



# north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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www.northcentralnews.net

## CAP connects residents in crisis to services

By Kathryn M. Miller

At a recent District 3 Community Coffee Chat, Phoenix Fire Chief Mike Duran spoke to the community about the Phoenix Fire Department and his priorities since becoming chief in February.

Duran, a native of Phoenix and a second-generation firefighter, has been with the department since 1994. As an assistant chief, he also helped build and implement the Community Assistance Program (CAP), which has existed since 1995 and is set to undergo a major expansion.

In June 2021, the Phoenix mayor and council approved \$15 million for the first-of-its kind program to improve the crisis response for behavioral and mental health calls in the community. The city says that the investment to augment the CAP is part of a \$21 million commitment to “improving accountability, transparency, responsiveness and trust in public safety.”

Operating out of the Phoenix Fire Department,

*please see CAP on page 6*



Sunnyslope resident Chrystal Wilder enjoys playing mahjong each week at the Sunnyslope Senior Center. An Arizona resident since 1948, she will celebrate her 100th birthday this month (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

## Sunnyslope resident will celebrate 100 years

By Kathryn M. Miller

Sunnyslope resident Chrystal Wilder has seen a lot of changes in her lifetime, and as she approaches the century mark, she shared a little bit about her life, her adopted home of Arizona, and her advice for the younger generations.

Born in the Mississippi Delta in 1922, Wilder made her way to Memphis, Tennessee, and in 1941, she was in college on a working scholarship. Her assignment was to serve the football training tables.

“All of the girls, of course, wanted to do that,” she chuckled.

But then, on Dec. 7, she recalled that she was playing bridge with a group of friends when the news came that Pearl Harbor had been attacked. And everything changed.

Not long after that, she began working for the Frisco Railroad at the Yale Yards in Memphis, because “the people who worked at the railroad were drafted, and a lot of them went to the war,” she recalled.

“The troop train would come through there, and we knew that a lot of those that were there would not be coming back — they were headed for the war — which was very sobering.”

After the war, Wilder married a sailor and headed

across the country to California.

“My first baby was born in the Navy hospital over in Coronado. That was before they did the bridge, and they thought I’d go into labor when I was on the ferry,” she laughed, “but I made it across. And then eight years later, I had the other one at St. Joseph’s hospital.”

Wilder and her family arrived in Arizona in 1948. First living in Kingman, then Flagstaff, and finally in Sunnyslope. She remembers living at the “city limits” in 1952 and the “little cabins” where people seeking tuberculosis treatment lived, and how much the landscape has changed since.

*please see 100 YEARS on page 8*

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COMMUNITY

From the Editor

Hello, North Central Neighbors — welcome to summer in the city!

For our June issue, I had the opportunity to speak with one of our amazing North Central residents, Chrystal Wilder, who will celebrate her 100th birthday this month. Ms. Chrystal shared a little bit about her life, her memories of Phoenix in the 50s and some advice for younger generations.

On the other end of the age spectrum is a story about a young Royal Palm resident, Cecelia, who is making a difference in her neighborhood. She built a “Multi-Solution Mini Box” that not only serves as a book and art sharing library, but has become a gathering space for the community.



In this month’s Café Chat feature, Marjorie Rice sat down with the sisters who co-own Aunt Chilada’s — a fixture in North Central with roots going back more than a century.

You will find these stories as well as news from neighbors, community organizations, area schools and businesses, as well as events taking place in and around North Central and more.

Finally, with the summer months upon us, it is important to remember that Arizona’s heat is nothing to be taken lightly. By being mindful of the dangers that an Arizona summer brings, we can enjoy the good things that summertime offers, and get through the next few months without preventable tragedies.

In the meantime, thank you for your readership — we hope you enjoy our June issue!

All my best,

Kathryn M. Miller  
Editor, *North Central News*  
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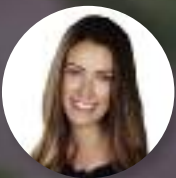
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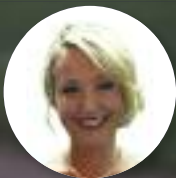
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COMMUNITY



Cecelia's Multi-Solution Mini Box, complete with books, succulents and even a miniature art exchange, has become a gathering place for her community (submitted photos).

### New little library is a gathering space

By Kathryn M. Miller

Thanks to the efforts of young resident Cecelia G., and with the support of her family and neighbors, the Royal Palm neighborhood has not only a new way to share books and art, but a new place to share a sense of community.

