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COMMUNITY

School board leader steps in for St. Nick

By Colleen Sparks

When he's not helping to steer the Madison Elementary School District as president of its governing board, Scott Holcomb plays Santa Claus at community events.

Holcomb has been volunteering as Santa at schools, a camp and other venues for at least 15 years. A parent at one of the schools where he volunteers made the trademark red Santa suit for him, which he styles with boots, bell bracelets and a wide belt with an image of holly engraved on it. The white beard comes naturally to Holcomb, who already has one, and he also dons white gloves and Santa-style reading glasses.

He is adjusting the way he portrays the Jolly Old Saint Nicholas this season because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Holcomb ordinarily visits every classroom at Madison Camelview Elementary School to deliver books to all students. This year to try to keep everyone safe, he will wave to children as they move through a drive-thru with their families outside of the school.

Holcomb will wear a mask and socially distance himself from others at all the events he attends this season. At another gathering he will sit on a decorated wooden bench to talk to older youths so they can keep at least 6 feet apart. Holcomb also plans to visit Prescott, to bring the magic of Santa to children at a camp there.

"It's one of the most rewarding things you can do in your life," he said. "You listen to people, get kids to smile. I enjoy bringing the joy to people but it brings me even more."

If you would like to request Holcomb portray Santa at an event, you can reach him at santaholcomb2020@gmail.com.

Celebrate holidays at socially distant events

The COVID-19 pandemic is changing how the winter holidays are celebrated this year but there are still several festive events planned in the area that will provide entertainment and help those in need.

Biltmore Fashion Park will host a



Madison Elementary governing board president Scott Holcomb has been volunteering his "Santa" services at community events for more than 15 years (submitted photo).

contact-less Santa Claus at 2502 E. Camelback Road. Santa will be required to wear a mask, as will any guests ages 2 and older. There will be social distancing between Santa and the visitors and deep cleaning will be car-

please see EVENTS on page 8

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COMMUNITY

PIPELINE continued from page 1

sense that there were some unknown utilities that we came across, soil conditions that were harder or different than what we had expected.”

She said city officials have been doing outreach with residents in the neighborhood and encouraging them to sign up for an email distribution list that offers construction updates.

The city adjusted the work zone on Maryland Avenue near the Granada Park tennis courts to allow for two-way traffic along the north side of the street, as of late last month. Work continued south of the traffic lanes that were narrowed and people were urged to watch for barricades and cones to steer them through the area.

Elaine Kates, who lives in the area, said she has adjusted the route she uses due to the construction. However, she said she is used to seeing much traffic in the area when classes end for the day at Madison Heights Elementary School, which is at 7150 N. 22nd St.

“We had to stop using 20th Street...they just basically opened it up

again,” Kates said. “At least 22nd Street was saved.”

Helm said the city has been working with the Madison Elementary School District to try to allow for an easy drop-off and pick-up of students. She said there was not traffic related to students around the school until around mid-October as classes were being held online due to the pandemic.

Neighbors’ push to protect their neighborhoods and the Phoenix Mountains Preserve earlier this year led the city to move installation of another planned pipeline closer to the 51 freeway. The city will install that 66-inch-diameter water pipeline closer to that freeway, after it approved a right-of-way agreement with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). Phoenix’s Water Services Department approved the agreement with ADOT to permanently use the right-of-way.

Construction on the 66-inch-diameter pipeline is expected to start in April of next year and should be finished by the end of 2022, Helm said. The city had hoped to start construction on that pipeline in January but

with the pandemic it had to be moved back to April, she said.

When work is being done on the 66-inch-diameter pipeline, there will be some restrictions in Dreamy Draw Recreation Area as it is installed underground and major improvements are being made to the park itself through another project. The bike path through Dreamy Draw Recreation Area will be closed from the Dreamy Draw entrance to around 28th Street once construction begins. It will likely be reopened once the building and restoration are finished and a new bike path and parallel walking path are built, likely to be around late 2022. Hiking trails in Dreamy Draw Recreation Area will mostly remain accessible during construction but there will be some restrictions close to construction sites.

Libby Goff, an avid hiker and board secretary for the Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council, said the construction on the 48-inch water main has not impacted her hiking so far. She said she has noticed the impact of the work at Granada Park.

“I rode my bike at Granada Park; there’s a huge impact there,” Goff said. “I can get to the 22nd Street trailhead and it still looks wonderful.”

She said luckily there will be some trails accessible from several trailheads in Dreamy Draw Recreation Area during construction.

The 66-inch-diameter pipeline is needed to address drought concerns on the Colorado River and it will offer alternative water supplies to north Phoenix as a water shortage looms, city officials have said. It will start at the 24th Street water treatment plant, head north along 21st Street, go west on Myrtle Avenue and then north near 20th Street, ending at 32nd Street and Shea Boulevard.

“It’s a work in progress and we’re trying to communicate the best we can with the email and just with our outreach efforts, trying to just let people know ahead of time what’s going on and I think that helps quite a bit,” Helm said.

To learn more about the pipelines project, visit phoenix.gov/waterservices/droughtpipeline.

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Editor	Colleen Sparks
Sales and Marketing	Joanne Day
Office Manager	Janice Backus

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COMMUNITY

BIG BROTHER continued from page 1

to have Killens in her son's life.

"I am a single parent and I'm raising him and his brother by myself," Walker said. "It's just such a wonderful resource to have Martez, an older man who has established himself the way he has. Martez is very successful. Savad is able to connect with someone he can look up to, follow in his footsteps."

Savad and Killens in ordinary times enjoy going to movies, dining at restaurants, hanging out, playing video games at Dave & Buster's restaurant, as well as throwing a football around and playing basketball together.

Walker said Savad's father is not part of his life and she is glad that Savad has a positive role model in Killens, another African-American man. She added she has asked Killens for advice on how to handle some things with a boy.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has changed their activities, Savad and Killens still keep connected often by texting, going to a park, hiking and playing sports together. Walker said Killens helps Savad focus on doing well academically and not goofing off in class, as well as talks to him about girls.

Laura Capello, president and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona, said the organization has about 1,000 active matches and serves about 1,600 youths a year. There are pairs gathering around the Valley, with a fairly even mix of boys and girls working with mentors.

Besides giving the adult mentors the freedom to socialize with their little "brothers" and "sisters" on their own, the organization also offers game nights and other events for all the pairs to participate in. It is providing virtual trivia nights now due to the pandemic.

"Once we match you, we do that very carefully...there's lots of trainings ongoing," Capello said. "What I love about our organization is we're trying to change the trajectory of these kids' lives."

She has been paired with her "little sister" since the girl was 8 years old and now the girl is in high school. Case managers work with the adult mentors to ensure things are going smoothly and that the adults do not try to "save" the youths but rather serve as positive influences, Capello said. They help try to ensure the safety of the adults and children and teens. Case managers can help when children and teens in the

program are dealing with struggles, including drug abuse in their home and incarcerated parents, to connect them with resources they need.

There were 74 youths participating in Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona with mentors in North Central, as of press time. In this area, there were 16 youths waiting to be matched with a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister" through the organization.

If you'd like to support the organization, it can always use clothes, shoes, bedding and other items donated and it has drop-off bins at its office at 4745 N. 7th St. and other locations. To learn more, visit www.bbbsaz.org.

City website provides multilingual information

To reach its diverse residents, the city of Phoenix provides information in many different languages on its website.

Phoenix.gov is available to view in more than 100 languages including traditional Chinese, French, Spanish, Sudanese, Portuguese and Arabic. Users can click on the "translate" button in the upper right corner of the website and choose their language.

The website provides news and information about a variety of city topics including agendas for City Council meetings, reports on crime, a calendar with listings of virtual and in-person events, COVID-19 testing locations, contact information for requesting public records and monthly newsletters.

Foundation, dealership donate police vehicles

The Phoenix Police Department Reserve Division is the recipient of four new police vehicles.

That is after the Phoenix Police Reserve Foundation's Board of Directors, in a partnership with Courtesy Chevrolet, presented it with the three new Chevrolet Tahoe SUVs and a Chevrolet Camaro Coupe.

Derrick Hall, president and CEO of the Arizona Diamondbacks and president of the Phoenix Police Reserve Foundation, said the reserve officers "are an integral component of the city's policing plan and work alongside the Phoenix Police Department to ensure the safety of the Phoenix residents."

To learn more, visit phoenixpolice-reserve.org.

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7151 N 3rd St • \$1,450,000



2939 N Manor Dr • \$1,350,000



210 E Cactus Wren Dr • \$1,350,000



5501 E Beryl Ave • \$949,000



5600 N 4th St • \$2,001,000
SOLD (represented buyer)



8255 N 18th St • \$1,175,000
SOLD



6611 N Central Ave • \$1,175,000
SOLD



816 E Circle Rd • \$1,120,000
SOLD



3611 E Mariposa St • \$1,050,000
SOLD (represented buyer)



245 E Ashwood • \$990,000
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815 E Circle Rd • \$975,000
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COMMUNITY

EVENTS continued from page 3

ried out on the set to protect the health and well-being of guests. Santa will be at the mall Dec. 4-6; 8-13, 14-20 and 21-25. For details or to make reservations, visit shopbiltmore.com/santaphotos.

Paradise Valley Mall will welcome Santa Claus for contactless visits in Dillard's Court at 4568 E. Cactus Road from Dec. 1-23 (closed Dec. 7) and on Dec. 24. Masks are required for Santa and guests ages 2 and older. Santa will socially distance himself from visitors. To make a reservation, visit theparadisvalleymall.com/santaphotos.

The H.U.B. (Helping Undo Barriers) Winter Wonderland Experience will feature a pancake breakfast, toy drive, music, pictures with Santa Claus and other entertainment from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 5336 N. 19th Ave. The breakfast and toys are made possible by Harvest Compassion Center, Grad Solutions and Smart Schools.

APS Electric Light Parade (on TV): Presented by the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department, this popu-

lar event will be delivered on ABC15 Arizona at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be a video from the 2019 parade along with new content. Then the program will air again on ABC15 Arizona on Christmas, Dec. 25, and also will be broadcast on CW61 Arizona and PHXTV (Channel 11) this month. The schedules for those broadcasts was not available as of press time. Learn more at phoenix.gov/parks/elp.

Christmas on 10th Street is a signature winter event that the East Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association & Block Watch holds. It will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12, at North Village Baptist Church at 1010 E. Alice Ave. This will be a drive-thru event, where Santa Claus will wave to children. "Elves" will hand out gift bags with goodies inside to every vehicle and there will be holiday decorations and Christmas music. It is free to attend. Learn more at eastsunmyslope.com.

ABC15's "Operation Santa Claus:" Drop off food, toys and clothes and make donations to help Arizona charities through Wednesday,

Dec. 16. Donations will go to St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance, Special Olympics Arizona, Southwest Autism Research and Resource Center (SARRC), Military Assistance Mission (MAM) and Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC). Donors who give at least \$5 will be entered for a chance to win a brand-new Ford F150 SuperCrew or Lincoln Corsair luxury SUV. Sanderson Ford and Lincoln will randomly choose a donor to receive the prize. Also, 15 finalists will win a \$100 Visa gift card. The winners will be announced during ABC15's "Sonoran Living" at 9 a.m. on Dec. 18. Drop off donations at several locations around the Valley, including UPS stores at 111 E. Dunlap Ave. and at 7000 N. 16th St. Learn more and make financial donations at givetotheclaus.com.

Bitter & Twisted's "Sippin' Santa" pop-up will take guests on an "exotic holiday tiki tour" during regular business hours through Saturday, Dec. 26 at Bitter & Twisted Cocktail Parlour at 1 W. Jefferson St. The venue will host a pop-up that features festive decorations and a menu of colorful tiki creations.

