



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

volume 23, issue 11 • november 2021

www.northcentralnews.net

Pandemic prompts changes in healthcare

By Colleen Sparks

The COVID-19 pandemic is transforming the way patients receive medical services and some of those trends are expected to continue beyond the global healthcare crisis.

That's according to doctors and other healthcare professionals at Banner Health, HonorHealth and Dignity Health. They say telehealth visits, in which patients communicate with doctors and other medical professionals through video chats and telephone calls, have become more widely used since the pandemic hit the area and will likely still be popular after it ends. Apps and other technology that allow patients to check in for appointments and determine how busy emergency departments are before walking into a medical center also have been used since the pandemic began.

"Those of us in healthcare would all agree that the last 18 to 20 months have been unlike anything we've seen in our lifetime," said Dr. Jim Whitfill, chief trans-

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Quianna Brown and her fiancé, Joe Wiskur, are raising Quianna's niece, Annalisa, 10, pictured here on far left, as well as Kylynn, 4, and Lilah, 6, who were in the state foster care system (photo by Every Love Photography).

Local families thrive with adopted kids

By Colleen Sparks

While financial strain, health issues and uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have squashed some people's plans to adopt children in the country, some North Central families are thriving as they raise youths who are not their offspring.

These families say they did not hesitate to open their homes and hearts to children whose biological parents were not able to care for them.

As adults contend with virtual learning, job losses and higher childcare costs, parenting has been heavily impacted by the pandemic. There are more than 110,000 adoptions around the United States every year, according to a Parents.com article released earlier this year. While exact numbers are not available, some adoption agencies across the country have noticed a decrease in adoptions because of the global health crisis, Parents.com reported.

Child Crisis Arizona, a non-profit organization that offers support to foster care and adoption families, has seen a drop in the numbers of families who want to serve children in foster care or adopt youths since 2017, said Torrie Taj, CEO of the organization. Taj said the numbers continuing to decrease last year were likely partly due to the pandemic.

"We have heard that a number of times with individuals saying they want to learn more about it but now is not the time because their family has had too much stress," Taj said. "If you go through Child Crisis Arizona we are going to hold your hand and provide those resources for you. We're going to figure out if it's workable and what's in the best interest of the family and the child."

There were about 13,800 children in the foster care system in Arizona, as of press time. As the state's population grows and more children enter the foster care system, there is a great need for families to foster and adopt youths, especially older kids, Taj said.

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Nonprofit makes music accessible to youths

By Colleen Sparks

Children and teens in need can blossom in music lessons and experience the excitement of performing, thanks to a local organization led by a North Central woman.

Rosie's House, which is in its 25th year, offers free-of-charge music lessons after school to more than 500 students a year in grades kindergarten through 12. The organization will hold its annual holiday concert at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12, in Memorial Hall at Steele Indian School Park at 300 E. Indian School Road. Soloists will perform on strings, wind instruments and piano, as well as sing, while ensembles also will play songs. There will be a reception with light refreshments before the concert.

Becky Bell Ballard, CEO of Rosie's House, said more than 20,000 lessons in wind, string and brass instruments, as well as choir and piano, are provided every year to youths whose families qualify for the programs. Many of those kids go to schools in North Central – in the Osborn and Washington elementary school districts, as well as at Central, Metro Tech and Sunnyslope high schools. Typically Rosie's House holds more than 60 concerts a year around the Valley while last year most of the performances were held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students also have performed at the Beatitudes Campus senior living community on west Glendale Avenue and at the Musical Instrument Museum on east Mayo Boulevard.

Students learn the basics of instruments and singing in the group classes, and then they can join an ensemble or take one-on-one lessons. Rosie's House has several performance groups including its Mariachi Floreciente (Flourishing Mariachi) program, the Core Choir, Guitar Troubadours and the Aim Brass and Woodwind Program. All youths receive scholarships to pay for lessons, music, instruments and performances.

"We really believe strongly in equity and access to music as it is such a powerful activity for a child to be involved in and we really feel like every kid should have that shot," Bell Ballard said.



Rosie's House provides free music lessons to students in grades kindergarten through 12 (photo courtesy of Rosie's House).

Rosie's House also offers a College Path (CP) program, where high school students receive help completing college applications, seeking financial aid and applying for scholarships for colleges and universities.

The organization can always use any donations and those who contribute will receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit of up to \$800 for married couples and up to \$400 for single-filing taxpayers. To learn more, visit <https://rosieshouse.org>.



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COMMUNITY

HEALTHCARE *continued from page 1*

formation officer for HonorHealth. “It’s required large healthcare systems to be responsive and agile. COVID created an accelerant to foster a degree of change.”

HonorHealth switched from in-person to virtual or video-based telehealth medicine within a few weeks when the pandemic began to impact the area in March 2020. Since not all patients have access to the internet at home, the healthcare organization also offers visits over the telephone, Whitfill said. He added that telehealth visits work well for behavioral health services, as well as for minor physical health issues including colds and to check on people who have had surgery. These virtual visits are effective especially when the patient and healthcare provider have already established a relationship, Whitfill said.

He said the disadvantages of conducting telehealth visits are that medical professionals are not able to take patients’ temperatures or check their blood pressure and oxygen levels. Medical professionals also are not able to listen to someone’s lungs or feel how soft or hard their stomach is to deter-

mine what types of issues patients have.

HonorHealth relied on apps for patients to check in during COVID-19 vaccination clinics earlier this year. Most medical forms for other types of appointments at HonorHealth can be filled out ahead of time online.

Whitfill predicts that the problems with obtaining materials and drugs will continue. This supply chain issue makes it difficult at times to get needed computers and other medical equipment.

Dr. Eric Katz, chief medical officer at Banner Estrella Medical Center, also predicts telehealth services will continue to be commonly used even after the pandemic becomes more of an endemic.

“As people learn to work from home, they’ll probably adapt to doing lots of other things from remote locations,” Katz said.

He added there must be trust between the patient and healthcare provider in order for telehealth visits to work. For example, the doctor needs to trust a patient to give their accurate weight. An advantage of telehealth appointments is that patients can have other family members with them at home to hear the discussions. Banner

Health also has used a device to track patients’ heart and respiratory rates after they return home from a hospital with COVID-19. Patients also can check in online for office visits and to inform the emergency departments ahead of time before they come in-person for treatments.

Dignity Health also has “greatly expanded its innovative care solutions,” including telehealth appointments and providing new technologies to help patients and their families during hospital visits, said Dr. Keith Frey, chief medical officer for Dignity Health in Arizona. It uses Medical Memory, a HIPAA-compliant mobile application that allows clinical teams to record video updates of patients admitted to medical centers, Frey said. The videos can be shared with patients’ loved ones. Dignity Health also adopted a mobile tool, ERAdvisor, which allows patients and their families to view estimated wait times, to share the timeline of their visits with loved ones, to answer common questions, as well as to obtain updates on laboratory statuses and to schedule follow-up visits.

Frey said he expects Dignity Health in Arizona will keep providing tele-

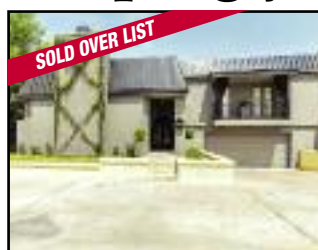
health services to patients in the future and start innovative technologies to enhance patients’ experiences in Dignity Health clinics and hospitals.

“Although telehealth services have a number of benefits, such as convenience for patients with mobility challenges, it should be considered an adjunct to an established, in-person relationship with the patient’s personal clinician,” Frey said.

Abrazo Health also has initiated new ways of caring for patients, including through telehealth appointments and with online check-ins, said Dr. William Ellert, chief medical officer for Abrazo Health. One major focus has been implementing precautions for patients who need to come for in-person visits in a way that gives them the assurance that they are safe to enter the centers, Ellert said. Abrazo Health has processes in place that permit people to be cared for on-site in its emergency rooms, hospitals and physicians’ offices in a safe manner, he added.

“People need to collaborate with their healthcare providers to ensure that they receive care in the appropriate venue for their acute and chronic care needs,” Ellert said.

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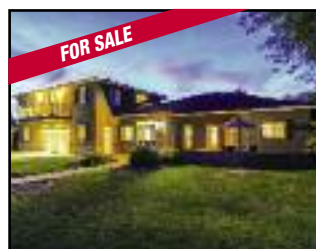
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COMMUNITY

ADOPTED continued from page 1

Child Crisis Arizona held its Brunch for Love Community Fundraiser recently, where foster and adoptive parents and a man who was adopted as a child shared their inspiring stories.

A journey to parenthood began before the pandemic for Quianna Brown and her fiancé, Joe Wiskur, of North Central. When Brown's sister suffered mental health issues and needed support, Brown took in her sister's daughter, Annalisa, now 10 years old. Brown obtained permanent guardianship of Annalisa and will adopt her next year. She and Joe also are raising Lilah, 6, and Kylynn, 4, who were in the state foster care system previously and not relatives of theirs, and she has adopted them.

In the past, Brown was a foster mother to other children who were not relatives, who later reunified with their biological families.

"I got into it to help kids," she said. "I give everything I've got. Years ago I had taken care of other family members' kids short term. It was really easy to take her (Annalisa) in."

She and Joe said foster parent training classes they took through Child Crisis Arizona, as well as support groups, helped prepare them for their growing family. They said their daughters' traumatic experiences early in life have caused some challenges for them, including behavioral issues. The couple had to fight for a year to have Lilah tested before they discovered she is autistic. They said all three girls were hurting emotionally and they had to learn how to provide them with love, including teaching their daughters coping skills.

There are more than 200,000 children in Arizona living in "kinship" families, according to the Children's Action Alliance. Those families include grandparents, other relatives and close family friends raising children without the biological parents in the home. Arizona's Children Association works with kinship families by providing support groups, parenting skills education, as well as foster care licensing and adoption support, connections to food, clothes and housing, among other services, said Karen Wouters, parent trainer at the association.

Wouters said earlier in the pandemic the organization saw fewer people expressing an interest in becoming foster or adoptive parents but interest is

picking up again. Classes and trainings are often offered online/virtually.