"To graduate from eighth grade at Madison Meadows, I needed to plan, create and implement a sustainable pro-

ject that positively impacted my community," Cecelia shared. "I chose to create a Multi-Solution Mini Box, which was similar to a Little Free Library, with books and art in the inside and succulents on the outside of the structure."

Completed in April, the project is not only for the community. The student had assistance and plenty of support from the community.

Penny Burns, who is a neighbor and family friend, helped "CeCe" paint the sunflower on her library.

"I took my paints down to her house, and guided her through her painting of the sunflower," Burns shared. "She did an awesome job. It was such a pleasure working with such a wonderful young lady, she really painted it all by herself."

Once the paint was dry, Cecelia says that she asked her community to donate books and art.

"It really filled up quickly! Many people have donated and taken books, and this week, someone donated little paintings! I keep the library organized each week and water the succulents."

The community's reaction to the new library has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Her library truly encompasses a 'community' project that is sustainable and will be useful in our community for many years to come," her mom, Laura, said.

Next-door neighbor Pamela Talbert agrees.

"The Royal Palm neighborhood has a rich history of community involvement," Talbert said. "Cecelia's community library is a perfect addition to our neighborhood. Royal Palm Road is a street frequented by walkers, runners, bikers, etc. All are greeted with at a minimum a wave, or an hour-long exchange of neighborly information and support."

please see LIBRARY on page 6



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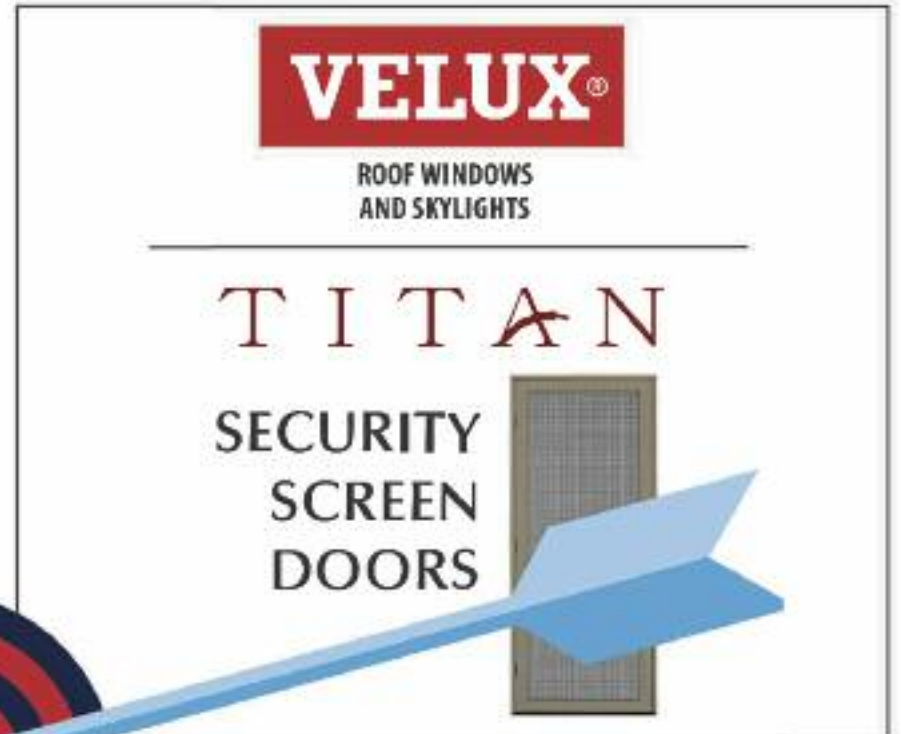




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**COMMUNITY**

**CAP continued from page 1**

CAP will remove primary responsibility for mental health response from Phoenix Police. The original CAP, which was similar, was not adequately funded for the kind of services that are needed now and was staffed largely by volunteers.

When a resident calls 9-1-1, either Phoenix Fire and/or Phoenix Police department responds directly. With this new system, set to be implemented this year, individuals contacting 9-1-1 who are experiencing behavioral and mental health issues or are in need of emergency crisis response will have a coordinated response from the City.

The expanded CAP, when fully operational, will consist of 19 mobile units: 10 units will be professionally staffed by civilian city employees and will provide crisis response, connection to care, and other social services; nine units will involve a public-private partnership with a behavioral health provider to ensure those who suffer with mental and behavioral health conditions receive ongoing case management and counseling services.

In addition, five coordinator posi-

tions were created under the program. The coordinators can be assigned to various Fire districts, allowing them to get to know the communities, as well as provide coordination of the behavioral/mental health and crisis response teams.