Bitter & Twisted will provide exclusive "Sippin' Santa" collectable barware and tiki mugs and there also will be a pared-down version of the restaurant/bar's cocktail menu and bar bites. Special hours the week of Christmas are 4 to 11 p.m. Dec. 23 and 24. It will be closed on Christmas but open again from 4 to 11 p.m. Dec. 26. Learn more at bitterandtwistedaz.com.

Miracle at Floor 13 is a global pop-up that will be open through Jan. 2 at 15 E. Monroe St. on the rooftop of the Hilton Garden Inn Phoenix Downtown. This worldwide seasonal attraction partners with bars and restaurants to deliver Christmas-themed cocktails served in kitschy Cocktail Kingdom custom glassware, which guests also can purchase with a part of the proceeds going to the James Beard Foundation's Open for Good campaign, which helps independent restaurants and bars struggling due to the pandemic. There also will be light bites on the menu. It is open from 5 to 10 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and 5 p.m. to midnight Fridays and Saturdays. For details, visit floor13rooftopbar.com/restaurant/miracle-bar.



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5402 E Windsor Ave 51 • \$263,000	721 E Sierra Vista Dr • \$620,000(4-Plex)	4601 N 12th Ave 1 • \$1000 Mo.
1320 E Bethany Home Rd 37 • \$186,000	1313 W Luke Ave • \$346,500	910 W Wagon Wheel Drive • \$670,000
4582 S Wildflower Pl • \$735,000	1125 E Shangri La Rd • \$435,000	4455 E Paradise Village Pkwy S 1024 • \$268,000
1735 W Seldon Ln • \$510,000	1123 W Orangewood Ave • \$530,000	1055 N. Recker Rd. 1007 • \$247,000
1742 W Seldon Ln • \$534,900	10407 N 11th St 3 • \$1450 Mo.	14840 N. 47th Pl. • \$522,000
10858 N 11th St • \$370,000	821 E North Ln 2 • \$1350 Mo.	10628 N. 73rd Dr. • \$242,500
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COMMUNITY

City will lift ban on open fires in parks

It will be legal to burn open fires in city of Phoenix desert parks and mountain preserves, starting on Dec. 1, as the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department has decided to lift the ban on such activities then.

Usually the annual open fire ban is removed in the month of October but it was extended this year because of the unseasonably warm and dry fall weather. Those using parks are being reminded that vegetation in the parks and preserves is still dry so they should be cautious any time they use an open fire. After consulting with the Phoenix Fire Department, officials set the ban to go into effect on May 1, prohibiting open wood and charcoal fires. Propane or gas grills were not prohibited but people may only use them in established picnic areas.

The ban had applied to Camelback Mountain, Phoenix Mountains Preserve, North Mountain Park, Deems Hill Recreation Area, Papago Park, Phoenix Sonoran Preserve, Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area, South Mountain Park/Preserve and Phoenix Mountains Park and Recreation Area. This restriction did not apply to Phoenix's flatland parks.

Drivers traveling through or near Phoenix's desert parks and mountain preserves should be very careful with smoking materials and dispose of those only inside their vehicle's ash tray. Smoking outside of an enclosed vehicle in those natural areas is prohibited year-round.

Residents who live on property that borders the city's preserve land can remove dry shrubs, brush and grasses, as well as trim dead branches from trees within the 10-foot strip of land that borders their land in order to try to protect their homes from fires.

To learn more about removing vegetation, contact a Phoenix Park Ranger at 602-495-5458 or natural.resources.pks@phoenix.gov.

Playground opens at Longview Park

There is another place where children can play in North Central.

City of Phoenix Councilwoman Laura Pastor joined city Parks and Recreation Department employees recently to celebrate the opening of a playground in Longview Park at the corner of 14th Street and Indian School Road. The 4,900-square-foot area is

lighted and features a swing set, as well as climbing structures geared towards youths ages 2 to 12. Multiple shade canopies cover the play amenities.

Besides the addition of the playground, the park project also included a new ramada with picnic tables, a perimeter sidewalk with benches, as well as a drinking fountain and landscaping. Valley Rain did the construction and the project was paid for by the voter-approved Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative (PPPI).

Students from Longview Elementary School and Arizona Autism Charter School, which are neighbors to the park, assisted city staff members during the playground design process.

Teachers can compete for school supply funds

A college readiness and scholarship tool called RaiseMe is doing its part to help teachers.

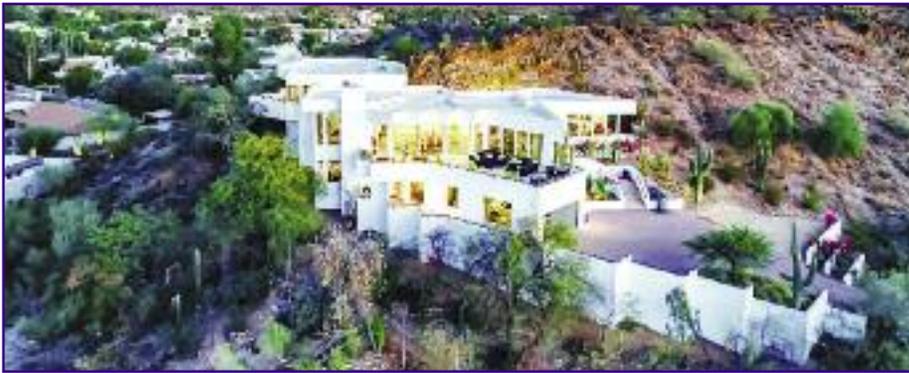
RaiseMe, which helps high school students earn micro-scholarships for accomplishments as early as ninth grade, is holding an educator challenge with the deadline to apply on Dec. 11. "The Amazing Raise" will provide \$2,500 in school supplies to the top two high schools in the state that invite and sign up the most students to "RaiseMe" from late November to the deadline date this month. Teachers can use the prize money for classroom supplies, cleaning items and technology upgrades. This is the first time this competition has been conducted in Arizona.

Amanda Schwabe, director of Student Partnerships for CampusLogic, a Phoenix-based tech company that acquired RaiseMe, said her team knows that being a teacher is a difficult job, especially with all the challenges of this year. The aim is to help area high schools and make college more attainable for students in the state by offering scholarships.

In order to win, schools must sign up the most ninth through 12th grade students by the deadline. The campuses with the highest percentage of students who sign up, based on total enrollment, will win \$2,500 to spend on classroom and facility needs.

Teachers can sign up for a RaiseMe educator account by visiting raise.me/signup/educator?auth=signup&country=US&userType=educator. To learn more about RaiseMe, visit.raise.me.

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HAPPY HOUR WITH HERSCH

I have written numerous times about music and my love of certain songs, artists and festivals. What I love about music is its ability to speak to each one of us and bring out emotions that can be individual or shared. We each get to create the soundtrack to our lives. How cool is that?! The number of music genres is so vast and what appeals to the tastes of different people can be fascinating. Here is a list of 10 rock (loosely defined) artists and/or groups who have had amazing popular success yet for some reason do not fit my personal soundtrack.

- 10 – Nirvana
- 9 – The Beach Boys
- 8 – Metallica
- 7 – Eric Clapton
- 6 – Billy Joel
- 5 – The Grateful Dead
- 4 – Creedence Clearwater Revival/John Fogerty
- 3 – James Taylor
- 2 – The Eagles
- 1 – ??????

I hope you all have a peaceful, safe and joyous holiday season filled with an abundance of laughs and love.

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COMMUNITY

Young singers thrive in ambitious chorus

By Colleen Sparks

Budding singers can audition this month and next online for Phoenix Children's Chorus, an ambitious group with several North Central youths in it.

The program features seven choirs with more than 300 students in grades kindergarten through 12th, said Cheryl Mollerup, executive director of the Phoenix Children's Chorus. Rehearsals have been held with a hybrid option of singers coming in person at a Phoenix venue and participating via live stream due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Auditions are being conducted through Zoom this month and in early January for children and teens who want to participate in the chorus' spring programming. Phoenix Children's Chorus will premiere its holiday concert online on Friday, Dec. 18.

Started in 1984 with 35 children, the Phoenix Children's Chorus has grown with its team of conductors, accompanists, music literary instructors and other staff members.

Aidan Briggs, 17, a North Central resident and senior at Arizona School for the Arts, has sung in the Phoenix Children's Chorus for about five years. He sings in the Encore Choir, an advanced group for high school students. Aidan said he is glad the choir is holding rehearsals in person with students socially distanced.

"It's definitely a breath of fresh air to see people and meet people," he said. "I definitely have grown close with a lot of people in the choir. I want to pursue music as a career and the children's chorus has made it as an actual possibility."

Aidan said he likes singing classical music but also really enjoyed singing songs rooted in India last year. He said it is fun singing music in different languages including German and Hebrew.

Amelia Moore, 15, a North Central resident and sophomore at Arizona School for the Arts, is in her ninth year singing in the Phoenix Children's Chorus.

"I really love singing very classical stuff so it's like in Latin and it's very melodic," Amelia said. "I also really love singing like gospel and spiritual. I have a voice that I'm really good at those

things. When I get singing, it's so fun. It gives me that sense of community."

Amelia said she loved going to New York City in sixth grade, when the choir performed at Carnegie Hall, and visiting Sydney, Australia as a seventh-grader, when the chorus sang at Sydney Opera House.

She said rehearsing at social distances and with masks during this Coronavirus crisis has helped train her and the other choir members to listen to each other and "be more confident in our singing."

If your child or teen wants to audition for the Phoenix Children's Chorus, you can visit phoenixchildrenschorus.org/join to schedule a virtual try-out. To learn more about upcoming events, including the online holiday concert, visit phoenixchildrenschorus.org/performances.

City Council approves tech company deal

The city of Phoenix expects that thousands of jobs will come to the city after the City Council approved a deal

with Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC).

The council unanimously approved the \$12 billion agreement with the company during a recent formal meeting. TSMC will build an advanced semiconductor fabrication plant to produce its 5-nanometer technology for semiconductor wafer. The \$12 billion figure represents direct capital investment while the total economic effect of the deal is estimated at \$16 billion. Besides being a record-setting pact for the city, it also is among the largest private investments in Arizona's history.

Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego said the company will create 1,900 high-tech jobs and cultivate thousands more related positions in the semiconductor supply chain ecosystem.

Initial talks with TSMC started several years ago and Gallego visited Taiwan last year to strengthen relationships and advance the deal.

TSMC is expected to choose a site for the plant late this year and to start construction on it in early 2021. The plant is likely to be in production by 2024.



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WHY WE NEED TO FOCUS ON POLITE DRIVING NOW MORE THAN EVER

ROADWAY ETIQUETTE IS IMPORTANT

EVERY DAY, but especially now that stressed-out pandemic drivers are behind the wheel. Shahe Koulloukian of Mazvo Auto Care Center shares his best practices for being a polite driver.

There is no question that the pandemic has had a dramatic impact on our driving habits, with the number of trips we take and miles we drive along with changes in driving behaviors. Personal mobility is now emotional mobility.

Every day we hear epidemiologists advocating that we practice “social distancing” as way of slowing down the spread of the virus. Social isolation is what driving is all about. You are rolling down the road in an isolation box, essentially removed from the world. One can’t help but enjoy a moment of safe, blissful solitude.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has thrown every aspect of our lives for a loop — and that includes not only our driving habits, but our driving etiquette too. Under normal conditions we know how to focus on road rules and engage sensibly (most of the time). Now, behaviors of aggressive speeding and braking are normal, along with higher speed car crashes.