LaRay Lewis, 54, adopted her granddaughter, Adrianna, now 3, after Adrianna was born with a drug addiction. Adrianna's biological mother died of a drug overdose in 2019 and her father, who is Lewis' son, has had his parental rights terminated due to his previous drug abuse. He has been sober for almost a year and visits his daughter often. Lewis's other adult son has five children who enjoy playing with Adrianna. She and her partner, Aaron Patterson, 63, have raised Adrianna in their home and say that Adrianna was a well-behaved baby who slept a lot and rarely cried. Lewis said once Adrianna was two and a half years old and was walking, it did feel overwhelming at times raising her but she would not have it any other way. Adrianna is doing well and loves playing outside, as well as drawing and swimming.

Lewis added that classes that the Arizona's Children Association offered were "real eye openers" as far as learning how to raise a child she did not give birth to and connected her and Patterson with other couples experiencing similar journeys.

"I feel as close to her as I did my boys when they were that age," she said. "I chose to keep her with me because she's my blood, she's my grandchild."

To learn more about Arizona's Children Association, visit www.arizonaschildren.org. For more information about Child Crisis Arizona, visit <https://childcrisisaz.org>.

Festival features family activities

Explore a neighborhood, visit local businesses and restaurants and engage your children in family-friendly activities at an event on Saturday, Nov. 13.

Meet Midtown! 2021 will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. starting at Central United Methodist Church at 1875 N. Central Ave. There will be a treasure map guiding participants to five hubs along Central Avenue for a chance to win grand prizes. The block party also will include a petting zoo, live music, small business vendors, food trucks and other entertainment.

General admission tickets for ages 5 and older are \$5 each and it is free for kids under 5 to attend. To buy tickets and learn more, visit www.meetmidtown2021.eventbrite.com.

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COMMUNITY

Mobile career units will help job seekers

By Amber Victoria Singer

Mobile Career Units are the newest way the city of Phoenix is helping residents find jobs.

The units are currently in their prototype phase and are offering limited services as the city figures out the best way to help residents. Many unemployed residents do not have internet access or have trouble filling out online applications. The mobile career unit will give job seekers access to computers and people who can guide them through the application process.

Jovanna Parkhouse, a workforce development supervisor for the city of Phoenix, said many residents are looking for jobs.

“There are a lot of people who are looking for work, a lot of businesses that need to hire people, and there’s a kind of disconnect,” Parkhouse said. “We wanted to figure out a way to connect individuals to these employers... and provide resources that will help them further their career paths.”

The goal is “to address one of the

greatest challenges experienced by job seekers and local employers: connectivity,” according to the city’s website.

James Montoya, a workforce project manager for the city of Phoenix’s economic development department, said the mobile career unit addresses that issue.

“The mobile career unit is about connectivity,” Montoya said. “If (residents) are at the grocery store and they need a job, they can come here and find a job. If they’re out in the community at a park, and they see our mobile career unit, they can get a job.”

The project began as part of the 2021 Global Mayors Challenge, a competition hosted by Bloomberg Philanthropies. Cities with more than 100,000 residents were invited to apply with an idea for something that would provide relief to residents from a problem caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Unemployment is rising in Phoenix, where more than 20 percent of those over the age of 16 are currently unemployed, according to the Bloomberg Philanthropies website. Of the 631 cities that submitted applications for the challenge, 50 of them, including Phoenix, were chosen to move on to the next round. Of those cities, 15

will win \$1 million to continue working on their ideas.

Phoenix and the 49 other cities advancing in the competition were given money to create and test prototypes. The ultimate goal is for the winning projects to be implemented in cities across the world.

The city recently held an event in a Food City parking lot to gather feedback from the public about the mobile career unit prototypes. Those who came to this event also could apply for jobs at Food City and four people were hired through the unit. Residents were asked what barriers they faced while looking for a job and what they wanted to see in the mobile career unit.

The prototype units are built inside repurposed Dial-a-Ride vans. If Phoenix is one of the Mayors Challenge winners, the team plans on purchasing one or two large RVs, Parkhouse said. The project will continue even if Phoenix doesn’t move forward in the challenge. Next month the winners of the 2021 Global Mayors Challenge will be announced.

Amber Victoria Singer is a student in Arizona State University’s Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Hospice receives grant to help serve veterans

Hospice of the Valley (HOV) is the first Arizona partner in Legacy Corps, a national AmeriCorps program that matches people around the country with veterans and military families who need support.

The program is based at Arizona State University but serves veterans and military families around the Valley. HOV received a three-year grant from ASU and AmeriCorps and began training the first volunteer members in September. Legacy Corps volunteers will work 10 to 12 hours a week.

Approximately 1,400 HOV patients are veterans who often are physically and emotionally overwhelmed. Many need help with grocery shopping, transportation and light housekeeping. The volunteers receive special training in caregiver support and incentives including a monthly allowance and a college tuition award after a year of service. Volunteers who are 55 and older can pass along that award to a child or grandchild.

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COMMUNITY

Commission focuses on gender-related issues

By Karina Romero

The Phoenix Women’s Commission is a diverse group that offers leadership opportunities and support to enhance the quality of life for female residents.

This group of 16 strong women advocates for gender-related topics including launching a community survey to gather input on trending topics, issues and themes for the commission’s next forum in May. As of press time the exact date and location had not yet been set but it will be open to all women around the Valley.

The commission helps women participate in civic and public affairs and advises Mayor Kate Gallego and the City Council on women’s issues. Women volunteer if they are interested in joining the commission, then Gallego and the City Council appoint the members to the group for three-year terms.

The commission meets the second Monday of every month from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in the city’s Fire Administration

Building at 150 S. 12th St. Meetings are open to the public.

Heather Ross, a North Central resident, is a member of the commission and a clinical assistant professor at Arizona State University, as well as a Policy Fellow for the office of Mayor Gallego. All the women on the committee represent their respective careers and influence and it is unusual for them to disagree, Ross said. She added rather than disagree, commission members might answer a comment with “Yes...but” and add a missing factor to the concept.

Ross has worked closely with Gallego to make Phoenix the largest dementia-capable city in the country, which was one of Ross’ career goals. Cities around the United States are joining the Dementia Friendly America movement to try to ensure that communities are equipped to support those living with dementia and their caregivers.

Ross worked with Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport to create a program for people with dementia. The city implemented its Compassion

Cacti Lanyard Program, where those with dementia and their loved ones receive green lanyards that allow employees to know they need special assistance. All Sky Harbor employees received dementia-capable training.

Allison Otu, chairwoman of the Phoenix Women’s Commission, is searching for a home in North Central. With a passion for social change, Otu said every voice is valued and every situation leads to an end goal. She works as the University of Arizona Health Sciences executive director for Corporate and Community Relations and also serves on the Downtown Phoenix Partnership’s Board of Directors.

A pay equity subcommittee is working with the Phoenix Women’s Commission and is planning how to reach out to area businesses to learn best practices for gender pay equity.

To learn more about the commission, visit www.phoenix.gov/eod/commissions/phoenixwomens.

Karina Romero is a student in Arizona State University’s Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Phoenix PD joins crime prevention effort

The Phoenix Police Department is participating in a program to help prevent and fight violent crime.

It was chosen to take part in the National Public Safety Partnership (PSP) program that is administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, a component of the U.S. Department of Justice. Decreasing violent crime is a complicated problem that requires collaborative and comprehensive strategies. A PSP team will work directly with the Phoenix Police Department over three years to offer intensive training, as well as technical assistance to identify, evaluate and implement strategies and a lasting coordination structure to aim to prevent and combat violent crime, especially tied to gun, drug and gang violence.

The Phoenix Police Department applied for the program in June. Over the next three years the department will work with the federal program to create comprehensive, unique solutions to reduce violent crime. To learn more, visit www.phoenix.gov/police.



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COMMUNITY

Pet of the Month

Sweet Cury loves water, great at sitting

It's hard to resist a pup who looks cute in pajamas.

Cury is a sweet, two-year-old American Pit Bull Terrier who came to the Arizona Humane Society when she was a sick stray. When this beautiful girl was treated in the shelter's Second Chance Animal Trauma Hospital it was discovered that she is deaf. However, she continues to demonstrate how special needs pets are just as capable as other furry companions.

Cury loves to romp around in the water and is an expert walker. She likes to show off how well she can sit and those who know her say she sounds like a little piglet. Hand signals are a great tool to communicate with Cury and other deaf pets. The best way to Cury's heart is by giving her booty scratches. While she gets along well with everyone, due to her hearing impediment she will do best if she meets the whole family first to ensure it is a good fit.

Cury's animal number is 670752.



Cury is a sweet, two-year-old American Pit Bull terrier who loves playing in water and having her booty scratched. She is deaf but very skilled at sitting and walking (photo courtesy of the Arizona Humane Society).

While all Arizona Humane Society Adoption locations are closed temporarily during this COVID-19 pandemic, the organization's Virtual Matchmaking Program by appointment is available to place cute Cury and other pets with their "fur-ever" families. You can check out all the dogs, cats and other companion animals at the shelter by visiting www.azhumane.org/adopt.

Find your new pet at PACC911 adoptathon

If you are thinking about adopting a pet, you might want to attend PACC911 and All Saints' Episcopal Church & Day School's Pet Adoptathon on Saturday, Nov. 13.

Many rescue groups will participate in this event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church at 6300 N. Central Ave. All pets at the adoptathon will be spayed, neutered and immunized. There also will be a food truck on site.

PACC911 brings together more than 100 animal welfare organizations around the state to offer a potent animal rescue community that works together. Since 2004 its adoptathons have helped place more than 10,200 animals with new family homes.

To learn more, visit <https://pacc911.org>.

Event will raise money for homeless dogs

Don your cocktail attire and head to the Wrigley Mansion for a soiree to save homeless dogs on Thursday, Nov. 4.

Almost There: A Mom + Pups Rescue (ATR) and fundraising partners will host Vanity Fur, which will feature cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, puppies to play with and other



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COMMUNITY

entertainment from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the mansion at 2501 E. Telawa Trail. This event will take place indoors and outdoors, rain or shine. Almost There: A Mom + Pups Rescue (ATR) is a non-profit organization that relies solely on donations. Its mission is to save mother dogs and their pups, as well as to provide care and enrichment and find loving, “fur-ever” homes for these animals.

This soiree is for people ages 21 and older. Tickets cost \$125 each. To purchase tickets and learn more, visit www.almosttherescue.org/events.