Duran described the CAP as the “next level of care and support that we can provide our residents.” The funding, and the program, couldn’t come at a better time. He said that comparing 2019 to 2021, there was a 10 percent increase in calls for service, which equates to over 20,000 additional calls. The expanded CAP will help alleviate some of those calls.

At the late April District 3 meeting, Duran said, “I talk a lot about building relationships. We know, as a city, we can’t provide all of the resources and services to the community...we are such a growing, vast community here, and very diverse community. So, we rely upon partnerships and relationships to help serve the community and the needs of the community. Because, as they change, we change.”

For additional information, visit [www.phoenix.gov/fire](http://www.phoenix.gov/fire).

**LIBRARY continued from page 4**

“While walking with my neighbors I watched CeCe’s library taking shape. I and others were so excited. The little library was painted blue and yellow to show support for Ukraine. The library is a wonderful addition to our neighborhood, and we’re all thrilled to shop and drop at our neighborhood little library.”

Linda Ek, who has lived across the street for 50 years was thrilled to see Cecelia, whom she has watched grow from infancy into the “talented” and “very sweet young lady” she is today, take on this community project.

“It’s a gathering place. People stop to look at the books, and then other people stop to introduce their self. I had a young couple stop and introduce their self to me the other day when I was out front.”

Cecelia, who Ek says loves to read, added, “I have seen a lot of people visit my library. It makes me feel proud to know that my neighbors have more access to free books and art and are enjoying having my project in our neighborhood.”



# VFW Post 9400 - Helping Veterans for Over 75 Years

## June 11th – Celebration

<b>8:00am - 10:00am</b> <b>Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast</b>	<b>5:00pm - 7:00pm</b> <b>Ribfest</b>	<b>6:00pm</b> <b>50/50 Drawing - \$500 Bonus to the Winner (\$250 if Absent)</b> <b>(Tickets - \$1 ea / 6 for \$5 /14 for \$10)</b>
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<b>1:30pm - 4:30pm</b> <b>Veterans Job Fair &amp; VA Benefits - Helping Veterans</b>	<b>Happy Hour - 1947 Beer Specials</b>	
<b>4:30pm</b> <b>Queen of Hearts Drawing</b>	<b>5:15pm - 6:15pm</b> <b>Uptown Angels Perform - 2 shows</b>	<b>7:30pm</b> <b>Disc Jockey- Dancing with GQ</b>

**Uniting to Combat Hunger**  
Our Post has partnered with Humana to solicit non-perishable food. This is a campaign to put an end to food insecurity among Veterans. Canisters for donations will be located in the Hall and the Canteen.



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## A trip down memory lane

With so many families who grew up in North Central corridor moving back into area to raise their own families, it reminds me of the many businesses that used to be an integral part of the folklore of our community.

Uptown Plaza is located on the northeast corner of Camelback Road and Central Avenue and was created by Del Webb, who developed much of Sun City and also the Flamingo Las Vegas Resort. The shopping center opened on September 25, 1955, and was the first shopping center outside of downtown Phoenix. All of the stores had neon-lit cursive signage and stayed lit until 11 p.m. every night.

Some of the stores that existed at that time and a few years later included Bostroms, Navararre's Restaurant, Markgraf's Pharmacy (ice cream fountain) and A.J. Bayless Market, which is currently AJ's Fine Foods. In the early '70s and '80s we often frequented Lunt Avenue Marble Club and oh, those fried zucchini dipped (double-dipped) with endless amounts of ranch dressing were fun spots and my first introduction to Big Four Restaurants.

How many of you remember the French Corner restaurant? Their freshly baked croissants and cappuccinos were unique to our international corner. Guy Coscas and his partner didn't stop at the restaurant; they opened Euro Market grocery store, where in the back corner was a young man with big aspirations, Chris Bianco of Pizzeria Bianco. Even our nightclub, the Jockey Club (the film, Waiting to Exhale filmed the nightclub

scene inside), which opened in 1987 and sold to Sweet Tomatoes in 1995, sat on the south side of Uptown Plaza.

So many landmarks in the Central and Camelback corners flooded my memory, once I began to think about it. Katz Deli was first located on Camelback just east of Central and then years later relocated to the Central Avenue building that later became Postinos. It was a frequent stomping ground for a great bagel and chicken soup. These restaurants, retail and grocery stores were just laying the groundwork for what has become a hub in our north Central corridor and continues to make it a coveted place to live in our Valley of the Sun.

I love the history and know that many of you have your favorite memories. It is why we see continued desire to reside in our community. Hope to see you as I stop by one of the current restaurants and AJ's picking up dinner.

Lather up the sunscreen and happy June!