Let’s start to recognize, and understand, the subtle art of controlling our emotional driving habits. Will it be easy? Maybe not so much. But being a good driver isn’t just a matter of following the rules of the road; it’s being polite as well. Here are a few steps to improve your

etiquette on the road.

CONTROL YOUR TEMPER. Sure, it’s easier said than done — but aggressive, angry driving is a leading cause of car crashes. If you flip out, pull over, take some deep breaths and put some chill music and ask yourself if your reaction is worth it. Try and remember to be empathetic and reflect on why the other person may be angry. Avoid road rage at all costs, and practice patience and compassion.

BE THANKFUL. Expressing gratitude is as important on the road as it is elsewhere. If you’re granted a pass to merge, give a hand wave or nod. If they were kind enough to let you go first, then you can be kind enough to convey your thanks with a gesture or smile. These tiny yet impactful moments can completely change someone’s attitude. You never know: your smile or thanks can make someone whose own temper may be simmering feel a little better, and be a better driver in turn.

HONK WITH RESPECT. Remember that your horn is a communication tool, not a stick for you to scold someone with. It’s crucial to know how to use it properly. It’s so unfortunate that over 48% of the U.S. drivers honk to display being annoyed or angry. Remember to recognize what happened first. Your horn is to be used to alert others of danger or prevent a crash, not because they mouthed vulgarities at you.

STAY BACK. In our current pandemic times, we’re growing accustomed to

giving other ample personal space when we are on foot. Yet, when we’re in our vehicles, we seem to have a power trip and start tailgating, forcing others to drive uncomfortably. Let’s understand that tailgating is leading cause of rear-end crashes. Leave room between you and the other vehicle to give you enough reaction time in case something unexpected happens — especially during fog or inclement weather.

CHANGE LANES PROPERLY. Remember that little flashing thingy called a turn signal? Use it! When on the highway, the left lane should be reserved for passing; once you’ve overtaken the slower vehicle, make sure to move back to the right in heavy traffic. Avoid constant lane changing, which is all an illusion that you will get to your destination faster. You won’t! **LAY OFF THE BRAKES.** There is no reason to stop in the roadway unless absolutely needed. Slowing down and rubbernecking to watch a crash, or gawk at someone being pulled over, is disrespectful and impolite. (Besides, either scenario could happen to you!) It just creates a huge traffic jam and is bad for your brakes with all the stop and go — you can’t complain about your brakes squeaking if you do this, because that’s exactly what’s going to happen.

Our lives may be in a period of upheaval, but if we all do our part to practice good etiquette on the road, maybe a drive could be our way to de-stress rather than having the opposite effect.

COMMUNITY

City discusses possible 3rd Avenue upgrades

The city of Phoenix is asking the public for its feedback on the types of improvements it would like to see made on 3rd Avenue.

City employees recorded a virtual/online public meeting, where city of Phoenix principal planner for the Street Transportation Department Brian Fellows, Street Transportation Department director Kini Knudson and Heather Murphy, spokesperson for the Street Transportation Department, talked about proposals for enhancements on 3rd Avenue between Camelback Road and Missouri Avenue. They are asking residents to answer questions in a survey related to the proposed upgrades by visiting phoenix.gov/streets/projects/3rdAvenuePed.

Fellows in the recent online meeting talked about three possibilities for enhancing 3rd Avenue in the proposed project area. The first alternative would involve creating traffic mini-circles, chicanes and a wide sidewalk, he said. Traffic mini-circles are facilities in inter-

sections that slow down vehicles by making the lane narrower, Fellows said. Chicanes are another “type of feature at the edge of a street” that slows vehicles down by “creating a curving condition” that can be made out of curbing or another vertical element, he added. Fellows said the goal with the wide sidewalk would be to create more continuous sidewalks in the area as sidewalks do not exist in some spots of the road.

He said the second alternative would be to add a street walkway and chicanes. The street walkway would be a “walking area” with “vertical protection between that and travel lanes,” Fellows said. He said with the third alternative there would be a wide sidewalk, traffic mini-circles and center islands in the project area on 3rd Avenue. He explained that center islands are elongated facilities in the middle of streets that slow down vehicles “by narrowing the lane” and they can be made out of paint or curbing. Fellows said there would be no landscaping but rather concrete or another material in the center islands as the city does not plant or maintain trees in the right-of-way.

None of the ideas for 3rd Avenue have been selected and the city is examining residents’ preferences. Postcards have been sent to neighbors directing them to the online survey.

Rick Mountjoy, chairman of the Medlock Place Traffic Committee, said several months ago that traffic studies suggested some streets in the Medlock Place Historic District, especially 3rd Avenue, become congested with vehicles cutting through the neighborhood. Medlock Place is in North Central between North Central Avenue and North 7th Avenue, south of Missouri Avenue.

The city plans to hold another public meeting to discuss the 3rd Avenue possibilities early next year, Fellows said. After that, the city will complete an initial design for the work, and then it will identify funding for the design. Later the city will need to identify construction money for the project.

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COMMUNITY



Koda is a sweet, 12-year-old American pit bull terrier mix, with a smile that radiates everywhere she goes. She is seeking a quiet, loving forever home (photo courtesy of the Arizona Humane Society).

Pet of the Month

Sweet Koda seeks quiet, loving home

With a huge smile that radiates everywhere she goes, adorable ears that are always perked up and sweet eyes, Koda is a sweet, senior dog who would love to find a quiet, loving home to spend her golden years.

At 12 years young, this cute American pit bull terrier mix was surrendered to the Arizona Humane Society when her previous owner could no longer afford to take care of her.

Once the Arizona Humane Society took her in, Koda was put onto a feeding schedule to help her reach a more appropriate weight for her size, as it was also found that she has a mild form of hip dysplasia, a condition that is common in larger breeds and older pups. This condition is better managed when pets stay at a healthy weight. Koda is a great walker and loves stuffed animals and she would greatly benefit from living in a home with a patient family or individual that is consistent with her routine and allows her to have an adjustment period while acclimating to her new humans and surroundings.

All Arizona Humane Society Adoption locations are temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the organization's Virtual Adoption Matchmaking Program by appointment is available to place pets, like Koda, with their forever families. To learn more, visit azhumane.org/adopt. Koda's animal number is 648803.

Please note that this pet might have been adopted by the time of your Virtual Matchmaking Adoption by Appointment, however AHS has

dozens more wonderful pets also seeking loving homes. You can take a moment to meet some of the other dogs, cats and other companion animals online. Interested adopters can view available pets on the Humane Society's "Adopt" pages on its website, and by scheduling an appointment online to meet their next furry friend. To see all adoptable animals right now, visit azhumane.org/adopt.

Make donation to help pets around holidays

You can make a difference in the lives of pets who will be spending the holiday season with the Arizona Humane Society.

The organization is seeking financial donations to support its four-legged friends by providing food, toys, medicine and care. You can make a donation as a gift in honor or memory of a beloved pet or a person. There is an option to make a gift every month of any amount you like.

To make a donation, visit azhumane.org.

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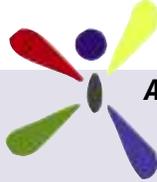
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Happy Holidays!



TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Natural pet food store changes ownership

New owners are operating a long-standing North Central pet food business but they plan to continue the legacy of offering natural, healthy options for animals.

Raquel Huerta and her husband, Aaron Oaks, recently purchased Kodi's Natural Pet Foods at 6058 N. 16th St. from Rhonda Teel. Huerta and Oaks have changed the name to Fetch Natural Pet Foods but they will keep the organic and natural pet foods Teel sold at the store since she opened it about 12 years ago.

A grand re-opening for the pet food store will take place on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Teel started the store, which was named after her dog, Kodi, when her pet was diagnosed with cancer. In an email to friends and customers, Teel said when she discovered Kodi had cancer she was told to feed her natural foods. Teel said she pursued her dream to begin "a business that dealt with pet nutrition and helped customers' pets with their diets and well-being."

"Now, after 12 years of building my business and serving my loyal customers I found it was the time to sell my business and enjoy retirement and get a much needed knee replacement," Teel wrote. "It has been a truly enriching experience to meet and serve so many customers and their pets. I wanted to also take the time to thank all of my customers that supported me for the last 12 years. I could not have realized my dream without your support."

The pet food store offers a variety of natural dog and cat foods and wellness products. Huerta and Oaks plan to add more raw foods and to continue offering events to assist pets and their owners, including some done virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oaks and Huerta, who have rescued two dogs, Loki and Archie, have heard many people talk about how Teel helped improve their pets' health.

"She (Teel) really focused on education," Oaks said. "Rhonda did an incredible job. She left really big shoes to fill. She also left us a base of really happy and loyal customers."

Fetch Natural Pet Foods is open



Aaron Oaks and his wife Raquel Huerta, pictured here with their dogs Loki and Archie, recently bought Kodi's Natural Pet Foods, which they have renamed Fetch Natural Pet Foods (submitted photo).

from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays. To learn more, visit kodisnaturalpetfoods.com.

Business Briefs

Greater Phoenix Chamber seeks nominees for awards

The Greater Phoenix Chamber is looking for nominations for its 2021 IMPACT Awards, honors given to outstanding organizations that have made a positive impact in the Valley.

The Chamber has recognized companies that adopt community involvement, contribute to the Valley's economic vitality and growth, or work to innovate and advocate for Arizona. It encourages community members to nominate businesses they believe are worthy of the distinctions or their own business. The awards are for companies that have headquarters in or have a major presence in Arizona.

Two businesses, one of which that has 250 employees or fewer and one with more than 250 workers, will be honored in each of four categories: Arizona Advocate, Community Champion, Economic Driver and Exceptional Innovator. An IMPACT Business of the Year also will be chosen from those four category recipients and will be announced on May 13 at the 34th Annual IMPACT Awards.

please see AWARDS on page 18

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

AWARDS continued from page 16

Nominations can come from anyone in the community and must be filed by Wednesday, Jan. 8. They can be made through the Chamber's website, phoenixchamber.com.

Boost health, unwind at new acupuncture studio

Lesley Johnsen has opened MindfulLIFE acupuncture at 99 E. Virginia Ave., Suite 170. In practice since 2009, Johnsen offers Traditional Chinese acupuncture, based on the "Five-Element" model, so named for the elements of nature: wood, fire, Earth, metal and water. She said this type of acupuncture "spends a lot of time seeking the root causes of a malady from a spiritual level."

Johnsen said acupuncture provides many health benefits, including pain management and resolution of digestive disturbances, migraines, allergies, insomnia and immune function problems. Johnsen said it also provides psycho-spiritual support and enhances fertility.

The initial treatment session lasts

about 90 minutes and includes a physical exam, a comprehensive review of health history and acupuncture for \$120. Subsequent sessions last about one hour and cost \$85. Johnsen offers a 10-percent discount for pre-paid treatment packages that provide three sessions and a 15-percent reduction in costs for pre-paid packages of five sessions. A sliding scale is available for fees for those who need it.

MindfulLIFE acupuncture is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays to Fridays and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. To make an appointment, visit mindfullifeacupuncture.com or call 480-717-7838.

Natural, clean skincare delivered at new business

Bams Beauty Skin Care Boutique opened recently at 5121 N. Central Ave., Suite B, in the Windsor Square Historic District. Owner Beth Ann Marrero offers oxygen facials, waxing, eyebrow and eyelash tinting, acne treatment, LED light therapy, Rhonda Allison professional peels and "man-scaping" for men. The salon also fea-

tures a full line of Rhonda Allison professional skincare products.

Marrero has more than 20 years of skincare, hands-on experience and more than 600 hours of formal training at the Lia Schorr Institute of Cosmetic Skin Care. She is certified in microdermabrasion, dermaplaning, collagen and nano needling therapy, oxygen infusion, cryotherapy, LED light therapies, medical-grade peels and advanced waxing.