Nonprofit to hold holiday boutique

After a year’s absence, Lura Turner Homes will hold its Christmas boutique and craft fair on Saturday, Nov. 13.

The vendors of Magic Moments will join Lura Turner Homes for the first time at this event, which will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at CrossRoads United Methodist Church at 7901 N. Central Ave. Homemade items for sale include Christmas decorations and gifts, including crafts, jewelry and baked and pickled goods. Vendors will range from Hidden Treasures Antiques, which will sell collectibles, to art created by residents of Lura Turner Homes for Adults with Developmental Disabilities. Sales will benefit these adults. A chili lunch will be offered for \$5. Several vendor booths were available for this boutique and craft fair, as of press time.

This will be the 36th year for this annual boutique. Everyone will be required to wear masks, except for those who have been fully vaccinated with COVID-19 vaccines. To learn more, visit www.luraturnerhomes.org or call 602-943-4789.

Visit Santa’s workshop at Christown mall

The holiday season is almost here and Christown Spectrum Shopping Center is gearing up for visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

This mall at 1703 W. Bethany Home Road will host Christown Cringles’ Workshop from noon to 3 p.m. on Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19. Guests can engage in festive activities inside Santa’s Workshop including Mrs. Claus’ kitchen featuring crafts. Every Saturday the first 100 visitors who visit the workshop will receive \$5 Harkins

Theatres gift cards. Children can create an ornament to bring home and an ornament to decorate the tree in the workshop. Santa’s mailbox will be available for kids to drop in their notes to Jolly Old St. Nicholas. Christown Cringles elves will read holiday stories to youths. Frosty the Snowman and other holiday-related characters will mingle with guests.

In another area of the mall in the Center Court, Santa Claus will pose for photos with visitors. The exact hours and dates he will be there were not available at press time. Christown Cringles’ Workshop will take place behind Center Court.

Visitors are encouraged to donate non-perishable foods on Mrs. Claus’ shelf. Anyone who donates five cans of non-perishable food will receive a \$5 gift card to Harkins Theatres. The food will be given to a Phoenix food bank and area children’s charity and/or 3TV’s “Make a Wish Tree” at the end of the season. To learn more about Christown Spectrum Shopping Center, visit <https://christownspectrum.shop-kimco.com>.

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Business Briefs

Awards honor women for business contributions

Women who have made tremendous contributions in the business world will be honored at the Greater Phoenix Chamber's ATHENA Awards this month.

The event will be held online and in person on Thursday, Nov. 18. Check-in and networking will take place from 11 to 11:30 a.m., lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to noon and the program and live broadcast will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. The ATHENA Awards are internationally prized honors that acknowledge the achievements of businesswomen around the Valley. ATHENA winners are challenged to keep leading, serving and mentoring.

These awards recognize three women every year who excel in their fields and invest in their careers, their communities and other women.

To purchase tickets to the event and learn more about the nominees, visit <https://phoenixchamber.com>.

Twigs and Twine furniture, décor opens in new digs

Twigs and Twine, a vintage and mid-century furniture and home décor store, is open again after a fire burned its previous home.

The business, which also specializes in custom painting furniture, is excited to be in a new, larger space at 3335 N. 24th St., after the fire scorched the structure where it used to be housed at 4427 N. Seventh Ave. Its former neighbor on Seventh Avenue, Michael Todd's Treasures, also moved to a new building because of the fire that burned in June.

Twigs and Twine is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Mondays, as well as from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sundays. To learn more, visit www.twigsandtwine.com.

Selling homes during holidays offers advantages

There are advantages to selling your home during the holiday season.

Trevor Halpern, an independent agent at North&Co. and founder of Halpern Residential, says that selling a home during the holiday season is advantageous because buyers tend to be

serious and ready to close a deal.

He added that inventory is already low in Phoenix but it will likely be even lower around the holidays as many people believe it is a good idea to pull their house off the market. However, they are wrong, because sellers who play their cards right might be able to sell homes faster than during the spring, Halpern said.

"Snowbirds" also are flooding the state and if they have not yet bought their own home, they are probably being pressured from family members and friends to do so, he said. At the end of the year is typically when people find out they will be moving because of job transfers or new jobs, meaning they will need a new home soon. Another bonus to selling a home at the end of the year is home buyers can deduct the mortgage interest, property taxes and interest costs of the loan if the sale closes on or before Dec. 31.

To learn more, visit www.halpern-residential.com.

Save on toys and books for kids at toy boutique

Find savings and special offerings when you shop for toys, books and other items for children and teens at Wildlings Toy Boutique this month.

The store at 6031 N. 16th St. is selling a large assortment of books about Christmas and Hanukkah, as well as "12-day countdown" and advent kits. Shoppers who buy \$50 worth of merchandise from Black Friday, Nov. 26 through Sunday, Nov. 28, will receive a \$10 gift card. Those who spend \$100 on anything from the store during those three days will receive a \$25 gift card.

Wildlings Toy Boutique also has a holiday catalogue with a coupon in it for 20 percent off one item. The business, owned by Jenn Mawcinnitt, a North Central mother of two and former special education teacher, provides books, puzzles, games, robot-building sets, coding toys, STEM kits, boxes of crafts, tummy time toys for babies and other items for youths ages birth through high school. It provides merchandise that focuses on learning for children of all ages and ability levels. To learn more, visit <https://wildlingstoys.com/>.

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5402 E Windsor Ave 51 • \$263,000
1320 E Bethany Home Rd 37 • \$186,000
4582 S Wildflower Pl • \$735,000
1735 W Seldon Ln • \$510,000
1742 W Seldon Ln • \$534,900
10858 N 11th St • \$370,000
521 W Marlette Ave • \$405,000
- 1050 E Clinton St • \$300,000
5817 N 12th Pl • \$599,900
3444 W Apollo Rd • \$259,900
721 E Sierra Vista Dr • \$620,000(4-Plex)
1313 W Luke Ave • \$346,500
1125 E Shangri La Rd • \$435,000
1123 W Orangewood Ave • \$530,000
10407 N 11th St 3 • \$1450 Mo.
821 E North Ln 2 • \$1350 Mo.
1010 W Vista Ave • \$2795 Mo.
- 7529 N 8th Ave • \$2195 Mo.
4601 N 12th Ave 3 • \$1350 Mo.
4601 N 12th Ave 2 • \$1050 Mo.
4601 N 12th Ave 1 • \$1000 Mo.
910 W Wagon Wheel Drive • \$670,000
4455 E Paradise Village Pkwy S 1024 • \$268,000
1055 N. Recker Rd. 1007 • \$247,000
14840 N. 47th Pl. • \$522,000
10628 N. 73rd Dr. • \$242,500
7025 N. 22nd Dr. • \$280,000
- 3543 W. Tuckey Ln. • \$214,900
230 W. Denton Ln \$457,500
802 E. Cavalier Dr \$430,000
1320 E. Bethany Home Rd. Unit 26 • \$206,000
22627 N. 45th Pl • \$655,000
564 W Nido Ave • \$2695 mo.
6514 N 13TH Dr • \$1495 mo.
6240 N 10TH St • \$1395
1338 E. Colter St. • \$420,000
1520 W. Berridge Ln. • \$441,500



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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Michael Todd’s Treasures
reopens in new space

Michael Todd’s Treasures, a home décor accessories and furniture store, is serving customers in its new space in North Central after a fire scorched its previous location.

The store that sells new, used, antique, repurposed and handcrafted furniture, as well as art, mirrors, dishes and other items, opened in its new location at 4701 N. Seventh Ave. last month. Previously the business was located a few blocks south of that spot at Seventh Avenue and Campbell Road but a fire in June burned that structure and city inspectors are determining how much of it needs to be demolished. Michael Todd’s Treasures had been in its previous location for 29 years.

Michael Robertson, owner of Michael Todd’s Treasures, said the new space houses new, mod furniture from Los Angeles and the six, original vendors who rent booth space from his store will continue to do so. Items from all eras and décor styles are sold at the store. Michael Todd’s Treasures is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays

through Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays. To learn more, visit www.facebook.com/Michael-Todds-Treasures-384474125322134.

Great Deals A to Z
becomes U-Haul dealer

There is a new U-Haul dealer in North Central, where customers can rent trucks, trailers, towing equipment, moving supplies and other items.

Great Deals A to Z, a thrift store at 4031 N. 24th St., recently signed on as a U-Haul dealer to provide essential services for moving. Leon Mikinka and Joseph Weaver, Great Deals A to Z partners, will now work with U-Haul, a do-it-yourself moving and self-storage business that has teamed up with independent dealers to provide moving equipment since 1945.

Delivery companies bringing supplies to people’s homes, as well as small businesses trying to stay afloat, college students moving, first responders and many other groups use U-Haul products.

The normal business hours for this U-Haul dealer are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Mondays through Saturdays. You can reserve U-Haul products at this location by calling 602-353-1251 or visiting www.uhaul.com.

The Brokery to host
neighborhood event

Residents, real estate agents and anyone else interested in learning about a new single-family home development coming to North Central are invited to attend The Brokery’s “Taste of the Neighborhood” groundbreaking event on Saturday, Nov. 20.

The event, which takes place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1340 E. Pomelo Grove Lane, will highlight eleven, two-story single-family houses that comprise the KARMA community, located in the Madison Heights neighborhood. These homes are expected to be completed next spring and will offer three modern floor plans ranging from 2,380 square feet to 2,610 square feet. Every two-story home will have four bedrooms, two-and-a-half or three-and-a-half bathrooms, two-car garages and private backyards.

Attendees can learn more about the

homes and architect developer Boyer Vertical while sampling cuisine from local restaurants.

To learn more about The Brokery, visit <https://thebrokery.com>. For more information about KARMA, visit www.karmaphx.com. Learn more about Boyer Vertical by visiting <https://boyervertical.com>.

Network online at
Chamber Zoom webinar

Meet other professionals to talk about relevant issues in the business world at a Greater Phoenix Chamber event on Tuesday, Nov. 9.

Power Connect will be held over Zoom from 11 a.m. to noon. This networking program has gone virtual while offering an efficient way to network, as well as gain important take-aways for your career and business.

