and sweet treats on the menu at Phoenix City Grille.

The restaurant at 5816 N. 16th St. will provide all-day happy hour spe-

cial, as well as festive meals on July 4. The special meals include the mixed grill with prime flank, pork chop green chile and whiskey cherry bratwursts, sweet corn pudding and guajillo chile reduction for \$25. A seafood pasta featuring fresh pappardelle, wild Gulf shrimp, Chula seafood salmon, artichoke hearts, lemon caper butter sauce and aged Romano will be on the menu July 4 for \$25. For dessert, Phoenix City Grille will provide a red, white and blue shortcake, a house-made, sweet biscuit topped with macerated strawberries and blueberries, as well as Chantilly cream, strawberry balsamic syrup and crystalized mint for \$9. The July 4 specials will be offered from 4 p.m. to close.

To learn more, visit phoenixcitygrille.com.

The Macintosh reopens, still offers curbside service

The Macintosh is open again for limited dine-in seating and still providing curbside to-go service for customers.

This restaurant at 2119 E. Camelback Road is taking additional safety measures to try to protect the health of customers and employees because of COVID-19. It has enhanced its sanitization process and all its employees must wear masks. The tables are spaced to be at least 6 feet apart.

Guests may order the entire menu, which features shareable plates, salads, hand-held dishes and entrees with diverse, American classics. Some of the "shareables" include Common Ground Brussels, which are Brussels Sprouts charred with candied bacon, garlic and balsamic reduction; bacon mac 'n' cheese and ahi poke lettuce wraps. The Macintosh offers a variety of main dishes including Southern shrimp and grits, Scottish salmon and risotto, blackened redfish, NOLA red beans and rice and braised short ribs.

To learn more, visit themacintosh-haz.com.

The Refuge Café reopens, enhances safety

The Refuge Café, an eatery that sells coffee and homemade pastries for a cause, is open again for dine-in customers with new safety measures in place.

This social enterprise of Catholic Charities Community Services, which helps refugees, foster children, veterans

and domestic violence survivors, reopened June 1. The café at 4727 N. 7th Ave. has limited seating and stringent health and safety guidelines in effect due to the Coronavirus pandemic. It is open from 7 to 11 a.m. Mondays through Fridays. The Refuge Café sells its private-label, single-origin, ethically sourced Refuge Coffee online at therefugeaz.com. Veterans who live at MANA House, a temporary living center, roast the Arabica coffee beans.

The Refuge Café also offers French toast, breakfast burritos, bagels, breakfast bowls, sandwiches, salads and soup, as well as Espresso, Americano, cold brew, traditional Macchiato, lattes, cappuccinos, mochas, Italian sodas and other drinks. To learn more about The Refuge Café, visit therefugeaz.com.

Arizona Wilderness, state parks release seasonal ale

A new brew is available to buy at Arizona Wilderness Brewing Co. this summer.

Arizona State Parks and Trails and Arizona Wilderness Brewing Co. have teamed up to release the Arizona State Parks Ale. It is available for a limited time at Arizona Wilderness Brewing Co. in its DTPHX Beer Garden at 201 E. Roosevelt St. and at its Gilbert location. The pale ale stems from locally-grown barley called Sinagua Malt, as well as flaked oats, dry hopped with Amarillo, Cascade, Centennial and Citra hops.

This beer will help promote conservation and protection of Arizona's parks. Arizona Wilderness Brewing Co. and Arizona State Parks hope to draw awareness to the more than 30 state parks available to explore, care for and protect. The brew is offered in draft or cans.

Arizona Wilderness Brewing Co. is open again for dine-in service.

To learn more about Arizona Wilderness Brewing Co., visit azwbeer.com. For more information about Arizona State Parks, visit azstateparks.com.

Whataburger adds delivery service for customers

There is good news if you are craving food from Whataburger but do not want to leave your home.

The restaurant chain has started delivering to locations in North Central Phoenix and around the Valley

and country. You may select the delivery option on Whataburger's app and website, Whataburger.com. Orders are delivered via a third-party service and are packaged in sealed bags to protect customers' safety and security.

Whataburger offers many different types of hamburgers, chicken and breakfast foods including taquitos with cheese, a breakfast platter, a biscuit sandwich and a biscuit and gravy. It also sells salads and many drinks including Dr. Pepper, strawberry, chocolate and vanilla shakes and malts.

There are several Whataburger locations in the Valley including one at 450 W. Indian School Road. To learn more, visit whataburger.com.

Los Sombreros offers poolside party packs

Los Sombreros is offering poolside party packs to bring a fiesta to your home or other venue.

The restaurant, which has a location at 322 E. Camelback Road and one in Scottsdale, provides the party packs for takeout, curbside pick-up or delivery. Delivery is free of charge for any orders more than \$25 within a five-mile radius of the Phoenix or Scottsdale locations. Those who live outside of this radius can order the party packs through an outside meal delivery service.

As of presstime, Los Sombreros had not yet announced when it will reopen for dine-in service.

One of the drinks you can order through the party pack is a classic margarita or the Steve-a-Rita, Los Sombreros' premium margarita, made with Patron Silver tequila, Patron Citronage, Grand Marnier and hand-squeezed lime. Another drink is the Skinny Cadillac, a low-calorie, premium margarita over ice and Agua de Flor, a crisp drink made with Blanco tequila and other ingredients.

Los Sombreros also offers a party pack for 10 people for \$10 per person that includes 20 grande crispy tacos (in chicken, ribeye or potato). Chips, salsa and guacamole come with it. If you add a bucket of Steve-a-Ritas to the order it costs \$35.

To order from Los Sombreros, visit lossombreros.com.

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

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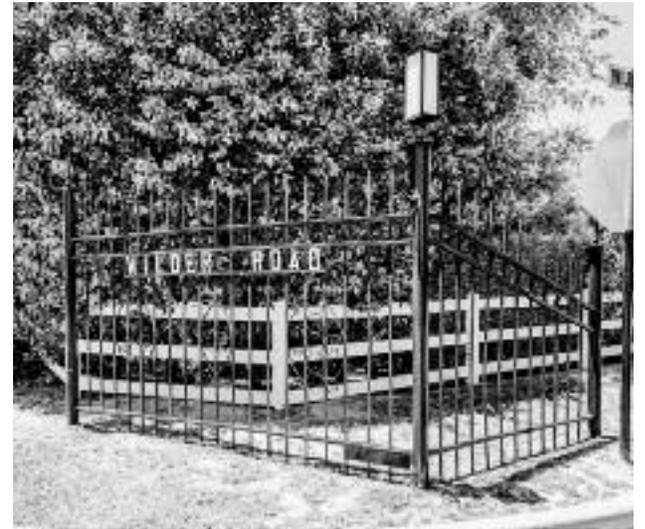


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