In order to keep clients safe, Marrero has implemented an appointment-only schedule with no waiting room. Customers should wear a face mask when entering the studio and Marrero also wears a mask.

To learn more, visit vagar.com/us03/bamsbeauty.

Take a spin on dance floor at new studio

Put on your dancing shoes and learn some new moves at a new dance studio in North Central.

DanceWise Dance Studio opened in October at 5555 N. 7th St., Suite 112. Husband-and-wife owners Paul and Julianne Daniells have worked as dance

teachers for about eight years in the Valley and have competed in ballroom dance competitions around the world.

Students from beginners to advanced dancers can take classes in waltz, tango, fox trot, samba, mambo and cha-cha-cha, among other ballroom dance styles. Group and private lessons are available and students do not need to bring a partner.

To protect the safety of everyone in the studio due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students will learn moves and practice on their own, not with partners, for now. Students and employees are required to wear face masks in the studio. Class sizes are limited.

The school also offers Zumba classes at 9 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and 11 a.m. on Saturdays for \$5 per class. Group classes in ballroom dance are generally \$10 per class. New students can take advantage of a deal, where they spend \$59 to participate in three, private dance lessons. Normally it would cost \$85 each for private lessons.

To learn more, visit dancewiseaz.com or call 602-493-6595.

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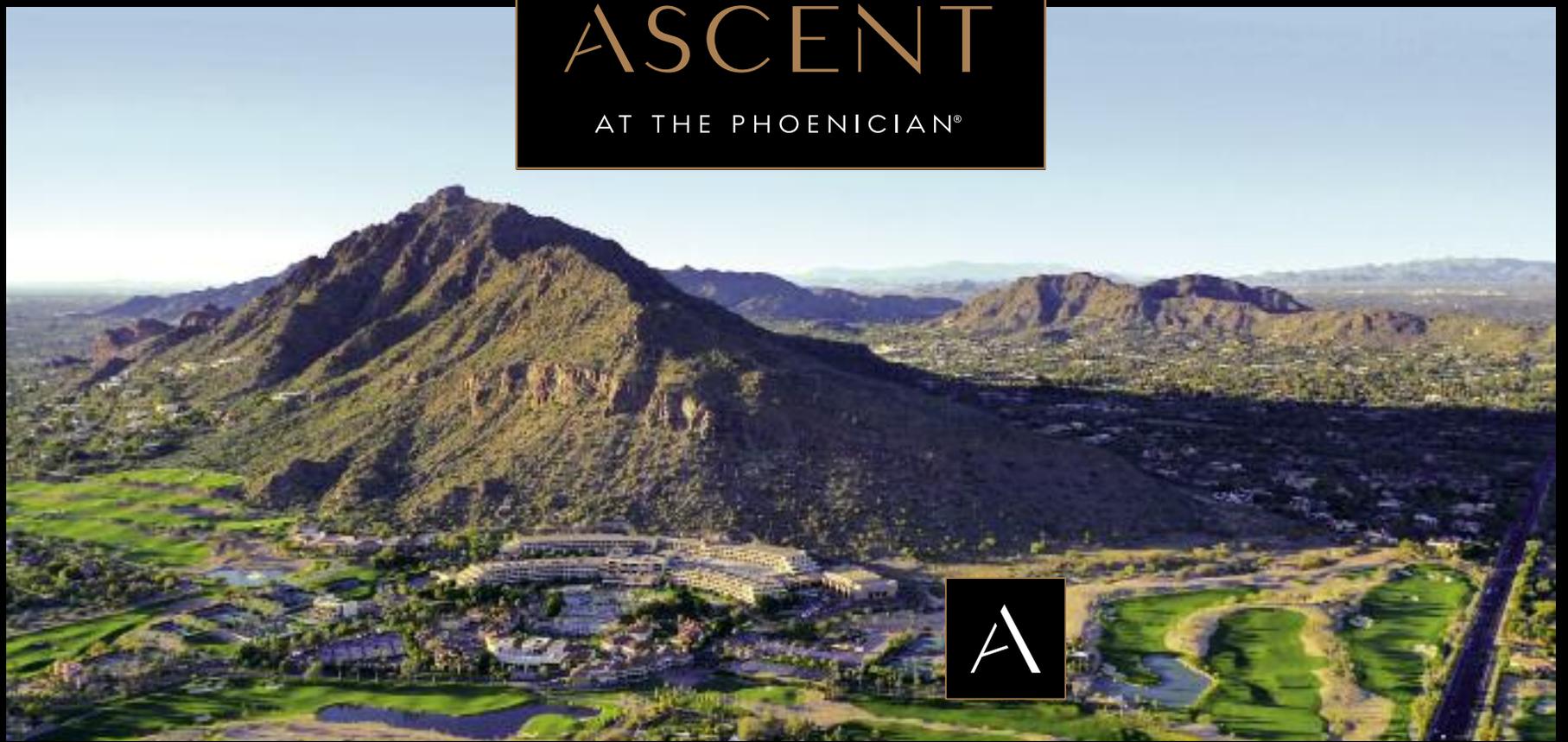
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6035 N Central Ave.....	In Escrow	8048SF	6BR/6.5BA	\$3,900,000
2240 E Georgia Ave.....	In Escrow	4482SF	5BR/4.5BA	\$1,999,999
5726 N 2nd Ave.....	In Escrow	4213SF	5BR/3BA	\$1,595,000
17 W Sierra Vista Dr	Just Listed	4670SF	4BR/3.5BA	\$1,495,000
7151 N 3rd St	In Escrow	4250SF	5BR/4BA	\$1,450,000
210 E Cactus Wren	In Escrow	4900SF	5BR/4.5BA	\$1,350,000
2939 N Manor Dr W	In Escrow	4721SF	5BR/4BA	\$1,350,000
10436 N Central Ave.....		3082SF	4BR/3.5BA	\$ 975,000
5501 E Beryl Ave	In Escrow	2996SF	4BR/2.5BA	\$ 949,000
3146 E Maryland Ave.....	In Escrow	2925SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 899,900
1300 W Myrtle Ave	In Escrow	3581SF	4BR/3.5BA	\$ 875,000
8051 N 15th Ave.....	In Escrow	3583SF	4BR/4BA	\$ 799,000
1345 E Missouri Ave	Just Listed	3205SF	4BR/3.5BA	\$ 695,000
340 E Osborn Rd #3.....	New Construction	2441SF	3BR/3.5BA	\$ 695,000
340 E Osborn Rd #4.....	New Construction	2441SF	3BR/3.5BA	\$ 695,000
340 E Osborn Rd #1.....	New Construction	2255SF	3BR/3.5BA	\$ 650,000
340 E Osborn Rd #2.....	New Construction	2255SF	3BR/3.5BA	\$ 650,000
15368 N 18th St	In Escrow	3529SF	4BR/3.5BA	\$ 650,000
8710 N 6th Dr	In Escrow	1534SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 485,000
902 E Rovey Ave	In Escrow	1300SF	3BR/1.75BA	\$ 459,000
1025 E Denton Ln	In Escrow	1896SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 459,000
7747 N 13th St.....	In Escrow	1668SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 399,900
1102 W Glendale Ave #114	In Escrow	2103SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 363,000
1002 E Northern Ave	In Escrow	1304SF	3BR/1.5BA	\$ 214,900



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Featured Homes for December



1345 E. Missouri Ave. • \$695,000



340 E. Osborn Rd. #2 • \$650,000



340 E. Osborn Rd. #4 • \$695,000



8710 N. 6th Dr. • \$485,000



1102 W. Glendale Ave. #114 • \$363,000



902 E. Rovey • \$459,000



7747 N. 13th St. • \$399,900



1025 E. Denton Ln. • \$459,000



1005 E. Northern Ave. • \$214,900

88 homes SOLD in 2020 and 20 properties currently in escrow. Call me to discuss your real estate needs and the value of your home. 602.376.1341. I work 7 days a week and am always available to help.

SOLD HOMES FOR 2020

2205 E Colter St \$4,100,000	4714 E Lewis Ave \$ 812,000	517 W. Lamar Rd. \$ 600,000	6118 N 9th Ave \$ 475,000	7330 N 11th St \$ 330,000
5450 E Arcadia Ln \$2,500,000	34920 N 23rd Ln \$ 810,000	216 E Keim Dr \$ 600,000	1312 W Georgia Ave \$ 445,000	732 W. Pierson St. \$ 301,000
7020 N. Wilder Rd..... \$2,400,000	5112 N. 34th Pl. \$ 784,000	724 E Claremont St \$ 599,900	1525 W Vernon Ave \$ 445,000	1124 E. Rose Ln. #6 \$ 255,000
5600 N 4th St \$2,001,000	719 W Claremont St \$ 769,000	202 E Berridge Ln \$ 595,000	6302 N. 11th St. \$ 439,900	350 W Maryland Ave \$ 239,000
6020 E. Doubletree Ranch Rd. . \$1,860,000	6522 N 14th St \$ 750,000	5125 N 34th Pl \$ 595,000	8145 N 13th Pl \$ 434,000	8225 N Central Ave #15 \$ 238,500
8255 N 18th St \$1,175,000	1512 W Palmyra \$ 710,000	1516 W. Winter Dr. \$ 585,000	3137 E Hazelwood St \$ 426,250	507 W Beverly Ln \$ 327,650
6611 N Central Ave..... \$1,175,000	1439 E Echo Ln \$ 750,000	6217 N 7th Ave \$ 575,000	6811 N 11th Ave \$ 420,000	4808 N 24th St #705 \$ 325,000
9824 N 53rd Pl \$1,700,000	126 W. North Ln. \$ 748,840	77 E Missouri Ave #37 \$ 575,000	1711 E Solano Dr \$ 420,000	1102 W Glendale Ave #102 \$ 304,000
10825 N 55th St \$1,275,000	1441 E Missouri Ave \$ 740,000	701 W Las Palmaritas \$ 568,000	1902 E Coolidge St \$ 415,000	3346 N 28th St \$ 289,000
321 E. Pomona Rd. \$1,250,000	1002 E Kaler Dr..... \$ 726,000	4430 N.22nd St. #13 \$ 550,000	3120 E Coolidge \$ 400,000	8008 N Central Ave #10 \$ 275,000
816 E Circle Rd \$1,120,000	544 E Belmont Ave \$ 699,000	11 W Cheryl Dr \$ 550,000	7340 N. 11th St..... \$ 400,000	1411 E Orangewood #230 \$ 265,000
3611 E Mariposa St \$1,050,000	3824 E Melody Dr \$ 690,000	14 E Laurie Ln \$ 530,000	6163 N 28th Pl \$ 399,000	3302 N 7th St #120 \$ 208,000
9904 E. Quarry Trail \$1,050,000	505 E Missouri Ave \$ 688,000	4827 E Weldon Ave \$ 529,900	3015 E Coolidge #6 \$ 385,000	100 W Maryland Ave N1 \$ 190,000
245 E Ashwood Pl \$ 990,000	5301 N. 6th St. \$ 675,000	534 W. El Camino Dr. \$ 515,000	1810 W Butler Dr \$ 370,000	6240 N 16th St #34 \$ 187,400
2214 E San Juan Ave \$ 975,000	6621 N 14th Pl \$ 675,000	1611 N 11th Ave \$ 512,000	720 W. Thunderbird Rd. \$ 369,000	750 E. Northern Ave. #2003 ... \$ 147,000
815 E Circle Rd..... \$ 975,000	3853 E. Crittenden Ln. \$ 675,000	27525 N 113th Pl \$ 510,000	509 W. Missouri Ave. \$ 339,800	1525 E Cortez Lot \$ 65,000
6312 N 4th Pl \$ 930,000	412 E. McLellan Blvd. \$ 659,000	6811 N 11th Pl \$ 505,000	1102 W Glendale Ave #125 \$ 369,000	
11 W San Juan Ave \$ 900,000	1404 W Gardenia Ave \$ 655,000	6050 N. 10th Pl. \$ 502,500	1636 E Cactus Wren Dr \$ 365,000	
209 W. Lamar Rd. \$ 860,000	902 W Claremont St \$ 610,000	1133 E Gardenia Ave \$ 475,000	4301 N. 21st St. #61 \$ 335,000	



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HEALTHY LIVING

Health Briefs

Banner restricts visitors due to COVID-19 spike

Due to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases, visitors will no longer be allowed in any Banner Health location in Arizona, effective Sunday, November 22. This includes outpatient and ambulatory locations, such as clinics, urgent cares, imaging centers, surgery centers and occupational health services locations.