Participants will be able to take part in virtual breakout rooms to talk to other professionals via a moderated discussion. The event is free for Greater Phoenix Chamber members and \$50 for non-members. To learn more, visit <https://phoenixchamber.com>.

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As we hurtle towards the holidays and the end of the year I thought I would recognize my favorite albums (LP's and EP's) that were released in 2021. For those who have read this ad for the last few years you know how important music is to me. Though live shows have been few and far in between during this pandemic time, artists are still cranking out compelling and original music, and I am so grateful for that.

- 10. **I've Got Some Living To do** by Jelani Aryeh
- 9. **Devastations** by Andrew Hung
- 8. **How Long Do You Think It's Gonna Last?** by Big Red Machine
- 7. **Chemtrails Over The Country Club** by Lana Del Rey
- 6. **It Won't Always Be Like This** by Inhaler
- 5. **This Is This** by Grouplove
- 4. **Uncommon Weather** by The Reds, Pinks & Purples
- 3. **Sometimes I Might Be Introvert** by Little Simz
- 2. **Screen Violence** by Chvrches
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Winner for Last Month – Jamie Potts | Last Month's Answer – Vinegar

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1527 W Caribbean Ln.....	Just Listed.....	4386SF	4BR/4.5BA	\$1,995,000
5808 E Turquoise Ave.....	In Escrow.....	4597SF	6BR/4BA	\$1,550,000
625 W Echo Lane.....	In Escrow.....	3831SF	4BR/4.5BA	\$1,550,000
7517 N 3rd Ave	New Price	3800SF.....	4BR/2.5BA	\$1,299,000
1545 W Northern Ave	In Escrow.....	3893SF.....	5BR/3BA	\$1,100,000
6233 N 5th Pl	In Escrow.....	2876SF	5BR/3.5BA	\$ 899,000
7536 N 10th St	Just Listed.....	3357SF	4BR/3BA	\$ 850,000
1415 E Flower St.....	Just Listed.....	2223SF	4BR/2BA	\$ 799,500
914 E Osborn Rd #205.....	Just Listed.....	2699SF	2BR/2BA	\$ 525,000
15 W Beryl Ave	In Escrow.....	1922SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 626,000
700 W Northern Ave	In Escrow.....	1320SF	2BR/1BA	\$ 565,000
7343 N 8th St	In Escrow.....	2215SF	3BR/2BA.....	\$ 450,000
6606 N 20th St	In Escrow.....	2051SF	3BR/1.75BA	\$ 450,000
7321 N 11th Pl	In Escrow.....	1704SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 450,000
2531 S 156th Ave	Just Listed.....	1500SF	3BR/2.5BA	\$ 375,000
5816 N 64th Dr.....	Just Listed.....	1305SF	3BR/1.75BA	\$ 350,000
4354 N 82nd St #204	In Escrow.....	790SF	1BR/1BA	\$ 249,000



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Featured Homes for November



In Escrow

7343 N 8th St • \$450,000



In Escrow

7321 N 11th Pl • \$450,000



In Escrow

15 W Beryl Ave • \$626,000



SOLD

1245 E Maryland Ave A • \$260,000



New Price

914 E Osborn Rd #205 • \$525,000



In Escrow

4354 N 82nd St #204 • \$241,500



In Escrow

700 W Northern • \$565,000



SOLD

1117 E State Ave • \$612,500



SOLD

8735 N 11th Ave • \$630,000

70 homes SOLD in 2021 and 9 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 2021

6035 N Central Ave	\$3,500,000
8634 N 52nd St	\$2,395,000
5706 N Central Ave	\$2,112,000
7234 N 3rd St	\$1,860,000
4501 E Calle Tuberia	\$1,800,000
777 E Circle Rd	\$1,650,000
115 E Rose Ln	\$1,530,000
1747 E Las Palmaritas	\$1,495,000
17 W Sierra Vista Dr	\$1,350,000
712 W Vogel Acw	\$1,250,000
6809 N 12th Ave	\$1,210,867
1545 W Northern	\$1,100,000
3183 E Rose Ln	\$1,000,000
3312 E Sells Dr	\$1,180,000
6 E Cactus Wren Dr	\$1,075,000
2015 E Glenn Dr	\$1,039,000
8421 N Diller Grove	\$1,029,049
2685 E Canyon Pl	\$1,000,000
505 W Solano Dr	\$ 950,000

6246 E Helm Dr	\$ 938,000
6846 N 3rd Ave	\$ 925,000
5501 E Beryl Ave	\$ 925,000
7140 N 9th St	\$ 901,000
1364 E Victor Hugo	\$ 900,000
5139 N 10th Pl	\$ 895,000
12733 E Cochise	\$ 875,000
6520 N Central Ave	\$ 850,000
5102 N 2nd St*	\$ 840,000
1124 W Myrtle Ave	\$ 825,000
5428 E Cannon Dr	\$ 825,000
10261 N Central Ave	\$ 774,000
5125 N 34th Pl	\$ 750,000
15504 E Chicory Dr	\$ 750,000
9621 N 26th Pl	\$ 725,000
7838 N 4th Pl	\$ 710,000
2144 E San Juan Ave	\$ 700,000
8725 E Clarendon Ave	\$ 680,000
1309 W Linger Ln	\$ 670,000
340 E Osborn Rd #3	\$ 669,000
340 E Osborn Rd #4	\$ 669,000

7302 E Rovey Ave	\$ 650,000
8725 E Clarendon Ave	\$ 650,000
1 W Cheryl Dr	\$ 640,000
6830 N 4th Pl	\$ 635,000
8735 N 11th Ave	\$ 630,000
1555 E Ocotillo Rd #17	\$ 627,500
77 E Missouri Ave #72	\$ 625,000
1117 E State Ave	\$ 612,500
1345 E Missouri Ave	\$ 609,000
1402 W Berridge Ln	\$ 599,000
907 E Berridge Ln	\$ 595,000
5107 E Blomfield Rd	\$ 575,000
3827 N 33rd St	\$ 575,000
5338 E Questa Tierra Dr	\$ 540,000
527 W San Juan Ave	\$ 535,000
1807 E Winter Dr	\$ 520,000
4231 W Monte Cristo Ave	\$ 520,000
15 W Cochise Dr	\$ 520,000
2040 W Trotter Trail	\$ 500,000
6301 N 14th Pl	\$ 495,000
6418 N 13th Ave	\$ 483,850

1326 E Stella Ln	\$ 475,000
117 W Oregon Ave	\$ 475,000
5138 N 79th St	\$ 474,000
1414 E Earl Dr	\$ 425,000
3920 W Sandra Terrace	\$ 460,000
1026 E Wagon Wheel Dr	\$ 450,000
5 E Butler Dr	\$ 429,900
6522 N 5th Ave	\$ 425,000
1414 E Earl Dr	\$ 425,000
930 E Bethany Home Rd	\$ 420,000
1 E Butler Dr*	\$ 420,000
1132 E Orangewood Ave	\$ 419,000
1232 E Palacio Ln	\$ 395,000
7887 N 16th St #122	\$ 360,000
100 W Maryland Ave L1	\$ 351,000
1536 E Mission Ln	\$ 349,900
2019 E Campbell Ave #115	\$ 299,900
2940 E Campo Bello	\$ 299,000
7557 N Dreamy Draw #139	\$ 280,000
1245 E Maryland Ave*	\$255,000

*represented both buyer and seller



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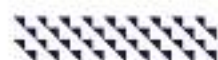
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HEALTHY LIVING

Health Briefs

Learn about flora, fauna, on hike in mountain preserve

Take a short hike and learn about
plants and animals during a city of
Phoenix event on Sunday, Dec. 12.

Learn about flora and fauna endemic
to the Phoenix Mountains Preserves
of the Sonoran Desert during this gathering
from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the
Ocotillo Ramada Area of the Piestewa
Peak Trailhead, located at 2701 E.
Squaw Peak Drive. There also will be a
short discussion about the history of
mining in the same area.

This event is for people at least 16
years old. Participants should bring
water and snacks, as well as wear appropriate
clothes and shoes for outdoor
activities. It costs \$5 per person. The
city offers many other outdoor events
through its PHX Plays program. To
learn more, visit www.phoenix.gov/parks/classes-and-programs.

sions will be delivered again from 8 to
9 a.m. and 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on
Sunday, Dec. 26, at The Churchill.
Sound bowl healing is a practice in
which sounds are used to create different
frequencies that vibrate in bodies
and help guide people to a meditative,
restorative state. Studies have shown
that sounds frequencies can produce
changes in the immune, autonomic,
endocrine and neuropeptide systems.
Sound has the capability and potential
of impacting the nervous system, as
well as helping to still the mind.

Participants should bring a yoga
mat and blanket and wear comfortable
clothes. The sessions cost \$35 per person.

To register and learn more, visit
www.eventbrite.com/d/az--phoenix/the-churchill.

Many conditions can cause chronic pelvic pain

If you suffer from chronic pelvic
pain, there are many possible reasons
for it, as well as ways to treat it.

Dr. Mohammad Islam, a minimally
invasive gynecologic surgeon with
Banner Health Center in Phoenix, said
chronic pelvic pain lasts for more than
six months and occurs in the lower
abdomen or pelvis.

One cause of the pain is
endometriosis, which happens when
the tissue lining the uterus grows outside
on other organs, including the ovaries
or bladder. Adenomyosis is like
endometriosis in that it grows into the
muscular layer of the uterus and thickens
it. Women who have this condition
might experience heavier and longer-
than-usual periods, as well as pain
during sex and cramping.

Ovarian cysts are another cause of
pelvic pain. When one of a woman's
eggs fails to release, a growth called a
cyst can form. Cysts can cause a dull
and sharp pain radiating in the lower
back, along with abdominal bloating,
pressure or a sense of fullness in the
pelvic area. Fibroids are benign or non-
cancerous masses that can grow inside
the uterus. They are very common in
women and can cause excessive bleeding
or cramping during a period, as well as
constipation and pain during sex.

To learn more, visit www.banner-health.com/healthcareblog.

Mobile lab delivers testing, vaccinations for COVID-19

A North Central laboratory is on a
mission to help residents who are
underserved and uninsured obtain
COVID-19 testing and vaccinations.