**Bobby Lieb**

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COMMUNITY

100 YEARS continued from page 1

“When I moved here, this was a grapefruit grove and had orchid trees, and then the trees, we had to have them cut back because the limbs got old. And so now, in my yard I just have ornamental orange and a flowering plum. I don’t have any of the fruit trees.”

As the years passed, her daughters grew into adults and Wilder now has five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. And while she is an avid reader and enjoys a good game of Spite and Malice, or watching ‘Wheel of Fortune’ and ‘Jeopardy,’ she found she needed something more. Which is where the Sunnyslope Senior Center comes in.

Originally opened in 1978, and expanded in 1997, the Sunnyslope Community Center shares the facility with the Human Services Department’s Senior Programs and serves as the hub of community activity. The community center features a gymnasium, large multipurpose room, classrooms, youth lobby, senior lobby, fitness center and more. Also sharing the campus is Sunnyslope Park, with a lighted basket-

ball court, a playground, shuffleboard courts, horseshoe pits and a ramada.

“I’ve been going to the senior center for quite a few years. I don’t know how long, but when I first heard about it, I looked it over and I liked what I saw,” Wilder shared.

Maria Medina, the Senior Programs supervisor, says that Wilder is responsible for bringing mahjong to the center. Medina’s goal is to understand what her members need — whether social or physical activities — and then she tries to accommodate that.

Popular classes include Geri Fit, every Tuesday and Thursday, and the Low Impact Step class. Beginner conversation Spanish starts in June, in addition to My Story, My Art, a special grant class that is designed to have members write their bio and paint a piece of representative art.

“When Ms. Chrystal called, I asked her what she was looking for and she said ‘mahjong,’ so, I started with her and then I started adding more and more.”

“I went on a cruise one time and they wanted to know if anyone played mahjong,” Wilder recalled, “and I said,

‘Well, I’ve heard about it, so I’ll join the group.’ And people from other countries were playing, and we couldn’t talk to each other, but we all knew mahjong and we had a real good time.”

When asked if she has any advice for the younger generations, Wilder chuckled and said, “That’s a hard one to answer. I think that everybody should take advantage of trying to get an education, and use that education to improve their lives. And also, to get along with other people; to be friends with other people.”

“One thing I want to mention about the senior center...we meet people that we didn’t know before. We’ve become friends, and that is so important. As you get older, it is so important to know people that are sort of your own generation. We can talk about things that may not be common knowledge because, you know, it would’ve happened when we were younger. But I think the senior center serves quite a good purpose because we get acquainted with people who have similar ideas.”

Although she says that “it’s just another birthday,” and “you don’t have

to make such a fuss,” the Sunnyslope Senior Center will recognize Wilder’s 100th birthday at a celebration Friday, June 24, from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with games, giveaways, music, refreshments and door prizes.

To learn more about the Sunnyslope Senior Center, located at 802 E. Vogel Ave., in Phoenix, call 602-262-7572 or visit [www.phoenix.gov/humanservices](http://www.phoenix.gov/humanservices) and click on the “Senior Services” link.

Transit book now a thing of the past

In April, Valley Metro said goodbye to the transit book and is now encouraging residents to plan their trips digitally.

The Valley Metro app provides trip planning information and allows riders to track their bus or light rail train in real time. Rider alerts are also available in the app. The app is one of many ways to access transit information.

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## VFW post celebrates 75th anniversary

Named in memory of Private Joseph F. Monfort, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 9400 was chartered June 2, 1947. This month, the post will celebrate its 75th anniversary with the community.

Monfort, an Arizona native and regular Army enlistee, was captured by when Corregidor fell on May 6, 1942. He died in a POW camp Jan. 17, 1945. He is now buried at the National Cemetery of the Pacific, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Since the post's first muster on April 16, 1948 (with the first phase of the building completed in September of that year), it has served as a meeting place in Phoenix for new and old Veterans alike. The torch has been passed through five war generations keeping its focus of providing a trusted space for camaraderie and support for the community.

In celebration of its 75 years of service, Post 9400 will hold a day-long anniversary celebration June 11.

All veterans and their families are

invited to attend the event, which kicks off with a Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast at 8 a.m. The day includes a Jobs and Benefits Fair from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Employers will be present who are looking to hire veterans. In addition, VA medical and disability experts will be available to provide veterans with assistance.

Another highlight of the day: a Ribfest, taking place 5-7 p.m. (\$20 or \$35 for two) and free Uptown Angels performances at 5:15 p.m. and 6:15 p.m., followed by dancing at 7 p.m. World War II veterans are being honored at the event (and can enjoy the Ribfest event for free).