There are four exceptions to the visitor restrictions. Pediatric patients (under the age of 18) may have one guardian or support individual with them. Laboring mothers may have one support person with them. Doulas will also be permitted but must leave after the birth. Persons with disabilities who, due to the specifics of the disability, require assistance from someone in order to effectively participate in the healthcare process will be allowed to designate a support person to accompany them while in any Banner

facility. End of life visitations will be accommodated.

Everyone who enters a Banner Health facility is subject to a health screening to ensure they are not exhibiting symptoms of respiratory illness. In addition, they must have their own mask, which should be worn at all times while inside Banner facilities.

For more information visit <https://www.bannerhealth.com>.

Expert offers tips to help kids around holidays

The holidays might be more stressful for children as they have been dealing with anxiety and disruptions in their schedules because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Danielle Sink, chief medical officer at Bayless Integrated Healthcare, said signs of stress may include children not sleeping or appearing withdrawn. Teenagers might be more easily irritated, as many youths are taking classes online with uncer-

tainty about what is ahead.

Sink recommends you acknowledge the grief your children are experiencing, including fun times with their friends and the loss of sports and other after-school activities. She suggests you set a daily routine to provide “a sense of control, predictability, calm and well-being.”

You should provide reassurance in an honest and loving way, allowing your children’s questions to guide you as far as how many details you share about what is going on, Sink said.

Sink suggests you engage your kids in a game, hobby, television show or other activity you can share with them. She recommends you teach your children and teens to give thanks daily for good things that have happened.

Sink urges parents to take care of themselves and to ask for help when they need it. Also, if your children’s symptoms or behavior seem out of character for them, contact your family physician or look for professional counseling services.

COVID-19 testing offered at many locations

North Central residents, who are urged to stay vigilant when it comes to trying to prevent the spread of COVID-19, can take advantage of one of the many places to get tested in the area.

The Arizona Department of Health Services reported an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases recently. There were 250,633 reported Coronavirus cases in Arizona and 6,059 deaths tied to the virus, as of Nov. 4, the department reported. The percent positivity around the state, which relays information about community spread, increased from 3.9 percent to 5.5 percent over a time period of a few weeks in October, according to the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Many COVID-19 testing sites have been set up in the area, including one that will be open from 7 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 5 at Orangewood Elementary School, which is at 7337 N. 19th Ave. Register ahead of time for test-

What is depression?

It is estimated that more than 17 million adults in the United States (7.1%) experience at least one episode of major depression each year. Additionally, over 2 million adolescents aged 12-17 experience a major depressive episode each year. Most concerning is that 35% of adults and 60% of adolescents did not receive treatment.

When you have depression, you may feel sad, empty, helpless, or hopeless almost every day, and the feelings generally last all day long for at least two weeks. It is normal to feel sad or anxious from time to time, but the feelings that come with depression are much stronger and persistent than the “ups and downs” of everyday life. Depression may happen in a single episode or be a recurrent condition throughout youth and adulthood.

Feelings of major depression usually interfere with day-to-day activities with your family, school, at work, or in other social situations. Sometimes depression involves irritability, and may also cause physical symptoms such as fatigue, sleep difficulties, and weight changes. In severe cases, depression can also cause hopelessness, isolation and suicidal thoughts.

The good news is that depression often responds to treatment with medication and/or therapy. At Uptown Psychiatry, we will start by having a real conversation about the way you are feeling and talk about treatment options that best fit your needs. We want to help you live your best life!

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ing at equalityhealthfoundation.org/covid19 or by texting “FREE TEST” to 31996 or by calling 888-587-3647.

Walgreens also provides drive-through COVID-19 testing at many sites, including its store at 8030 N. 19th Ave. You have to answer some questions to see if you are eligible for the test, then make an appointment online. To do the screening and make an appointment, visit walgreens.com/findcare/covid19/testing.

CVS also is offering Coronavirus testing at many of its locations, including at 6002 N. 7th St. and at its store at 711 E. Indian School Road. To make an appointment for a test and find a location near you, visit cvs.com.

For more information, visit azdhs.gov.

Valleywise Health opens another medical center

Valleywise Health has opened Valleywise Community Health Center – North Phoenix at 2025 W. Northern Ave. The new center replaces a location on Hatcher Road and current patients will be transitioned to the Northern Avenue facility.

The 26,000-square-foot medical center provides primary and pediatric care, as well as OB/GYN services, radiology and behavioral health visits. It offers in-person and telehealth appointments; in-person visits are conducted in accordance with all COVID-19 pandemic guidelines. The center also offers on-site laboratory services and a pharmacy.

To learn more, visit valleywise-health.org.

Banner Health expert says pandemic fatigue is normal

If you are feeling exhausted or burned out due to the COVID-19 pandemic, you are not alone.

So says Banner Health, which adds it is easy to feel drained because of all the news about the virus and the need to add new rules to your daily routine, including wearing masks in public and social distancing. At the beginning of the pandemic, many people felt some urgency related to Coronavirus and did what they could to stay home and slow the spread of the virus. However, today that feeling of urgency might have decreased.

Pandemic fatigue is a feeling of exhaustion because of the pandemic's effect on our lives, including quarantining, losing jobs and the fears of

becoming sick.

A psychiatrist at Banner Behavioral Health Hospital in Scottsdale, Dr. Gagandeep Singh, said because everyone sees so much information about COVID-19 in the news they begin to ignore it. Those feelings can lead to relaxing the rules and downplaying the current risks associated with the virus.

Singh suggests that people remind themselves that there is a purpose behind washing their hands, wearing a mask and staying home. Also, it is important for people to realize they have control over their actions and can do their part to slow the spread. Singh said though the pandemic is a serious issue, it is okay to laugh. Laughing releases endorphins and helps decrease stress.

Other ways to cope include connecting with friends and family through virtual calls, socially distanced gatherings outdoors and Netflix parties. Letters and socially distanced walks or hikes with friends are other ways to feel linked to others. Singh said it is good to find gratitude during challenging times, including writing down three things that were positive every day.

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Xavier's junior varsity volleyball team collected entertaining items for hospitalized children. Pictured here are (front row, from left): Anna Panagiotakopoulos, a coach, and student-athletes Callie Ehman, Tatum Kramer and Rylee Elias; (middle row, from left): students Abby Gliss, Kaelyn Putz, Riley Ward, Reese Bozak, Kaira Burrage and Julia Popolizio, team manager; and (back row, from left): Jenny Scott, coach; and students Ava Larkin, Noelle Peterson, Trinity Tran, Camilla Cornejo-Farmer and Ella Dickson (photo courtesy of Xavier College Preparatory).

Xavier volleyball team delivers goodies to kids

Xavier College Preparatory's junior varsity volleyball team is serving up sunshine in the lives of children who are experiencing health issues.

The team recently worked with The Jared Box to collect toys, games, crayons, coloring books and other fun activities for children in the hospital. This effort was named for Jared, the first young recipient of donations. Xavier volleyball players took in enough items to fill 20 boxes, which were delivered to child patients around the Valley.

Noelle Peterson, a sophomore outside hitter and captain of the JV volleyball team, said the outreach "was a great opportunity for our team."

"I am happy to know that they will have smiles on their faces during such a hard time," Noelle said.

Her teammate, Kaira Burrage, a freshman and outside hitter, said it is "important to spread happiness and focus on the positive things in life." Kaira added that the activity helped her learn "to be more grateful for the simple things in my life like my health." Tatum Kramer, a sophomore and middle blocker on the team, said she really enjoyed making the boxes for the children as it "gave me an opportunity to make a difference in their day."

Jared Boxes offer a diversion for young patients staying in the emergency room, patients' rooms, cancer care center, surgical centers and other

medical centers where they receive medical treatment and tests. The boxes aim to calm patients' nerves, boost their spirits and to let them know someone cares about them.

School Briefs

GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Ten Sunnyslope seniors are 'commended students'

Sunnyslope High Principal Jonathan Parker recently announced the names of 10 seniors who were named Commended Students in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Program. They are Peter Eng, Isaac Humrich, John Lemke, Dylan Lifshitz, Katelyn McCarthy, Eleanor McHugh, Colter Niezgodzki, Samantha Parker, Kylie Stenke and Lily Zello. A Letter of Commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which runs the program, were given to these scholastically strong seniors.

About 34,000 Commended Students around the country are being honored for their excellent academic promise.

District honors outstanding WHS student, adults

The Glendale Union High School District governing board recently announced recipients of the 2019-20 Achievement Above All awards. The district regularly recognizes a teacher,



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SCHOOL DAYS

student, student group, support staff employee and volunteer from each school who demonstrate excellent leadership and outstanding accomplishments and ongoing dedication to their school and the district.

The board held a virtual event in late October to honor Washington High English teacher Jessica Hewlett, senior student Devonte Rushdan, the Washington Student Council, counseling secretary Luisa Banos and volunteers Mario Estrada and Darla Rodriguez. Each honoree received an award and/or certificate.

Sunnyslope High teacher earns national honor

Sunnyslope High School science teacher Pandora Linnartz recently received the University of Chicago’s “Outstanding Educator Award,” which honors a teacher’s role in and positive impact on a student’s educational success. Sunnyslope High 2020 graduate and National Merit Scholarship recipient Alexis Hatch, who attends the University of Chicago, nominated Linnartz for this distinction.

Every year newly admitted UChicago students have the chance to nominate a teacher who played a significant part in their education, made a positive impact in their lives and whose influence led them to where they are today.

All award winners obtain a commemorative award, certificate and letter with details from the student who nominated them for the honor.

Washington High 1970 grads donate to school

It has been decades since they graduated from Washington High School, but the class of 1970 is still showing support for their campus in the form of a donation.

The class of 1970, which canceled its 50th class reunion due to the COVID-19 pandemic, donated the money that it would have used for the reunion to Washington High. The donation was presented along with a certificate of appreciation to Washington High Principal Ashley Burns.

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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The end of the year is fast approaching and there is time to plan your child’s education for 2021 and beyond.

Applications for open enrollment are being taken starting at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 1 for the Madison Elementary School District. If your family lives within the district’s boundaries, you should check out a school boundary map to view the elementary or middle school in your attendance area. Parents who live in the district’s boundaries who prefer to send their children to a school in the Madison district can apply online by visiting madisonaz.org. The first deadline to apply through open enrollment is Jan. 25.

please see ENROLLMENT on page 26



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SCHOOL DAYS

ENROLLMENT continued from page 25

Whether you have children in the district or you just want to support local education, you can make a tax-credit donation to Madison Elementary School District anytime. The Tax Credit program allows everyone who files an income tax return with the state of Arizona the chance to obtain a tax credit for donating to extracurricular activities. These tax credit contributions support extracurricular and character education programs in the Madison district.