Premier Lab Solutions, which is
based at 3440 N. 16th St., has teamed
up with the city of Phoenix to expand
its services with a campaign known as
Community for Immunity (C4I). A
mobile testing unit travels to different
areas of the Valley. Premier is closed circuit,
which means its staff members
take all the samples, provide the testing
and offer the transportation themselves,
insuring nothing becomes lost or
mishandled.

To find dates and locations for the
mobile laboratory, visit <https://communityforimmunity.com/organizer/city-of-phoenix>.

Relax, restore in sound bath healing sessions

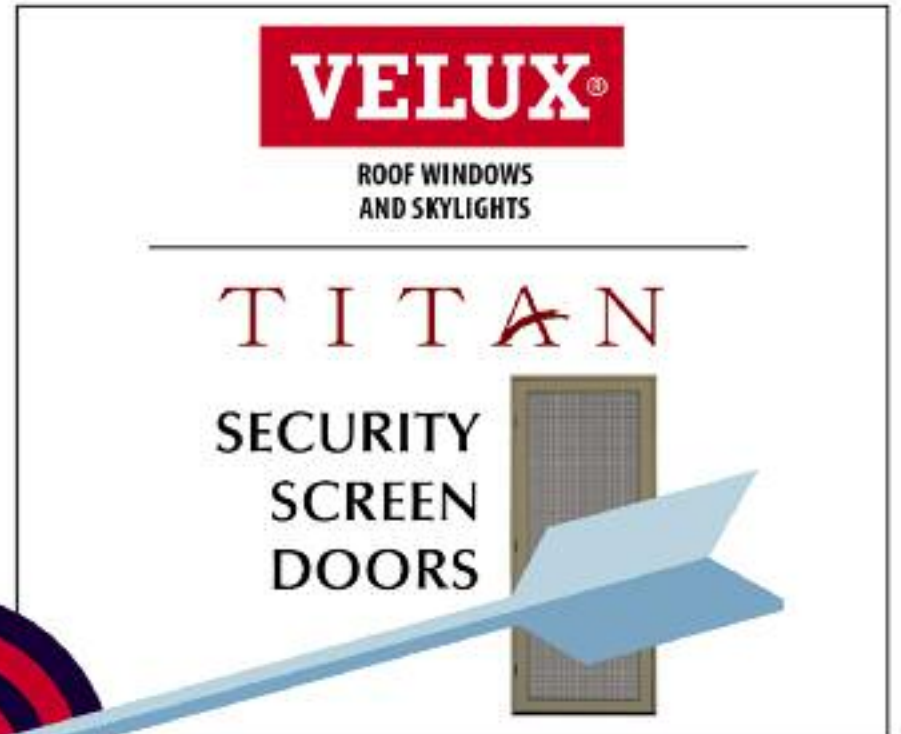
If you are looking for a way to relax
and enjoy positive vibes with others, a
local venue might be the ideal place to
visit.

Sound bath sessions will be held
from 8 to 9 a.m. and then from 9:30 to
10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 28, at The
Churchill at 901 N. 1st St. These ses-

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Avery Morkert, now a senior at Sunnyslope High School, bonds with the other members of the varsity volleyball team. She has bounced back after receiving a liver transplant and suffering other major health issues (photo by Mark Jones).

Sunnyslope senior overcomes challenges

A Sunnyslope High School senior is a shining example of overcoming tremendous obstacles with the love and support of her family members, friends and the campus community.

In 2019 the Morkert family received shattering news that Avery, an active varsity volleyball player, had life-threatening diseases - Autoimmune Hepatitis, PSC (Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis) and Ulcerative Colitis. Her mother, Teri Morkert, said the diagnoses changed their family’s lives forever. They faced many challenging days, knowing that Avery would need a

liver transplant. Avery’s perseverance did not waiver as she continued to play volleyball for Sunnyslope High and a club team, maintained her grades, hung out with her friends, stayed positive and took comfort in her faith.

She was hospitalized several times throughout the last year and a half, then in December 2020 she was put on the liver transplant list. Her family received a call on March 16 saying a liver was available. Just one day later Avery received a liver transplant. While the days after the surgery were grim and difficult, Avery’s grit and desire for a full life pulled her through the challenging time, Teri said. She came home on March 25, which her friends cele-

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AdvancED

SCHOOL DAYS

brated with a drive-by street parade.

Her recovery has been remarkable and she is thriving, Teri said. Avery is student body vice president at Sunnyslope High, where she still plays varsity volleyball. Over the summer she works at a camp for children and young adults with disabilities and medical conditions. Teri said while Avery has experienced ups and downs since receiving the transplant, most days are good.

“Our family has so much to be grateful for this November,” Teri said. “We are first and foremost grateful for organ donors. Without organ donors, Avery would not have had a second chance at life. We are grateful for Phoenix Children’s Hospital for all the wonderful doctors and surgeons. We are grateful for Sunnyslope High School for wonderful teachers and administration that have been accommodating and helpful every step of the way. We are thankful for all the support and prayers of family and friends.”

The family also is grateful to the Children’s Organ Transplant Association (COTA), which helps families financially with organ transplants.



Henry Calkins and Ryan Cotter of Sunnyslope High School, Aria Gibbons of Thunderbird High School, and Lia Arencibia Rodriguez of Moon Valley High School were named National Merit Semifinalists (photos courtesy of Glendale Union High School District).

School Briefs
GLENDALE UNION
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Four students chosen as
National Merit Semifinalists

Four students in the Glendale Union High School District are making the grade as they have been selected as 2022 National Merit Semifinalists.

Henry Calkins and Ryan Cotter, seniors at Sunnyslope High School, Aria Gibbons, a senior at Thunderbird High School, and Lia Arencibia Rodriguez, a senior at Moon Valley High School, received this distinction. The district governing board gave them

certificates of achievement.

National Merit Semifinalists are chosen every September out of 1.5 million applicants around the United States. Of the 50,000 students who score the highest on the PSAT/NMSQT Selection Index about 16,000 high school youths are notified that they have qualified to be semifinalists. Those semifinalists must meet several requirements to move forward to the finalist level of the competition. Approximately 90 percent of the semifinalists are likely to reach finalist standing and about half of them will win a National Merit Scholarship, receiving the prestigious Merit Scholar

title. Winners can obtain one of three different types of National Merit Scholarships, including the one for \$2,500.

Sunnyslope High to host
financial aid workshop

Sunnyslope High School students can prepare for life after they graduate at an event on Thursday, Nov. 4.

The school will host a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) event from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on campus at 35 W. Dunlap Ave. Students and their parents will receive help applying for financial aid.


To learn more, visit <https://sunnyslope.guhsdaz.org>.

Eighth-graders can learn
about high schools

Eighth-graders and their families can learn about academics, sports and other offerings in the Glendale Union High School District later this month.

Each campus in the district will host a Future Freshman Night at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 18. Students


please see HIGH SCHOOLS on page 26












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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7th, 11am-1pm

[PCDS.ORG/OPENHOUSE](https://pcds.org/openhouse)



PCDS is a private, independent school, Pre-k through Grade 12.

 <p>YEAR FOUNDED As a nonsectarian, nonprofit, college preparatory day school</p>	 <p>ENROLLMENT In our co-ed student body, 37% identify as students of color</p>	 <p>AFFORDABILITY 24% receive need-based financial aid grants at an average of \$15,000</p>
 <p>CLASS SIZE 15 students average per class</p>	 <p>STUDENT:TEACHER 8 students average per 1 teacher</p>	 <p>FACULTY DEGREES 85% of Upper School faculty hold advanced degrees</p>
 <p>CAMPUS SIZE 40 acres Athletic fields, aquatic center, gyms, auditorium, music spaces, and science, art & tech center</p>	 <p>SCHOOL HOURS 7:50am–3:00pm Hot lunch included daily for Lower and Middle School, optional for Upper School</p>	 <p>TRANSPORTATION Select bus routes Available to Central Phoenix, Scottsdale, North Scottsdale, and Chandler</p>

3901 East Stanford Dr, Paradise Valley, AZ 85253 602.955.8200

SCHOOL DAYS

HIGH SCHOOLS continued from page 25

and their families also can participate online/virtually in the event. Sunnyslope High School at 35 W. Dunlap Ave.; Washington High School at 2217 W. Glendale Ave. and Thunderbird High School at 1750 W. Thunderbird Road are the district's North Central schools.

Attendees will learn about academics, athletics, as well as fine and performing arts classes and resources for college and career opportunities, among other programs at the Future Freshman Night. To learn more, visit www.guhsdaz.org.

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Rose Lane teacher earns 12 News award

A preschool teacher at Madison Rose Lane Elementary School recently received the 12 News A+ Teacher of the Week Award.

Lavinia Bahm, who has been at Madison Rose Lane for four years and been teaching for more than 20 years, was surprised with the honor after the



Lavinia Bahm, a preschool teacher at Madison Rose Lane Elementary School, was recently surprised with the 12 News A+ Teacher of the Week Award (photo courtesy of Madison Rose Lane Elementary School).

parent of a preschool girl in her classroom nominated her. The nomination described Bahm as “compassionate, creative, nurturing, and passionate not only about educating the kids, but also about keeping them safe and comfortable during this difficult time.” She added the children and employees love Bahm, who is “never too busy to hear your concerns.”

Bahm said she was surprised to receive the award and it brought tears to her eyes.

To nominate a teacher for the 12 News A+ Teacher of the Year award, email connect@12news.com.

‘Hamilton’ actress teaches Madison No. 1 students

Madison No. 1 Middle School theater students are reaping the benefits of a visit from an actress who is a star in the Angelica Cast of the award-winning musical “Hamilton.”

Zoe Jensen, who plays Eliza Hamilton in the musical, recently visit-

ed the campus to meet with the advanced theater class. Jensen provided students with an interactive acting lesson and students had the chance to ask her questions. “Hamilton” is Lin-Manuel Miranda’s Pulitzer Prize-winning transformation of the biography by the same name written by Ron Chernow. The musical incorporates rap music and lyrics that take on political deal-making in the tale of Alexander Hamilton, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States.

Open enrollment to begin for upcoming school year

The Madison District’s open enrollment for the next academic year will begin on Wednesday, Dec. 1.

This process starts at 8 a.m. that day for families that are new to the district while existing families need to complete an Intent to Continue Form for the 2022-23 school year by 10 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 26. New families must turn in their Open Enrollment Interest form before Jan. 26 and will be given priority according to the tiers the district has established.