VFW Post 9400 is located at 804 E. Purdue Ave., Phoenix. For additional information, call 602-678-2726, visit [www.vfw9400az.org](http://www.vfw9400az.org) or follow the post on Facebook: @VFWpost9400fan.

## Voter registration deadline is July 5

Phoenix City Council seats in District 2, 4, 6 and 8 will be up for election Nov. 8. In addition, the state primary elections will be held Aug. 2.

The deadline to register to vote in the August primary is Tuesday, July 5. The deadline to register to vote in the November election is Tuesday, Oct. 11. To check your voter registration status, visit <https://recorder.maricopa.gov/beballotready>.

Learn more about county elections at <https://recorder.maricopa.gov/elections>. To learn more about city of Phoenix elections, visit [www.phoenix.gov/cityclerk/elections](http://www.phoenix.gov/cityclerk/elections).

## Willo announces 2023 Home Tour & Street Fair

At its May meeting, the Willo Neighborhood Association announced that the 34th annual Willo Home Tour & Street Fair (WHT) will be held Feb. 19, 2023. Board president Dr. Robert Cannon also announced that Linda Doescher and David Roth-Gonzalez would lead as the event co-chairs.

Initially planned in the 1920s, Willo is one of Phoenix's first historic neighborhoods and is now part of the core of Central Phoenix. Architectural styles range from Tudors, bungalows, Spanish colonials and later ranch styles.

Look for updates at [www.willophx.com](http://www.willophx.com) and the Willo Neighborhood events Facebook page.

## Faye Tait joins BHHS Arizona Properties

Faye Tait has joined Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Arizona Properties at the Camelback office. Ms. Tait, a native Phoenician, brings many skills to the Valley's top Berkshire office. With several years of financial advisor experience at Merrill Lynch and PaineWebber's wealth management divisions, and significant training, Ms. Tait has a unique skillset and driven work ethic. She also has been a dedicated volunteer and community leader in the charitable arena, having served as president of the Junior League of Phoenix, Golden Gate Community Center Guild, Xavier College Preparatory Alumnae Association and is a founding board member of Ryan House. Ms. Tait grew up in North Central Phoenix and said her fondest memories were riding her horse on Murphy's bridle path, marrying her high school sweetheart Tom Tait, Jr., and raising their three children on Glenn Drive.



*Faye & Tom on Ginger - 1981*



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COMMUNITY

New crisis center opens in Phoenix

New Life Center (NLC), the state’s largest domestic violence shelter, opened its first sexual violence and rape crisis center, Tuesday, May 24. The New Life Center Sunshine Healing Services center will help victims of rape, sexual violence and human trafficking.

According to RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network), every 68 seconds, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted. Prevalence data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that 43.6 percent of women, and 24.8 percent of men in the United States has experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetimes. Applying those statistics to Maricopa County population data, NLC estimates that 757,000 women and 420,380 men in Maricopa County have been victims of sexual assault in their lifetimes.

The New Life Center Sunshine Healing Services Center will operate out of 3826 N. 3rd Street, a.k.a. The



The New Life Center Sunshine Healing Services center will be housed in “The Firehouse” in downtown Phoenix (photo courtesy of New Life Center).

Firehouse, in downtown Phoenix. Originally constructed as a fire station, the building is a standalone with its own parking lot, helping survivors access the location discreetly.

NLC’s sexual assault mobile advocates, human trafficking advocates and prevention and training departments will all operate at this location. Additionally, the organization’s active partnership with La Frontera Empact will allow the agency to bring on a trauma healing therapist available for

behavioral health needs anywhere from 20 to 40 hours per week. The building is also a short distance from the Phoenix Family Advocacy Center, NLC’s enforcement partner through the City of Phoenix and the City of Phoenix Police Department.

Amy Scanlon, NLC outreach director, will manage the center, which will operate with four full-time employees. The NLC 27/7 mobile crisis number is 623-215-8072. For additional information, visit [www.newlifectr.org](http://www.newlifectr.org).

Nonprofit helps adult students

One Valley nonprofit is encouraging residents, age 25 or older, to improve their lives through education, and helps students achieve their goals through its scholarship program.

“I created GK Legacy Foundation and the Keep Your Chin Up Scholarship program in 2019 to honor of my father (GK), who we sadly lost to cancer in 2018,” said Peggy Baze, founder and CEO. “‘Keep your chin up kid’ was my dad’s favorite thing to say whenever we faced adversity. Now, those words are sacred to us, and we are using them to inspire others.”

In 2020, the organization added an additional scholarship program specifically for those pursuing a degree in healthcare. Through the Keep Your Chin Up and Healthcare Heroes Scholarship programs, the organization has awarded over \$240,000 to Arizona residents who are committed to changing their lives through education.