Married couples filing their tax returns jointly can claim up to \$400 when they make a tax-credit donation. Single people, heads of households and married couples filing separately are able to claim up to \$200 when they give to the tax-credit program. For every dollar donated, the taxpayer will see the amount owed on annual Arizona tax filing directly decreased up to the maximum amount. If you do not owe taxes then the amount you donate can be carried forward for up to five years to offset future tax liabilities. The



Students in the Madison Adventure Club (MAC) at Madison Park Middle School made “lightbulbs” decorated with stencils, stickers, glitter and other materials during the national Lights On Afterschool event. Site coordinator Ryan Escarsega (far left, front row) and club leader Gus Lopez (far right) are pictured here with several student club members (photo courtesy of Madison Elementary School District).

donations can be used for any school-sponsored activities that require students to pay a fee in order to take part in them including field trips, enrichment activities, after-school clubs and sports and fine arts programs.

To learn how to donate, visit madisonaz.org/Page/289.

Students get creative in after-school program

The district’s Community Education Department celebrated Lights On Afterschool week recently in all its Madison Adventure Club (MAC) before- and after-school programs. Since March MAC has been assisting the com-

munity by offering quality, participatory experiences with enhanced health and safety measures. MAC has served 678 students on average per week since schools reopened for in-person learning Oct. 13, as of the end of November.

During the event, MAC students at Madison Park Middle School decorated “Lights On” paper “lightbulbs” with stencils, stickers, glitter and glue. Club members at Madison Heights Elementary School participated in a recycled marble run activity. The students crafted their designs using cardboard tubes, Styrofoam and wooden blocks.

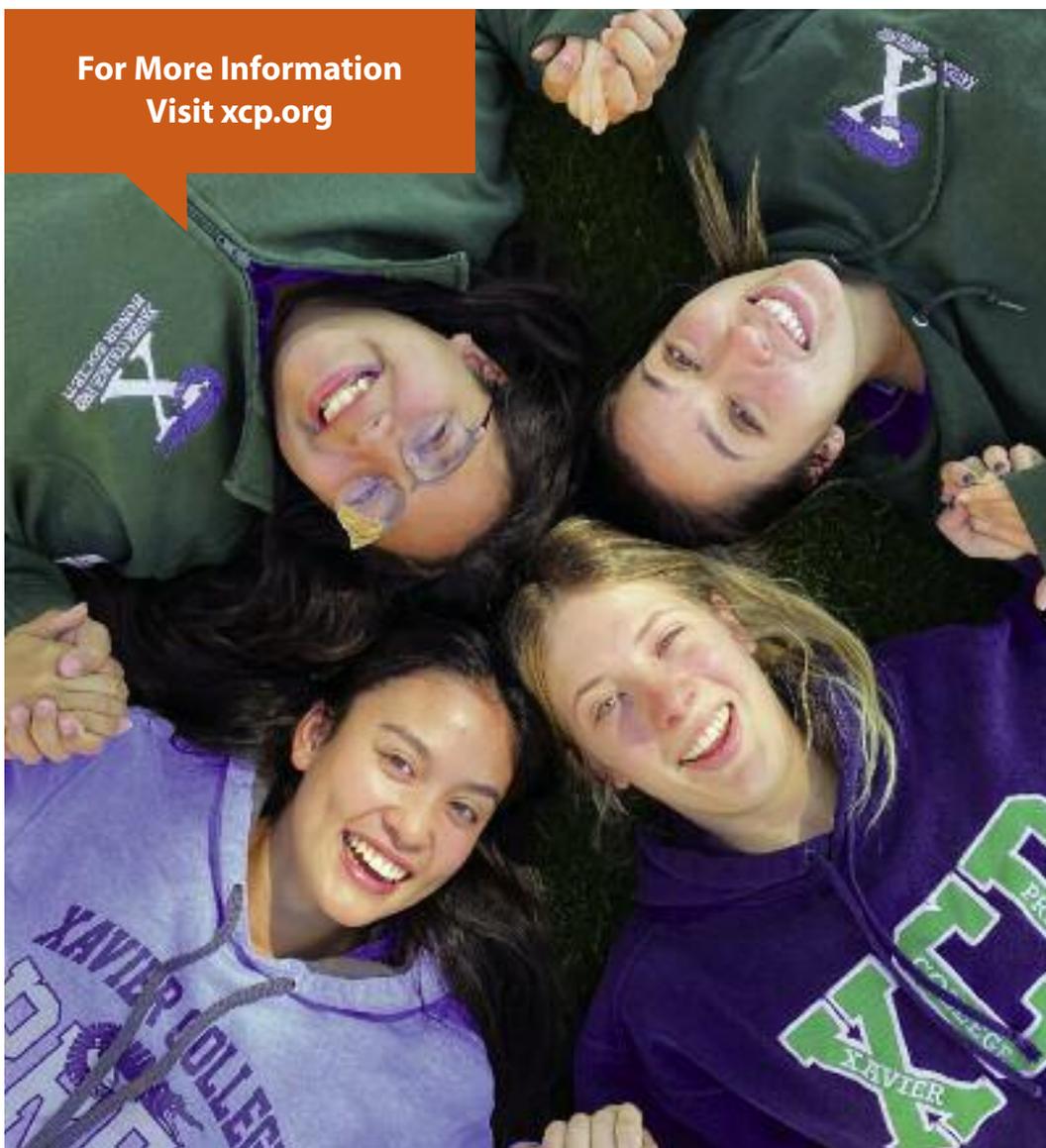
OSBORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nutritional award tastes good for Osborn district

Students are sinking their teeth into garden-based lessons that earned the Osborn Child Nutrition Department the “Gold Watermelon” award during the Arizona Department of Education’s Farm to School Summer Challenge.

In order to be considered for the honor, contestants had to complete

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SCHOOL DAYS



Students at Camelback High School participated in a recent "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" event. Pictured here are students (from left): Perla Sanchez, Emma Bretado, Evalynn Chavez, Cireana Garcia and Janezah Aparicio (submitted photo).

three components: Taste Arizona, Teach Arizona and Connect Arizona, which involved using locally sourced meal components in educational activities. The department also shared social media posts about the Farm Fresh Challenge Celebrations.

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Camelback students support Cancer Society

Camelback High School students showed their spirit of service despite the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic presents. The school was one of many stops participants made over three hours during the "Strides Ride," which is part of the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" event that was held in October.

This American Cancer Society fundraiser is usually a walk but due to the Coronavirus crisis it was changed to a vehicle gathering, where participants drove their cars on a fixed route one morning.

Camelback High opened the south side of its school and volunteers, including the school's girls volleyball team, greeted and cheered for cancer survivors. The survivors were given gifts and a drone was used to take a survivors' photo to allow them to socially distance themselves from others.

The event drew just under 1,000 people, who physically traveled to the different spots and virtually participated, including 50 survivors who came to Camelback High. More than \$400,000 was raised for breast cancer initiatives, including helping Arizona breast cancer survivors.

Freshmen class thrives in Camelback High 'house'

Freshmen at Camelback High School are excelling through a new model to transition ninth-graders to high school called "The Freshman House." Through this system, the freshmen class is divided into smaller "houses" that allow students to develop

please see HOUSE on page 28

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SCHOOL DAYS

HOUSE continued from page 27

a “sense of belonging” and connection with their peers, teachers and the school as a whole.

All Camelback ninth-graders received a set of earbuds to mark their first quarter of high school. Virtual assemblies have been held and “house MVP” students have been recognized for doing exceptional work. According to Camelback principal James Arndt, 70 percent of the ninth graders are passing all their classes, as of press time. Camelback’s freshmen class has nearly 80 more students than the ninth-grade class last academic year.

Students at Camelback and the other schools in the Phoenix Union High School District have been holding classes online/virtually this semester due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS Brophy to host spiritual retreat

Brophy College Preparatory students are invited to step away from

their daily lives to participate in a retreat this month.

The Ignatian Spiritual Retreat will take place from 4 to 4:45 p.m. and then the Mass will be celebrated from 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 17, in Brophy Chapel at 4701 N. Central Ave. Brophy President Adria Renke and Brother Bryce Deline, SJ, will serve as spiritual guides during the retreat, and Father George Wanser, S.J., associate pastor, will celebrate the Mass.

Students are asked to RSVP early because space is limited to 60 participants to allow for adequate social distancing. To RSVP, visit brophyprep.org.

Holiday spirit in full force at Midtown Primary School

The holiday bustle and spirit of giving are in play at Midtown Primary School, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Midtown Primary participates in a program that involves gingerbread men rather than angels on a tree to assist families that need help obtaining gifts for their children. Staff members, neighbors, friends, churches and board members “adopt” children who need assistance. They are already lining up, planning to make sure that each child has at least one outfit and a toy under the tree this season. Parents will pick up the gifts from the school, bring them home and wrap them for their children.

Midtown will host its traditional Winter Fest with holiday games, crafts projects and other activities on Friday, Dec. 11. This gathering will be modified slightly to allow for social distancing.

The school’s Annual Christmas Performance also is being altered due to the pandemic. Each class will perform two holiday songs that will be reconfigured into a collage that will be put on CDs, which will be given to each family.

Any child in the community can obtain free food over the winter holiday break from Midtown, which will serve food boxes that include snacks and dinners for children ages 18 and younger from 3 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays and from 3 to 5 p.m. Fridays at Park Lee Apartments’ clubhouse at 1600 W. Highland Ave. Midtown sponsors these meals every week and will continue with the service through the winter vacation and afterward. The school provides a week’s worth of snacks and dinners, delivered over the two days.



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Child Find Notice

It is the Madison School District’s responsibility to inform the general public and all parents within our boundaries of our responsibility to make available special education services for students with disabilities aged 3 through 15 years and how to access those services. In addition, we have a responsibility to provide information regarding early intervention services for children birth through 2 years.

We are responsible for identifying, locating, and evaluating all children with disabilities including children aged 3 through 15 and for referring children from birth through 2 years of age to Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) for evaluation and appropriate services.

We are also responsible for providing a free and appropriate public education (FAPE), which includes special education and related services to children with disabilities at public expense, under public supervision and direction without charge to the parents.

For all new students to the district, the classroom teacher will complete screening activities within 45 days of enrollment. The teacher will look at the child’s ability in the areas of academics, vision, hearing, communication, social/emotional, and motor skills. If any concerns are noted, the child may be referred for additional help.

Children birth through 2 years of age who are receiving early intervention services and will be participating in preschool programs for children with disabilities will be assured of a smooth transition into that program.

If you have any concerns about a child you know, please contact Madison School District’s Student Services Department at (602) 664-7927 or the school in which those boundaries you reside.



GENERATIONS

Senior Living Take steps to alleviate grief around holidays

The winter holidays can be challenging for anyone, especially those who are grieving the loss of a loved one but Hospice of the Valley can help.

The organization will offer a free Zoom presentation, “Mindfulness Practices for Easing the Stress of the Season” from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10. Maribeth Gallagher, Hospice of the Valley’s Dementia Program director who is a psychiatric nurse practitioner and a mindfulness instructor, will lead the presentation. Gallagher will discuss using mindfulness to manage challenges in healthy ways.

Lin Sue Cooney, community engagement director at Hospice of the Valley, said the COVID-19 pandemic “is likely to intensify feelings of loss” as families often are unable to attend traditional, large gatherings. Grief experts rec-

ommend people “take it easy” and abandon perfection while also asking people for help during this difficult time.

Cooney said experts recommend saying “no” to things that increase your stress. Another way to cope with feelings of loss is to make oneself a priority. Cooney suggests people decide what they really want to do this year, not what others think they ought to be doing. She recommends people get sufficient sleep, practice relaxation techniques and engage in exercise. Cooney also advises people to honor and acknowledge their loved ones who died.