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Xavier Entrance Exam
Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022 or Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022 at 7:30 a.m. Registration for exam and application information at xcp.org. 9th Grade applications are due Monday, Jan. 24, 2022.

Affording a Xavier Education
Financial Aid Workshops available to interested parents during the Entrance Exam Testing, Jan. 8, 2022 and Jan. 22, 2022.

SCHOOL DAYS

The district’s elementary schools serve students in grades preschool through fourth and its middle schools educate youths in grades fifth through eighth. Madison Traditional Academy teaches students in grades preschool through eighth.

After current families finish the Intent to Continue Form it will allow the district to establish the number of open enrollment seats that will become available March 1. New families that live within the attendance boundaries of the school they want to enroll also must complete a student enrollment form that will be available to the public starting on March 1 for the next academic year.

To learn more, visit www.madison-az.org/enrollment.

Teachers, student earn IB honors

Two teachers and a student in the Madison Elementary School District are making the grade for their achievements through Arizona International Baccalaureate Schools (AZIBS).

AZIBS recently presented the IB AZ Teacher of the Year award to Megan Tracy, the IB Visual Art/Ceramics/Studio Arts teacher at Madison Meadows Middle School, and Jaime Monroe, a kindergarten teacher at Madison Simis Elementary School. It also honored Kyleigh, a fifth-grader at Madison Meadows, with the Student of the Year award.

The IB curriculum in the Madison district helps students become independent learners who are capable of doing in-depth research, report writing and taking action. Youths inquire within the six IB transdisciplinary themes in order to become internally minded.

The four IB programs are available to students ages 3 to 19 in 143 countries around the world. To learn more about the Madison district’s IB program, as well as its other Signature Programs, visit www.madisonaz.org/signatureprograms.

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Explore campuses, programs during EXPO 2021

Learn about the programs and classes on campuses in the Phoenix Union High School District during the EXPO 2021 this month.

This event will take place at all of the high schools in the district from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 6. Students can learn about the diverse programs in the district as they prepare to explore new horizons, make friends and take on new challenges in high school. Students can learn how to fly planes, as well as build robots and get on track to pursue careers in culinary arts, fashion and many other fields in the district. The program is aimed at preparing students for college, careers and life after high school.

Phoenix Union High School District has more than 500 different course titles in its catalog of classes, including many honors, advanced placement (AP) and dual enrollment offerings. To learn more, visit www.pxu.org/expo.

Spirits high, team wins at Camelback homecoming

Camelback High School Spartans, who show their campus spirit on a regular basis, pulled out all the stops during the school’s recent Homecoming

please see HOMECOMING on page 28



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AGES 4-18

artplay

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SCHOOL DAYS



Students at Camelback High School showed their campus spirit during the school's recent Homecoming celebration, which included a parade, music, games, a tailgate and other activities (photo courtesy of Camelback High School).

HOMECOMING continued from page 27

football game and festivities.

The Homecoming celebration included an alumni tailgate that drew former students who had graduated in every decade going back to the 1960s. Students in the school's Guitar Club performed and there was a walking parade, where every club hosted a game or booth for visitors to play. Alumni were hosted by the Camelback Alumni Association.

After the tailgate, the Camelback Spartans beat the North Canyon Rattlers 53-44 during a high-scoring game. It was the fourth win in a row for the Spartan football team.

PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS

Brophy College Prep to host open house

Boys who are interested in attending Brophy College Preparatory can attend an open house on the campus on Sunday, Nov. 7.

This event will be held from noon to 4 p.m. at the school at 4701 N. Central Ave. Participants can tour the campus, check out the information fair in Harper Great Hall and get involved in classroom demonstrations.

Parents and their sons will have the opportunity to meet students, faculty members, administrators and coaches, while learning about the academic programs, sports and co-curricular activities, financial aid and the admissions process. While Brophy is starting its admission process for the 2022-23

freshmen class, boys of all ages are welcome to attend the open house.

Interested boys and their parents need to make reservations if they want to come to the open house. To learn more, visit www.brophyprep.org/admissions/learn-more/open-house.

MHP students promote STEM projects

Several students at Madison Highland Prep will promote science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) on campus and in the community through a partnership with the SciTech Institute.

The school has teamed up with the institute to implement the Chief Science Officer Program. This program aims to develop a pipeline of STEM leaders with workforce and employability skills that prepare students for college, careers and civic engagement. Madison Highland Prep's chief science officers for this school year are Madeline Nave, Cassandra Westwood, Jack Sanders and Ben Blundell. They will host STEM activities and spirit weeks on campus and connect with community partners to advance STEM programs. The chief science officers went to SciTech's STEM Summit recently, where they had the chance to network with STEM professionals, take part in hands-on activities and workshops, as well as observe various "STEMonstrations." These students also were able to talk to Arizona State University students who are majoring in science and engineering fields.

Madison Highland Prep's chief science officers will be working with

SCHOOL DAYS



Theresa Borlongan, Aliyah Chutkan, and Helena Richardson, seniors at Xavier College Preparatory, recently were named Semifinalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program (photo by Lisa Zuba).

Highland Prep Surprise’s chief science officers to host a series of STEM activities at the City of Surprise SciTech Festival on Saturday, Nov. 6.

Xavier students honored in National Merit program

Three seniors at Xavier College Preparatory are receiving national recognition for their strong academic abilities and potential to succeed in rigorous college classes.

Theresa Borlongan, Aliyah Chutkan and Helena Richardson were named Semifinalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. Individual students are selected for this program after they take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Officials with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced the names of about 16,000 Semifinalists in the 66th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. These high school seniors have the chance to continue in the competition for the opportunity to receive one of the 7,600 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$30 million, which will be provided next spring. The Semifinalists represent less than one percent of high school seniors around the country and they are the highest-scoring entrants in every state.

Several Xavier students were named Commended Scholars in the national program. They are Catherine Alaimo, Mary Clare Broyles, Catherine Garrett, Erika Germinario, Calicia Gueyser, Adeline Kershner, Anna Kolbe and Anna Meaney. More than two-thirds or about 34,000 of the approximately

50,000 high-scoring students on the PSAT/NMSQT receive Letters of Commendation to recognize their academic promise. They are chosen based on a nationally applied score.

To learn more, visit www.nationalmerit.org.

Midtown Primary School to celebrate Turkey Day

A time-honored tradition that brings families and staff members together at Midtown Primary School is returning this month.

The school will host its Harvest Fest on Wednesday, Nov. 24, an annual event that will be in its 18th year. This feast began in 2003 but was canceled last year because of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. About 300 children and their families are expected to participate in this Thanksgiving celebration. Families will be seated at three different times. Third-grade students will join volunteers in delivering drinks, scooping side dishes, handing out pie and providing whipped cream. All classes at the school helped make centerpieces and decorations.

Change Your Stars Foundation, which provides role models, experiences and inspiration to children in need, is fundraising to pay for adults’ meals and sending volunteers to help serve the food. Every class at the school contributes to the meal. The school also offers several food boxes for families who are struggling financially to take home.

Anyone in the community who wants to attend the Thanksgiving feast should call Midtown Primary School at 602-265-5133 by Nov. 5.

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GENERATIONS

Senior Living
Experts offer tips on
picking Medicare plan

With the Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plan enrollment period underway, an expert is providing tips on how to obtain the best coverage.

Millions of people in the country can sign up, switch plans or leave a healthcare plan to meet their needs through Tuesday, Dec. 7. Yvonne Kudray-Baraban, an independent broker who specializes in selling Medicare insurance through her company Medicare Benefits Consulting, L.L.C., said it is important to compare plan options. You can have original Medicare (Part A and Part B), you can select Medicare and a supplemental plan (also known as a Medigap plan) with or without a part D plan Prescription Drug Plan (PDP) or you can choose a Medicare Advantage plan (Part C). This is the time of year to review whether

your current plan has changed and to research what other companies are providing for the next year.

Many companies will provide PPO options or expand upon existing PPO offerings and many Medicare HMO plans do not require referrals next year as long as their subscribers stay in network. The advantage of working with an independent broker is that this professional will work for you and can offer more than just one option to address your needs, Kudray-Baraban said. You can reach her at 602-575-0622 or Yvonne.Kudray@cox.net. To learn more, visit www.medicare.gov.

es online and in person. It will hold its first in the “We Are Still Here” American Indian People Yesterday, Today, and Into the Future with Jane Przeslica series from 1 to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 24, on Zoom. The topic of that workshop will be “Thanksgiving and the Perspective of Indigenous People of America.”

These classes are free of charge but donations to the Center for Senior Enrichment are always appreciated and will help support programs offered to the community.

To learn more, visit www.jfcsaz.org/events.

Explore Native American
culture in Zoom classes

Older adults who want to learn more about Native American culture can participate in online classes offered through Jewish Family & Children’s Service.

The organization’s Center for Senior Enrichment offers various class-

Senior centers offer
indoor classes, activities

There are many activities older adults can enjoy indoors to improve their health, socialize and learn new skills in senior centers operated by the city of Phoenix. These centers have reopened after having been closed for several months due to the COVID-19

pandemic. They provide ongoing classes, events and services to address diverse interests and needs.

Yasmin Zavarce teaches chair yoga from 9 to 10 a.m. on Fridays each month at the Sunnyslope Senior Center at 802 E. Vogel Ave. The next one will take place Nov. 5. The Sunnyslope Senior Center also shows movies Fridays from noon to 1:30 p.m. Seniors can make crafts, including greeting cards, beaded jewelry and scrapbooks, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Mondays at the Sunnyslope Senior Center.

To learn more, visit www.phoenix.gov/humanservices/programs/older/senior-centers.

Kids & Families
Roll into fall at fun-filled
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If autumn “leaves” a smile on your face, you might want to check out the Harvest Festival at Enchanted Island Amusement Park this month.



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GENERATIONS

The seasonal festivities, including pumpkin golf, a pumpkin fish pond game and pumpkin bowling, will roll into the park at 1202 W. Encanto Blvd. from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20, and Sunday, Nov. 21. Visitors can take a historic hayride through the Encanto Park neighborhood, ride ponies, participate in a cake-walk, visit with animals in a petting zoo, play a game of oversized tic-tac-toe and engage in many other activities. A dragon obstacle course and slide will add to the seasonal activities.