For additional information, visit [www.gklegacyfoundation.org](http://www.gklegacyfoundation.org).

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People's knowledge of the world comes from a variety of places, and for as long as cars have been on the road, there have been tall tales about everything from when to change your oil to how to save money on gas to the rise of self-driving cars. There are a lot of myths and old truths about car maintenance and driving that haven't aged well. Some of it is misguided and some of it is just left over from when vehicles were made in a different way to completely different regulations. Human nature thrives on making up myths, however many of them are founded on incorrect information. The worst part about all of these myths is that believing them and applying them to car ownership will affect your wallet and cause you to lose your peace of mind. These tidbits of knowledge will aid you in realizing the reality and assisting you in being a better car owner.

#### **LET US TAKE A MOMENT TO SIT CROOKEDLY AND STRAIGHTEN OUT THE FACTS**

**It's important to change your oil every 3,000 miles or 3 months, whichever is first**  
While some cars use conventional motor oil and require oil changes every 3,000 miles or three months, many newer cars have far longer maintenance periods. If your car requires synthetic oil, you should be able to travel 5,000 miles or more between oil changes. Take out that dusty black book called an owner's manual from your glove compartment. The maintenance table will show you how frequently you should replace the oil.

**Red cars are more expensive to insure**  
What car enthusiast hasn't fantasized of owning a sultry candy apple red vehicle? We've always heard that red automobiles are more expensive to insure, happy to say this isn't true! Furthermore, red cars do not receive more speeding penalties than other colors. However, if the manufacturer charges a premium for "specialty" colors, some red cars may be more expensive to purchase. For example, The 2022 Toyota CHR costs \$425 more in regular red than most other colors.

**You don't need to use the e-brake or parking brake when you park**  
This may seem silly, and you may convince yourself that you don't live in a city with steep hills like San Francisco, but using your parking brake has two advantages: First, if the transmission park gear fails, the car could roll away if the parking brake is not applied; second, applying the parking brake and then shifting to park relieves additional stress on the transmission, extending its life and preventing costly repairs. On the other hand, do not activate your parking brake if you are storing your vehicle or not driving

it for an extended length of time to avoid your parking brake seizing or your brake pads rusting to your rotors.

**Your tires should be inflated to the number listed on each tire's sidewall**  
Drivers may face a predicament while filling their tires for the first time, regardless of the sort of vehicle they are driving. You're aware that the tires should be inflated to a specific psi (pounds per square inch), but the figure varies by vehicle. In most cases, drivers will be presented with two alternative tire psi numbers. When it comes to inflating your tires, it's usually best to stick to the manufacturer's recommended pressure. Follow the pressure specs on the door jam sticker and not what's on the tire.

**A car under warranty needs to be serviced at the dealer or the warranty is voided**  
Though the dealership business tactics are the best, this one is a little more complicated. First and foremost, a dealership's service department exists to offer needed warranty repairs for that dealership. The service department, on the other hand, became an open-door service and repair facility because it couldn't exist only on warranty fixes. While some dealerships may try to convince you that you must get your car repaired there in order to keep your warranty, this is clearly wrong. Services can be performed at any shop, but you must execute the maintenance recommended in the owner's manual or your warranty claim may be denied due to neglect. As a car owner, your best first line of defense is to keep all receipts in case of a warranty issue.

**Using Your Air Conditioning Drains Your Gas Tank**  
As a general rule, operating the air conditioner reduces gas mileage, according to a Consumer Reports research and turn off your air conditioning won't necessarily save you on gas either as it relies on a variety of things, including how you drive your vehicle. Depending on the driving circumstances, turning on or off your air conditioner might assist reduce or boost your fuel efficiency. During modest speeds, they choose to travel with the air conditioning turned off and the windows down. Similarly, does running the air conditioner use more gas than leaving the windows open? When driving less than 50 miles per hour, the air conditioner burns more fuel than open windows. When the temperature is a little cooler and you're driving with the city, it's preferable to leave the windows down. At such speed, the drag will be negligible, hence the engine will spend very little fuel.

**Always Buy Gas Early in the Day**  
You should, after all, only buy gas when

you need it. Another typical gas pump conundrum is when is the best time to buy gas. The logic goes like this: gas expands in the tank as it gets hotter, so if you buy early in the day, you'll get more bang for your buck. However, adapting your gas-buying habits to this concept isn't really practical; the hotter the day, the more gas will evaporate when you put it in the car. It doesn't make much of a difference to the individual customer if your car is nice and cool because there is less evaporation as you put it into the car. It's so insignificant, like a tenth of a percent [of gas] per year. Gas is normally the same temperature no matter what time of day you buy it because it is stored in underground tanks and does not alter in temperature.