Find lots of “holiday survivorship skills” in Hospice of the Valley’s free booklet, “Coping with Grief During the Holidays.” You can request a copy by emailing bhawes@hov.org. To view the Zoom presentation on Dec. 10, visit hov.zoom.us/j/92896300757 and enter meeting ID number 928-9630-0757, passcode 406925. To learn more about Hospice of the Valley, visit hov.org.

Seniors can receive entertainment discounts

Seniors can enjoy lots of savings that local businesses offer.

The Arizona Science Center at 600 E. Washington St. provides free general admission to anyone ages 62 and older on the first Sunday of every month. You need to bring your driver’s license, passport or identification card with you on the day you visit the center. Learn more at azscience.org/visit/offers-promotions.

You can also take advantage of discounts at the Heard Museum, which is at 2301 N. Central Ave. It costs \$12 for general public tickets for those 65 and older, compared to the price of \$15 for adults ages 18 to 64. For more information, visit heard.org.

If you are looking for clothes, home décor, furniture, knickknacks or other items at Goodwill you can catch deals every Tuesday, which is Senior Day at Goodwill of Central and Northern

Arizona stores. Shoppers ages 55 and older can save 25-percent off their purchases on donated items. Goodwill has many retail stores in the Valley including one at 725 W. Indian School Road. To learn more, visit goodwillaz.org.

Another store where seniors can catch lots of deals is The White Dove Thrift Shoppe, a Hospice of the Valley operation with several locations, including one at 2711 E. Indian School Road. Anyone ages 55 and older can obtain 25-percent off items sold at the thrift store every Monday.

The White Dove Thrift Shoppes sell many treasures including gently used clothes, furniture, appliances, electronics, housewares, jewelry and art. If you enjoy the vibe, The White Dove Thrift Shoppe is hiring paid full-time and part-time associates. Hospice of the Valley also is looking for unpaid volunteers for the White Dove stores. To apply for a job at The White Thrift Shoppe and to learn about volunteer opportunities, visit hov.org.

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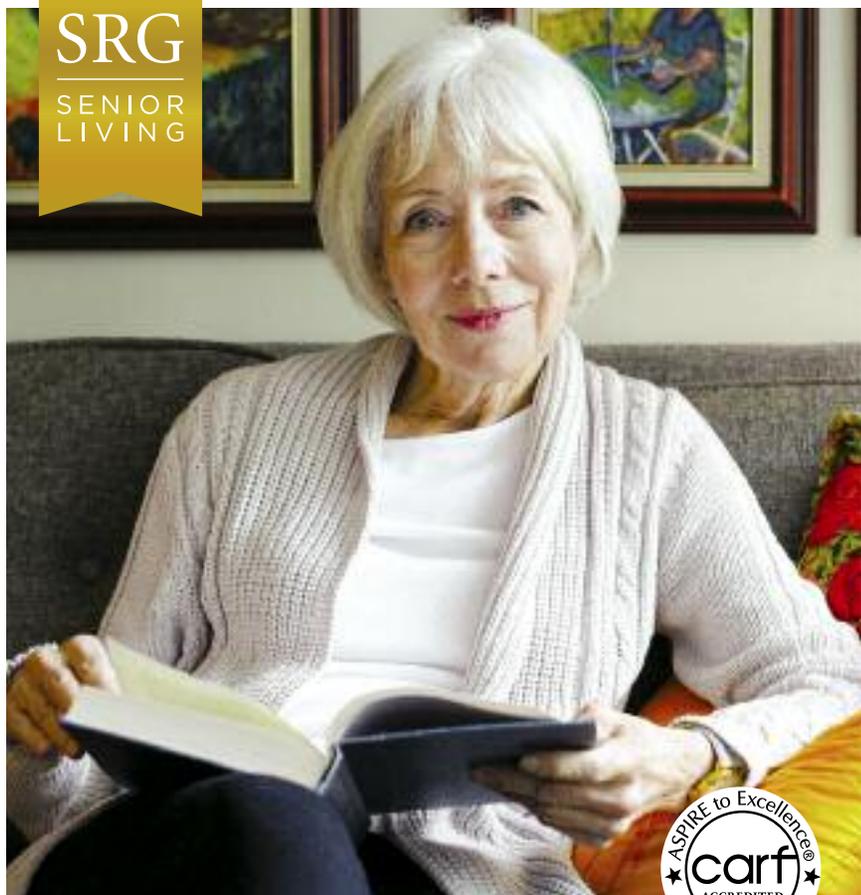
- Sanitizing high-contact areas more frequently
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GENERATIONS



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Kids & Families

Boy Scouts selling holiday trees

The COVID-19 pandemic is not slowing down members of Boy Scout Troop 41, who recently took a trip and are now selling winter holiday trees.

The Scouts are participating in the 71st Annual Christmas Tree Sale from 5 to 9 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 1104 E. Northern Ave. You can buy Noble and Douglas trees, cut from a farm in Oregon. The tree sales allow the Boy Scouts to take a summer trip outside of Arizona.

This troop, which has 34 members ages 11 to 17, has been meeting virtually/online during the pandemic. About 17 people – Boy Scouts and their parents – recently went camping in Payson for a weekend, where they fished, learned to tie knots and completed First Aid activities. Some boys completed activities to earn rank advancements, which they receive by meeting various challenges.

To learn more about Boy Scout Troop 41, visit facebook.com/BSATroop41AZ or email Scoutmaster Brian Cook at bsatroop41@scoutmaster@gmail.com.

Kids can play sports, games at Camp Hubbard

Hubbard Family Swim School offers children a place to play sports, engage in games and socialize over winter break.

Camp Hubbard will offer thrills and exercise to youths ages 4 to 12 from Monday, Dec. 21 to Wednesday, Dec. 23 and from Monday, Dec. 28 to Wednesday, Dec. 30 at Paradise Valley Christian Preparatory School at 11875 N. 24th St. There is a full-day camp option from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and half-day sessions from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$60 per day for a full day and \$45 a day for the half-day choice. Camp Hubbard will open its doors for the day at 8 a.m.

Kids will play basketball, volleyball, soccer and other field sports and participate in archery and games. Children do not need to have any athletic skills or experience to enjoy the camp. The goal during the camp is to teach and guide each child according to their ability while making the activities rewarding.

To register your child for Camp Hubbard, visit camphubbardaz.com.

Library changes curbside pickup hours

Check out books for yourself and your family and then pick them up curbside at most of the Phoenix Public Library locations.

The city’s libraries offer evening curbside hours from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The service allows you to borrow books, DVDs and other items contact-free during the pandemic. Phoenix Public Library provides curbside service at 16 city branch locations. It is not available at South Mountain Community Library, but customers who would ordinarily access that branch can pick up their held items at Ocotillo Library.

Anyone who has a current Phoenix Public Library account can use curbside service. The first step is to reserve materials by visiting phoenixpubliclibrary.org and clicking on “curbside service.” After you receive notice that your item or items are ready, you can stop by the library location to retrieve them. Everyone is asked to wear a face mask when they come to the curbside pickup spot and to wait in their vehicle. You should bring your cell phone and library card or account number. An employee will deliver the materials to the trunk or rear of your vehicle.

To learn more, visit phoenix.gov/library.

IMPACT Gymnastics delivers private lessons

IMPACT Gymnastics Academy at 7812 N 12th St. provides Exceptional Kids Private Lessons for children with special needs. Kids can participate in a half hour lesson for \$30 or full hour lesson for \$60 on Tuesdays by appointment. IMPACT also can arrange other times during the week for private lessons.

Lessons will be individualized for youths ages 2 to 18 based on their social-emotional needs, physical goals and other factors.

Two moms, Maria Lawrence and Samantha Baltierrez own IMPACT Gymnastics Academy, a private gym with a main focus on gymnastics. The gym also offers NinjaZone and other activities including Tumbling for Cheer. It features Olympic-level gymnastics coaching and equipment and serves girls for competitive and recreational programs. To learn more, visit impactgymaz.com.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Local actress stages one-woman 'Carol'

By Colleen Sparks

A North Central woman with extensive acting experience is going to perform an unusual version of the classic tale "A Christmas Carol," playing multiple roles herself.

Katie McFadzen takes on Charles Dickens' holiday story in a one-woman show at the Herberger Theater Center Pavilion, a new outdoor stage on the east side of the theater at 7 p.m. through Wednesday, Dec. 23 at 222 E. Monroe St. Shows will be held Dec. 3-6, 10-13, 17-20 and 22-23. The award-winning actress is portraying the characters Ebenezer Scrooge, Tiny Tim and the rest of the Cratchit family, as well as the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future; Fezziwig and other parts.

"A Christmas Carol" is based on Charles Dickens' story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an elderly, cold-hearted miser who becomes kinder after being visited by ghosts who show Scrooge the consequences of his actions.

This will be the third time McFadzen has performed the one-person version of "A Christmas Carol." McFadzen, an associate artist with Childsplay, also has performed with Phoenix Theatre Company, Stray Cat Theatre and Black Theatre Troupe. Some of her acclaimed performances include roles in "Small Mouth Sounds,"



Katie McFadzen performs in a one-person version of "A Christmas Carol" on a new outdoor stage at the Herberger Theater Center through Wednesday, Dec. 23 (photo by Tim Trumble).

"Mamma Mia!" and "The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane."

McFadzen alters her voice to personify the different characters in "A Christmas Carol" but she does not speak in an English accent, as other actors in TV and stage versions of the story have in the past, as the goal is to make the show more accessible to audiences. There will be music and "amazing sound" designed by the late composer and musician Brian Peterson including the sounds of chains and a slamming door.

McFadzen praised the Herberger for building an outdoor stage to adapt its format because of the pandemic.

please see CAROL on page 32

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Visit PhoenixPublicLibrary.org/kids for more info on Curbside Services and DIY STEM crafts.



CAROL continued from page 31

"It's great," she said. "I think that several companies have looked at ways of reinventing and shifting in order to continue to stay afloat. Arts organizations are among the hardest hit. By doing this kind of thing, it helped arts organizations stay afloat."

The seating for the production of "A Christmas Carol" and other shows at the outdoor stage will be socially distanced. This stage will be 36 feet wide and 20-feet deep. To buy tickets for "A Christmas Carol," visit herbergertheater.org or visit The Herberger Theater Box Office from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays in person.

Madison Center for the Arts set to reopen

The Madison Center for the Arts at 5601 N. 16th St. will reopen next year after having closed temporarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Audiences can see "Animaniacs In Concert" at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13. The cartoon characters will be shown on a big screen along with a live stage performance with Emmy Award-winning composers Randy Rogel and Rob Paulsen.

"Zuzu," a performance featuring African acrobats, will be on stage at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 19, and Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Madison Center for the Arts. Mariachi Sol de Mexico will perform its fresh sounds and original rhythms at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 5, at the arts center.

To buy tickets and learn more, visit themadison.org.

Chorale to deliver free online concert

The Phoenix Chorale will sing in the holiday season with a free concert online this month.

The chorale's holiday virtual broadcast, "A Chorale Christmas Special," is set for 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19. Guest conductors Anton Armstrong and André J. Thomas will lead the concert. Highlights include "Glory, Glory, Glory to the Newborn King" by Thomas; "The Word Was God" by Rosephanye Powell; and "Silent Night."

The chorale has added exclusive interviews with choral luminaries including conductors, composers and leaders in the field. The next "Chris Chats" will feature artistic director Christopher Gabbitas

talking to Armstrong and Thomas at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 14. For a link to the "Chris Chats," subscribe to the chorale's email at <https://bit.ly/JoinPCemail>. Or listen to the event at facebook.com/phoenixchorale.