The cost is \$12, plus tax, for unlimited access to the festival for adults and children. The cost is \$6 plus tax for anyone ages 55 and older. Guests also can pay \$25 plus tax to enjoy unlimited access to the festival and amusement park rides. You can obtain a discount of \$1 off the admission price per can of food that you donate, up to five cans, with a maximum price reduction of \$5 per person. The canned food will go to St. Mary's Food Bank.

To learn more, visit www.enchantedisland.com.

Live music coming to Biltmore Fashion Park

Enjoy the cooler weather while jamming to different artists' music on some Saturdays this month and in December at Biltmore Fashion Park.

Music in the park will take place Nov. 27 and Dec. 4, 11 and 18 in the center lawn at the shopping center at 2502 E. Camelback Road.

The Stanley Serrano Trio will perform from 2 to 5 p.m. on Nov. 27. Check out Ri and Ry, a disco-funk duo in the park from 2 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 4. TEMPO, a band that performs hit songs from the 1960s to today, will take

the spotlight from 2 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 11. Adam Simons will perform from 2 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 18.

To learn more, visit www.shopbiltmore.com.

Arts festival to feature talent, community mural

Phoenix Festival of the Arts is returning this year to Margaret T. Hance Park.

This family-friendly event will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11, and Sunday, Dec. 12, at the park at 1202 N. Third St. It is the ninth year of this gathering, which the *Phoenix New Times* named the "Best of Phoenix 2020 Best Arts Festival." More than 150 art vendors and cultural organizations will participate in the event. There will be live music and performances from popular local bands. Art demonstrations, circus performances, dance ensembles, spoken word poets and choral groups will reveal their talents in the entertainment pavilion.

Children and adults can express themselves creatively by contributing to the Phoenix Mural Project, a community, hands-on art project that is a key component of the festival. They can paint and make their mark alongside professional area artists. The Teen Artist Guild will offer fun, free activities for families in the Arts Family Zone.

To learn more, visit <https://phoenixfestivalofthearts.org>.

Get ready to run and walk in Phoenix Turkey Trot

Grab your tennis shoes and gather your family members and friends to participate in the fun-filled 2021

Phoenix Turkey Trot, which is returning in-person this year.

This event will feature a 5K run and walk, a 10K run and a one-mile "gobbler dash" for parents and children ages 12 and under and a "tot trot" on Thanksgiving, which is Thursday, Nov. 25. The one-mile "gobbler dash" starts at 7:30 a.m. and the "tot trot," which is a 50-yard dash for youths ages 6 and under, begins at 9:30 a.m. Those who take part in the 10K run will start at 8 a.m. and the 5K run and walk kicks off at 8:30 a.m.

There will be pumpkin pie and cranberry course stations. The top finishers by age will receive pumpkin pies and bragging rights. This event will take place downtown and the race course will be posted at www.phoenix-turkeytrot.com. Each participant will receive a cotton race shirt, a race bib and a finisher medal. There also will be a costume contest for "best-dressed turkey," "most creative," "best dressed family," "best dressed couple" and "best dressed team of (10 or more to quality).

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Childsplay to perform classic 'Rudolph' tale

The classic holiday tale of a beloved reindeer searching for a place where he belongs is coming to the Herberger Theater Center this holiday season.

Childsplay will perform "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer" Sunday, Nov. 7, through Friday, Dec. 24, on Stage West at the theater at 222 E. Monroe St. The musical adaptation of the popular TV special features holiday hits including "Holly Jolly Christmas" and "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer."

Tickets start at \$13 and shows will take place at 1 and 4 p.m. To buy tickets, visit www.childsplayaz.org/rudolph.



Childsplay will perform the musical version of "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer" Nov. 7 through Dec. 24 at the Herberger Theater Center (image by Pelikan from Pixabay).

Play offers humorous take on tradition

Turkey Day is just around the corner, making this month an ideal time to feast your eyes and ears on a humorous play at the Herberger Theater Center.

"The Thanksgiving Play" will be performed Nov. 5-20 on The Kax Stage at the theater at 222 E. Monroe St. This fast-paced satire tells the story of good intentions merging with ridiculous assumptions. A troupe of "woke" teaching artists scrambles to put together a pageant that celebrates Thanksgiving and Native American Heritage Month.

Tickets cost \$18 for general admission, \$16 for seniors and \$10 for students. To learn more, visit www.herbergertheater.org.

'A Christmas Story' coming to Orpheum

If you're ready for some laughs, plan to see Phoenix Theater's "A Christmas Story" next month at the Orpheum Theatre.

This musical is based on the 1983 movie, directed by Bob Clark, about Ralphie Parker's wish for an Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action 200-shot Range Model Air Rifle for Christmas. His parents are not enthusiastic about the idea as they are afraid he will shoot his eye out but Ralphie has some tricks planned to try to see his dream come true.

"A Christmas Story" will be on stage at 8 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 19, at 2 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 20, and at 1 and 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 21,

at the Orpheum Theatre at 203 W. Adams St.

For tickets, visit http://orpheumtheater.com/orpheum_theater_phoenix.php.

Symphony returns with in-person shows

The Phoenix Symphony launched its 2021-22 season last month, kicking off its in-person shows through May.

Upcoming performances include "Coco" In Concert Live to Film Nov. 5- 7 at Symphony Hall, 75 N. Second St. The program includes a score written by Oscar and Grammy-winning composer Michael Giacchino and the Oscar-winning song, "Remember Me." The animated film will be shown on a large screen above the orchestra.

Immerse yourself in music that is at the intersection of jazz and classical during The Jazz Effect: Gershwin and Stravinsky Nov. 12, 13 and 14. George Gershwin is an iconic composer and pianist known for his masterpieces, "Rhapsody in Blue" and "An American in Paris." Igor Stravinsky is known for his "Symphony in C" and "Firebird Suite."

The Phoenix Symphony will perform its Holiday Pops concert Dec. 3, 4 and 5 at Symphony Hall. Expect to hear hymns and carols from various traditions and faiths as well as popular secular songs.

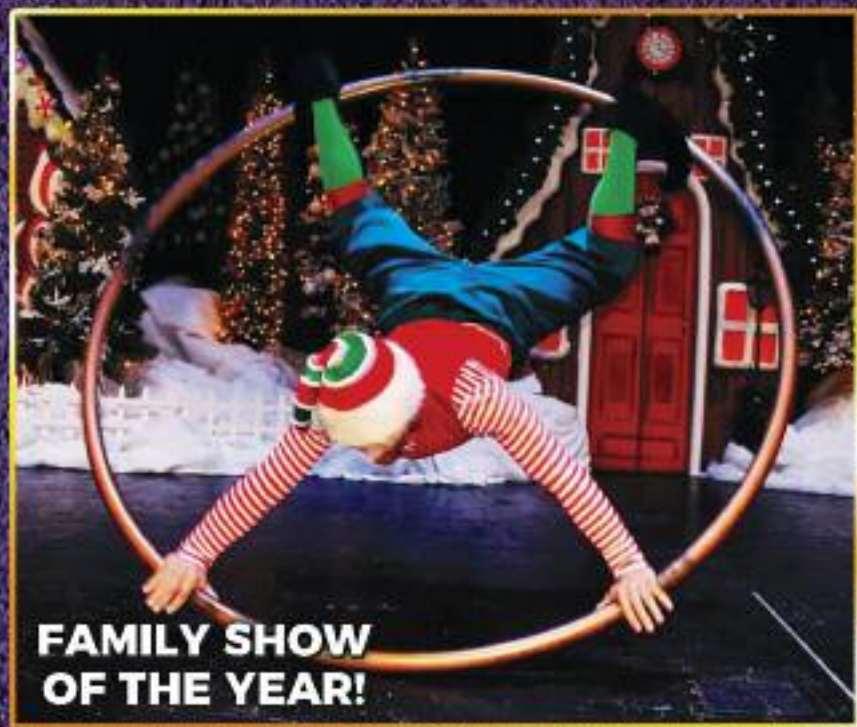


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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

You can purchase individual tickets or subscriptions for multiple shows. For tickets and information, visit www.phoenixsymphony.org.

Local author will sign new book

A new children's book tells the story of a gentle sheep and unruly goat that offer life lessons in relationships.

Phoebe Fox of North Central, a mother of three sons, recently released her book, "Starry's New Friend," through her Mamafox Books publishing company. Fox will launch and sign her book at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13, at Wildlings Toy Boutique at 6031 N. 16th St. Nikki Brzescinski of Tucson created the vibrant watercolor illustrations aimed at catching children's attention and revealing the beauty of Arizona.

This is the third book in Fox's series about Starry the Sheep, who lives at a school in Phoenix. In the book, Starry is content in her pen next to an apple tree but then Luna arrives. Luna is boisterous, which delights school-children but Starry is not a fan. Starry's New Friend reminds readers that with friendship that new people we meet might not fit the mold we have in mind but might offer exactly what we need. It is recommended for those ages 2 to 8.

Fox teaches a Storytime and Crafts class at Madison Simis Elementary School and conducts virtual storytimes on YouTube. Purchase Starry's New Friend at www.mamafoxbooks.com.

Ballet and Santa at Madison Center

Celebrate the season with two special events at the Madison Center for the Arts. American Ballet Theatre Studio Company will take the stage on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. ABT has earned a reputation for both the diversity and quality of its touring productions and has toured the most of any ballet company, having performed in over 136 cities in 50 countries.

Santa's Circus will come to Arizona for the first time when it debuts at the center Dec. 2-5. This spectacular Christmas-themed circus is beautifully decorated to capture the essence of Christmas. Meet and greet your favorite Christmas characters, write your own letter to Santa with the help of Mrs. Claus and get your picture

taken with Santa after the show. Showtimes are 7 p.m. Dec. 2-4 and 1 p.m. Dec. 5.

To learn more or to purchase tickets, visit www.themadison.org.

Enjoy music, dance at Holidays at the Heard

Celebrate the holiday season with musical and dance performances, shopping and lunch at Holidays at the Heard from Friday, Nov. 26, to Sunday, Nov. 28, and Dec. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19 and 28-31 on the museum's campus at 2301 N. Central Ave.