#### **You Must Use the Car's Recommended Grade of Gas**

If your car can handle a lower grade, go for it and save money! The truth is that fuel recommendations from manufacturers are based on the engine's performance capabilities. Even when it advises to use premium fuel in current cars, mid-grade or normal fuel will suffice, just pay attention that you don't hear a pinging sound. It's simple to try it out and find what works best for you. Let's face it, no matter what gasoline grade you use, if you drive a high-performance vehicle and live in a neighborhood with a speed restriction of 25 to 45 mph, you're not going to notice.

#### **Having a Clean Air Filter = Better Gas Mileage**

Let's change that; instead, focus on your tires rather than your air filters. There are a number of factors that might affect your fuel economy, like the weight of your vehicle (get rid of those roof racks, people!), but a dirty air filter isn't one of them. The lesson is to understand that every automobile built after 1997 has an engine that automatically compensates for a filthy air filter. It's not a good idea to completely disregard the air filter; it's inexpensive, and it wouldn't hurt to replace it every 20 to 30 thousand miles. Here is a fun fact, the vehicle burns the same amount of fuel as driving one mile for every two minutes of idle time.

#### **The Biggest Cars are the Safest Cars in a Crash**

Larger trucks and SUVs are preferred by most drivers because they provide a sense of security. Because bigger cars are more prone to tip in a crash, it's a misconception to believe that a bigger car is always safer. True, if your car stays on all four wheels, you'll be less damaged than if you're in a smaller vehicle, but the possibilities of rolling in a truck or SUV are higher, not to mention a harsher impact owing to the vehicle's massive weight. It's nice to feel secure, but are you truly secure? Stay sharp by examining your driving behaviors and returning to the basics of respecting speed limits and driving less distractedly.

#### **Don't use your cell phone while pumping gas you could blow things up**

On this one, we'll defer to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) conclusion: there's no proof that these stories are true. While a spark from a cell phone battery may hypothetically ignite gas vapor, the FCC considers the risk is negligible. Bigfoot or the Loch Ness Monster, on the other hand, might be able to shed some more insight on the problem!

#### **Warm up your car before you drive**

Many individuals believe this, particularly in colder climates. Yes, allowing the car's engine to warm up before driving away is beneficial. The theory is that the oil and moving elements of the engine will warm up to the right temperature and perform better than if they were started cold. While

there was a grain of truth to this story in the past, the situation is now radically different. Engines can run well from a cold start, even on extremely cold days, thanks to modern technology, engineering, and materials. A simple rule is to let the vehicle run for 90 seconds after a cold start to allow all of the engine components to get lubricated and the computer monitoring system to prepare for your trip.

#### **If you don't report an accident, your insurance rates won't change**

Some drivers may be tempted not to notify their insurance provider after being involved in a car accident, believing that the accident will go unnoticed. If you get a ticket, it will appear on your driving record, where it will not be hidden for long. It is standard practice for an insurer to evaluate your driving record when you renew a policy to determine whether anything has changed. Furthermore, the other party may contact your insurance provider without alerting you to pursue a claim for losses you may have caused. The sooner you call your insurance company, the better equipped they will be to assist you in navigating the aftermath of an accident.

#### **It's not good to run your gas tank on empty**

If you're a millennial or a member of Generation X, you were probably taught that running your gas tank empty would block your pump and impair the life of your engine components. We've heard this a lot, and it makes sense. However, since fuel pump replacement isn't a cheap fix, the real question is if that opinion still holds true today. A fuel pump is positioned deep inside the fuel tank of nearly every car on the road. The premise and design behind this is that the fuel around the submerged fuel pump will keep it cool and prevent it from overheating. When the fuel tank is nearly empty, the fuel pump begins to overheat, and allowing it to overheat on a regular basis by running the fuel at a quarter tank will prematurely destroy your fuel pump. As a general rule, don't let it get below half a tank.

#### **Synthetic motor oil is the best oil for my car**

This isn't always the case, however. Simply said, when your vehicle was brand new and sitting in that dealership's showroom, it had oil in it, which the auto manufacturer put in. Whatever oil it was, it was, and continues to be, the best motor oil for your vehicle. The engineers did not cut any shortcuts when it came to assuring the car's performance and longevity. You should use the oil that came with it if it has a traditional motor. Going synthetic will not extend the life of your engine or make it more powerful. The key to your answer is to replace your oil when it's supposed to be changed regardless of the grade of oil. If your car is designed to run on synthetic, though, it's a no-brainer.