To listen to the Dec. 19 concert, visit PhoenixChorale.org/Fall2020.

Local artists to sell pieces at area show

Find diverse artwork, jewelry and home décor created by local artists at a Holiday Mini-Art Show.

A small group of area artists are selling their handmade pieces at the show from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13, at one of the artist's homes at 1821 E. Georgia Ave. Admission is free.

There will be hand-woven couture, whimsical paintings, beadwork, hand-crafted bags decorated with beads, and other items that make good gifts or presents for shoppers to treat themselves.

To learn more email Deb Krol at drol@cox.net.

Puppet theater offers holiday drive-in shows

If you are looking for entertainment for your little ones this holiday season, the Great Arizona Puppet Theater is providing drive-in shows.

The organization has adapted to the outdoor format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Audience members drive up, tune their vehicles' radios to a private FM station and then watch the show from their cars. The shows are held behind the theater's building in the parking lot at 302 W. Latham St.

"The Elves & The Shoemaker" is set for 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, and 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19. This musical story is about Santa's elves helping a poor shoemaker and his wife. It will be performed with large rod puppets.

"The Leprechaun and the Reindeer" comes to the drive-in stage at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12, and 10 a.m. on Dec. 26. In this musical, the character Pat O'Flynn is having a "wee bit" of trouble with magic so he travels to the North Pole to look for a job.

Admission is \$40 per carload for non-members of the theater and \$30 for members. You must make a paid reservation before 5 p.m. the day before the show. To make a reservation, call 602-262-2050. To learn more, visit azpuppets.org.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Sheldon Knapp, the owner of Phoenix City Grille, has a passion for developing new dishes such as the crispy short ribs with Korean barbecue sauce, on the right, while keeping customer favorites like Rose Lane chicken, on the left (photo by Marjorie Rice).

Café Chat

Phoenix City Grille combines old favorites, new tastes

By Marjorie Rice

Phoenix City Grille owner Sheldon Knapp has his feet firmly planted on the two pillars of restaurant ownership: a passion for food and a strong grounding in business.

He said restaurateurs need to be able to balance both if they hope to survive – especially given today’s COVID-19 pandemic challenges.

“Eight people out of 10, because they know how to cook and pour a drink, think they know how to run a restaurant,” said Knapp, a graduate of Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management at Arizona State University. “It doesn’t matter if your food is good. If you don’t understand the numbers, you’re better off inviting people to your house and feeding them there.”

When restaurants were closed down in March, Knapp said his business was in financial shape to ride it out because of very low debt and no investors to appease. The restaurant is solely owned by Knapp, his wife, Nina, and partner and executive chef Micah Wyslic.

A key goal was keeping as much of the staff as possible.

“We’ve been open 23 years and most of the staff in the kitchen has been with me at least 10 years,” Knapp said. “To let people go because we needed to save some money was not that tough of a

decision. I didn’t want to take years again to build up another crew.”

Keeping the serving staff has been more challenging, he added.

“Our core of our best servers is still with us and we’re making sure they can make the money they need,” Knapp said.

In addition to his business acumen, Knapp has deep experience in the culinary industry, including managing the now-closed McKenna’s, and working in restaurant development for the Bennigan’s restaurant chain.

His early interest focused on the bar business, an interest that is reflected in the Grille’s extensive bourbon selections.

“As I got more into it, I really fell in love with kitchen operations and the creativity in putting together a dish – researching the history of the food and the heritage that has come down through generations,” Knapp said.

His first business was a small neighborhood bar/sandwich spot at Seventh Street and Rose Lane.

“I fell in love with Central Phoenix,” Knapp said. “It’s one of the most ‘real’ areas in the Valley. At my first little place I found three and four generations of families living in the same small area. It gave me a sense of stability.”

Knapp eventually bought a spaghetti restaurant near the intersection of 16th Street and Bethany Home Road. He remodeled it extensively and opened it as Phoenix City Grille in May of 1997.

please see GRILLE on page 34

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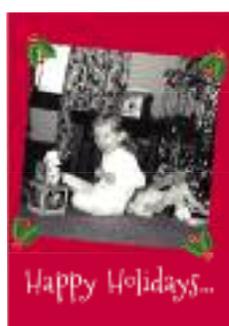
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

GRILLE continued from page 33

“We remodel constantly,” Knapp says, including taking over space from a barbershop next door a couple of years after Phoenix City Grille opened. “We’ve changed the sidewalk patio a couple of times, and we’re going to make some more changes.”

Changes are in store for the menu as well. Knapp and his team are itching to discover new possibilities. “We go on culinary tasting trips all over the country,” he said. “As soon as we get out of this COVID thing, Micah, myself and a couple of my sous chefs will go on a tasting tour and try to look for new ideas and new dishes.”

Some items have earned permanent status. Rose Lane chicken – seared chicken breast served with tarragon jus, grilled broccolini and Yukon Gold smashed potatoes – has been on the menu since day one. So has cedar-planked salmon crusted with citrus horseradish and served with fingerling potatoes, roasted carrots and lemon aioli.

Crispy short ribs, added to the menu in November, reflect Knapp’s penchant for creating new dishes by pulling tastes and ingredients from different traditions. It starts with braised short ribs. Meat from the cooked ribs is cut into small pieces, tossed in cornstarch or potato starch, then fried until crispy and tossed in Korean barbecue sauce. It’s served on a bed of creamy tepary bean puree, garnished with pickled ginger, pickled jalapenos, baby cilantro and a drizzle of lime chimichurri. The beans come from Ramona Farms on the Gila River Indian Community near Sacaton.

Phoenix City Grille had just completed special menus for Christmas and New Year’s Eve, as of press time. Entrees include braised lamb shank, sea bass and surf and turf combinations including beef tenderloin and guajillo marinated wild Mexican jumbo prawns.

Christmas Eve has been a big day for the restaurant from its first year.

“A lot of the same families come in every year,” Knapp said. “I think we’ve established a strong tradition of quality and we want that to continue.”

Phoenix City Grille, located at 5816 N. 16th St., is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. To learn more, call 602-266-3001 or visit phoenixcitygrille.com.

Dining Briefs

Mama Olga’s delivers favorite Mexican treats

Spice up the holiday season with south-of-the-border specialties from Mama Olga’s Tamales and Fine Mexican Food in Sunnyslope.

The restaurant at 905 W. Hatcher Road offers a variety of fresh Mexican food including tamales, tacos, enchiladas and lunch and breakfast burritos. Customers can order tamales with chicken, pork, beef or jalapenos with cheese.

Order in person or the restaurant will deliver your order with a \$15 minimum required and a delivery fee that starts at \$4.99. You can skip the line at the restaurant if you order ahead of time off the website. Place online orders or purchase food for delivery by visiting ordermamaolga.com or sandfinmexicanfood.com.

Pita Jungle gift card deals offer incentives

Pita Jungle is making it easy for customers to treat their loved ones to holiday gifts this season while also reaping some benefits themselves.

The restaurant, which has locations around the Valley including in North Central, is offering deals to those who buy gift cards. Buy \$25 in gift cards and receive \$5 in Pita Dough, a voucher that can be used on purchases in the future, through Thursday, Dec. 31. If you spend either \$125 or \$250 on catering items, you’ll receive \$25 or \$50, respectively, in Pita Dough through the end of this month.

Pita Jungle’s menu features pitas, wraps, bowls, wood-fired pizzas and hummus with many gluten-free and vegan options. The restaurant also provides boutique wines, crafted cocktails and local draughts that pair with its food. It has a location at 5505 N. 7th St. To learn more, visit pitajungle.com.

Press Coffee offers diverse boxes of java

Give your loved ones a boost this holiday season with a coffee gift box from Press Coffee.

Sample boxes feature different types of coffee while brew kits include coffee plus tools to create the perfect cup of java. Sample box prices range from \$25 to \$50 and the cost for brew

please see COFFEE GIFTS on page 36

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

COFFEE GIFTS continued from page 34

kits ranges from \$75 to \$500.

Visit one of Press Coffee's locations in Phoenix and the east valley, including the shop at 2390 E. Camelback Road, or order any of the boxes online at presscoffee.com.

For more information, call Press Coffee at 602-283-5591.

Find holiday treats, recipes at several local retailers

Need to cook or bring a treat to a loved one this holiday season? There are many grocery stores, restaurants and bakeries in North Central where you can find ingredients for recipes or buy the perfect side dish or dessert for gatherings.

Pie Snob, which has a location at 6522 16th St., offers a wide variety of pies that you can order ahead of time or purchase in the store. Pies are available whole or by the slice. To learn more, visit piesnob.com.

Karl's Quality Bakery at 111 E. Dunlap Ave. offers many desserts including pies, poppy seed rings, almond rings, pumpkin chocolate chip loaf, cookies, pumpkin doughnuts and danishes. It also offers a variety of croissants, bear claws, pecan rolls, quiches and blueberry scones. You can order pies and other sweets to pick up at karlqualitybakery.com.

You can order pumpkin, chocolate mousse, coconut cream and apple pies by Tuesday, Dec. 22, then pick them up Dec. 23 and Dec. 24 at The Collins restaurant at 3160 E. Camelback Road. Order by calling 602-730-3533 or visit thecollinsaz.com. The Macintosh at 2119 E. Camelback Road is offering pumpkin, key lime and butterscotch pecan pies that you can order by Dec. 22 and pick up on Dec. 23 and 24. Order by calling 602-368-8766 or visit themacintoshaz.com. The pies at both restaurants range in price from \$20 to \$24 each.

Find recipes and buy the ingredients you need to make them online and at Trader Joe's locations including the one at 4821 N. 20th St. The store offers detailed recipes online at traderjoes.com.

Bashas' grocery stores offer an extensive collection of snacks, desserts and party trays that are ideal for the holidays. The grocer sells fruit and cheese, garden vegetable, mini croissant sandwiches and other party trays. You

also can find recipes on the Bashas' website. Bashas' has many locations including one at 5555 N. 7th St. To learn more, visit bashas.com.

Miracle Mile Deli makes entertaining easier

Miracle Mile Deli is making it easier for you to celebrate the holidays.

The deli at 4433 N. 16th St. provides catering around the Valley, offering cold cut platters, a cocktail sandwich buffet, a tray with vegetables, as well as tuna, chicken and egg salads; a fresh seasonal fruit tray, an assorted cookie platter and many other options for groups. Those who want to order food to mark Hanukkah can order the deli's Hanukkah special, which features a plate of brisket of beef, one potato latke and a cup of Matzoh Ball Soup, available from Thursday, Dec. 10 to Friday, Dec. 18 for \$16 each. These meals are available to order in the restaurant and for catering.

The delivery charge for catering varies depending on customers' locations. Generally Miracle Mile Deli delivers catered items between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays but the restaurant can make deliveries earlier in the day when needed.

Josh Garcia, company vice-president, said most customers who are making catering orders are limiting the groups to 10 or fewer people amid this COVID-19 pandemic.

Miracle Mile Deli will close early, at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. To learn more, visit miraclemiledeli.com.

Local pizzeria chain offers gift card deal

Fired Pie is giving customers more ways to give this holiday season.

The quick, casual pizza restaurant is offering customers a \$5 bonus card with every \$25 gift card purchased. The offer is good through Thursday, Dec. 24.

The locally owned restaurant allows customers to play chef by selecting their own type of dough, sauce and topping. Besides pizza, Fired Pie also provides build-your-own salads and customizable Mac 'N Cheese.

Fired Pie has several locations in the Valley including at 1810 W. Northern Ave. To learn more, visit firedpie.com.

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

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