Performers include Grammy-nominated musician Aaron White (Northern Ute/Diné) on acoustic guitar and Native American flute from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 26-28. Lane Jensen (Navajo) will perform traditional flute and offer other types of entertainment from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 4-5. Sage Cornelius (Diné/Oneida/Potawatomi/Kickapoo) will pay tribute to his years in symphonic orchestras and as a bluegrass fiddle player from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 11-12.

To learn more, visit <https://heard.org/event/holidays>.

Celebrate season with puppet theater shows

Your children can enjoy the magic of Christmas with you in two different shows the Great Arizona Puppet Theater is performing later this month and in December.

The theater troupe will deliver "The Christmas Mouse," an original story about a lonely, sweet mouse and the enchantment of the holiday from Nov. 26 to Dec. 5. Fridays shows will start at 10 a.m., Saturday performances take place at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and on Sundays the curtain will rise at 2 p.m. This play is recommended for those ages 2 and older.

The theater will mark the holiday with many stories, music and a captivating array of puppets from Dec. 10-26. Friday shows will start at 10 a.m., the Saturday performances will begin at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and the Sunday entertainment will start at 2 p.m. These performances are recommended for ages 3 and older.

Tickets must be purchased ahead of time. The theater is located at 302 W. Latham St. For tickets, visit www.azpuppets.org.

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Who We Are

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Location & Meeting

Our meetings are held on the first and third Friday of each month beginning at 9:00 am. Our meeting spot is at The Casa patio, 7878 N. 16th St., Phoenix, AZ 85020. Following the meeting, we tour up to 10 homes new to the market. We require those REALTORS who have a property on the tour to attend the meeting and then participate in the virtual tour of all houses on that day's tour. Each agent provides constructive feedback on price, condition, and key features of the home. The goal is to network with fellow REALTORS who also specialize in North Central Phoenix neighborhoods and help sell the property.

Tour Boundaries

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

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We love working with new members. Join our team and receive news and information about new homes on the market in the North Central Region of Phoenix.

**For more information or to become a member,
visit our website at**

<https://northcentraltour.com/>



New York Pizza Dept. CEO Nikki West, here with delivery driver Tony Di Domizio, said specially filtered water from Yonkers, N.Y., is the key ingredient that makes their pizza taste like home to New Yorkers (photo by Marjorie Rice).

Café Chat

Yonkers water gives pizza authentic New York flavor

By Marjorie Rice

When brothers Greg and Scott Ziegler moved from Long Island, N.Y., to Arizona, they made a disappointing discovery: the pizza here just didn't measure up to the New York pizzas they loved and missed.

So they did what many immigrants to the state have done before them when they hungered for a restaurant serving up a taste of home, they did it themselves, opening New York Pizza Dept. (NYPD Pizza) in 2007.

They started in their apartment, testing various dishes, making pizza for friends using flour and ovens from New York and recipes that had been in the family for generations – even making their own sausage.

But there was a stumbling block. Try as they might, the pizza crust wasn't the same.

After much tasting and testing, they discovered it was the water. They brought water from Yonkers, N.Y., made dough and voila! They captured the authentic New York taste.

"The best pizza in the world comes from New York and it's because of the water," said Nikki West, NYPD Pizza CEO. "To this day we get 10 gallons of Yonkers water delivered every six

months to Culligan, I meet them there, we break it all down and we match it." All of the water they use for cooking and drinking matches that Yonkers profile, West said.

"We're absolutely uncompromising in all of our ingredients," she added. "We require at least half of our produce to be locally sourced, we use only whole-milk mozzarella and our tomatoes are hand-steamed and hand-peeled. It's one of our founding values."

The result is an extensive menu offering a variety of New York and Sicilian-style pizzas – the Brooklyn family pizza topped with fat slices of pepperoni and succulent, house-made sausage and fresh basil is a customer favorite – along with calzones, lasagna, baked ziti, spaghetti and meatballs and other traditional Italian dishes. There's also a lengthy salad menu, including the popular SOHO salad pizza, a crisp disc of pizza dough baked with garlic and mozzarella and topped with spring mix, tomatoes, almond and feta.

Other favorites are garlic knots, dusted with garlic, sesame seeds and Romano and served with marinara dipping sauce. And don't pass up the zepoli sundae. Zeppolis are made from bits of pizza dough, fried and tossed with cinnamon and sugar. To gild the lily, NYPD tops them with ice cream, whipped cream and chocolate sauce.

Customers liked the authentic New York tastes and the company grew.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Today NYPD Pizza has eight restaurants throughout the Valley, including the North Central location in the Colonnade shopping center, plus two locations inside Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

In 2007 the brothers moved on to other ventures, and West and another financial investor took over as majority owners.

Becoming CEO capped a culinary career that began for West at a very early age.

“I used a fake ID to get my first job when I was 14,” the Texas native said. She worked for Hillstone Restaurant Group, which operates Houston’s restaurants, for 17 years, rising to regional manager for Houston’s locations in several states. West and her husband moved to Arizona and she worked with Aramark before joining NYPD Pizza as CEO in 2007.

That’s chief “experience” officer – not “executive.”

“I am not an executive, I’m in charge of our customers’ and team members’ experience,” West said. “From those first days, what I loved about our industry is that we get to make magic hundreds of times a day, and it’s a different way every single time.”

One way her company makes magic is through community service, which West calls another founding value.

“It’s an honor to be able to give back, and it’s also a responsibility,” she said. “Our customers bless us with their loyalty. One way we give back is through our Dough Raiser program.” she said.

Customers can bring in a flyer from a non-profit or school and the restaurant will donate 20 percent of each customer’s sale to the organization. In December the Every Kid Deserves program distributes toys brought in by customers.

“Customers bring in new toys – we don’t monitor but we ask that the toys are valued at \$10 or more – and we give them a coupon for a free pizza for each toy donated,” West said.

The program begins on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

NYPD Pizza’s North Central location at 1949 E. Camelback Road in the Camelback Colonnade shopping center, is open from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Mondays to Thursdays, and 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays. For information, call 602-294-6969 or visit <https://aznypdpizza.com>.

Dining Briefs

Original Breakfast House to host veteran support party

A celebration to honor those who have served in the military will be held on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, at Original Breakfast House.

There will be live music and family-friendly entertainment outside of the restaurant at 13623 N. 32nd St., and free meals will be provided to any active-duty military personnel or veteran all day long. The party will take place from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Proceeds from this event will benefit the nonprofit Tunnel to Towers Tempe, a non-profit organization started in honor of Stephen Siller, a firefighter who died in the line of duty on Sept. 11, 2001. The organization also pays tribute to all first responders and military heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Tunnel to Towers Tempe will match all donations from Original Breakfast House up to \$5,000. Customers can make donations all day at the eatery.

Original Breakfast House owner
please see SUPPORT on page 36

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

SUPPORT continued from page 35

John Stidham is a veteran and has long supported active-duty military members and veterans. To learn more, visit www.originalbreakfasthouse.com.

New coffee spot customizes drinks to guests' tastes

A new coffee shop in North Central – Café Mollie – offers a family-friendly spot to savor diverse, locally brewed java, unusual energy drinks and baked goods created in the community.

Husband and wife team James and Vicky Huynh recently opened the cafe at 6031 N. 16th St. The eatery “can pretty much make any type of coffee,” Vicky said, including lattes, mochas, whipped coffees, nitro cold brews, cappuccinos, and Boba tea. Café Mollie uses coffee beans from Cartel Coffee Lab and offers pastries, including many gluten-free and vegan options, from Süß Pastries.

Café Mollie's energy drinks are made with lotus flowers and berries that have antioxidants. Vicky said these beverages provide the same boost that Red Bull

drinks do but are “smoother.” Customers can tailor the energy drinks with various syrup flavors, including prickly pear, dragon fruit and pineapple.

Café Mollie is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week. To learn more, visit <https://cafemollie.com>.

Feast on Turkey Day meal at Match Market & Bar

Let a local restaurant do the cooking this Thanksgiving.

Match Market & Bar is offering a three-course Turkey Day menu on Thursday, Nov. 25, at 1100 N. Central Ave. Start with a choice of a house salad or a sweet potato harvest soup, then select from a vegetarian tofu stuffing made with traditional vegetables, vegetable stock and chickpea beans or traditional, seasoned sliced turkey. Both are served with mashed potatoes, roasted Brussel sprouts with bacon and maple glaze, cranberry sauce and sweet rolls. There is a choice of pumpkin or apple pie for dessert.

The cost for the three-course meal is \$55 per person, plus tax and gratuity. It is available for dine-in service or to-

go orders. Add drumsticks and wings (limited supply) and a side of stuffing to the turkey entrée for an additional \$5. A bottle of house wine or a six-pack of craft beer is available for an extra \$25.

Seatings for the three-course meal will be at 3 and 6 p.m. To pre-order or make a reservation for dining, call 602-675-8080. For more information, visit www.matchphx.com.

Brighten holidays with local baked goodies

If you want to bring a sugary baked good to your holiday gathering this season, you'll find lots of homemade desserts at Infinity Sweets Custom Treats.

Stephanie Brimley, a graduate of Le Cordon Bleu in Chicago, Ill., who was a pastry chef at the bakery, took over the business at 4727 N. Central Ave. in April. The bakery specializes in cupcakes, custom cakes, cheesecakes, macarons and cookies.

Customers can order a variety of pies, cakes, galettes and tarts all month. Pies are \$24 each and cobblers in mixed berry, peach, blueberry and apple, for \$35 each. Caramel, German

chocolate, banana pudding, strawberry crunch and carrot cakes are available this month for \$40 each. Other seasonal goodies are the pear galettes for \$24 each and fresh, nine-inch fruit tarts for \$40 this month.

The bakery is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sundays and Tuesdays, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays. To order goods ahead of time, call 602-237-5284. Learn more by visiting www.infinitysweets.com.

Flaming Pig's Filipino dishes delight diners

Diners are fired up about Flaming Pig, a new Filipino restaurant in North Central.

The restaurant, located at 1534 W. Camelback Road, offers barbecued meats on sticks or platters and house specialties including pasingaw (Korean meatloaf), sweet and sour fish and Korean-style sour soups.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Monday; closed Tuesday. To learn more, visit www.flaming-pig.com.



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