It's vital to know the difference between advice and opinion. Advice is founded on information and experience, whereas an opinion is founded purely on a person's beliefs and not on their expertise. I can either lecture you by informing you that baby carrots are sprayed with chlorine to retain their orange color and crisp texture, or I can empower you by teaching you that consuming chlorine on a regular basis is harmful to your health. It is entirely up to you to make a decision. You don't have to agree with me to embrace empowerment.

#### **It makes no difference how you obtained the information; what matters is that you comprehended the correct information.**

*Shahe Koulloukian Auto Industry Attaché / Author of upcoming book Car Confidential / Educator of Automotive Ownership*



COMMUNITY

# Pet of the Month

**Loveable Loki brings the hoppy, leaves the mischief**

Any fan of Marvel Comics, or the movies fashioned after them, is sure to recognize Loki's name. While he is not the antihero that the fictional Asgardian character has become, this fluffier, friendlier version of him is sure to gain just as many fans, if not more.

Loki is a handsome one-year-old brown Rex mix rabbit that was one of quite a few rabbits rescued by Arizona Humane Society Emergency Animal Medical Technicians in April of this year after they were found to be living in conditions not ideal to their health and wellbeing.

Admittedly easy to handle and friendly by those who have had the pleasure of caring for him while in the shelter, Loki is a lovable bun who would love a nice area to stretch his legs in when he is not in his enclosure. Fresh, leafy greens and veggies are also the way to this hoppy-go-lucky bunny's heart and a family that is familiar with proper rabbit care is at the top of his wish list.

Loki's animal number is 695408.



The hoppy-go-lucky Loki is looking for fresh, leafy greens, a place to stretch his legs and a forever family to enjoy them with.

AHS' Virtual Adoption Matchmaking Program by appointment is available to place pets, like lovable Loki, with their forever families. While Loki may have been adopted by the time of your appointment, AHS has dozens of pets who also need loving homes.

For more information, visit [www.azhumane.org/adopt](http://www.azhumane.org/adopt).

## Help keep pets safe this summer

While summer doesn't officially arrive until June 21, the temperatures are already solidly in the triple digits —

and it will only get hotter. Which is why Maricopa County Animal Care and Control is reminding Valley residents that pets also need proper shade, water and a cool place to rest during extreme heat and offers four tips to help keep them safe.

First, never leave your pet in a parked car. An animal's body temperature can rise in just seconds, causing heat-related problems or even death. Normal body temperature for dogs and cats is between 101- and 103-degrees Fahrenheit.

It is also important to always provide adequate shade for an animal that is staying outside of the house for any length of time.

When exercising, make sure to walk your pet on cooler surfaces to protect his or her feet from burning, or head out in the morning or evening when sidewalks may be cooler. When the temperature is 75 degrees, asphalt can heat up to 125 degrees. If the pavement is too hot for you to hold your hand on for more than a few seconds, it's much too hot for your pet's paws.

Finally, when traveling with a pet, carry a gallon container filled with

fresh, cold water. Give him or her frequent drinks; and if they begin to pant, give them water immediately.

For more tips on keeping pets cool, check out Maricopa County's Animal Care and Control's page: [www.maricopa.gov/5268/Animal-Care-and-Control](http://www.maricopa.gov/5268/Animal-Care-and-Control).

## Angels fundraiser exceeds expectations

Supporters of Gabriel's Angels, a 501(3)c nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire confidence, compassion, and best behavior in at-risk children through pet-therapy, gathered for breakfast to kick-off their 2022 fundraising and awareness efforts at the Arizona Biltmore on April 29.

Board chairman Patty Nelson welcomed almost 300 guests and 20 pet therapy teams and others. Describing the work of the teams at Gabriel's Angels, Nelson said, "We currently have 120 of these wonderful Pet Therapy teams, visiting 120 agencies and serve almost 6,000 at-risk children each year, thanks to you and all who support Gabriel's Angels."

Melissa Steimer, CEO of Gabriel's Angels recognized the Angel Society donors who have committed a gift of \$1,000 or more for five years and related this donation to the actual services the organization provides.

"It costs \$1,000 to serve 20 at-risk kids each year with the right curriculum and training. We have more kids in need and every \$1,000 equals 20 more at-risk kids who are receiving the special help they so need."

She also expressed the need for additional volunteer pet therapy teams to join the effort to reach more children.

With a goal of \$120,000, the event exceeded that with just over \$144,000 raised to benefit at-risk children through pet therapy. Teams, comprised of owners and their pets, visit facilities servicing at-risk children in the Phoenix, Tucson and Prescott areas. The therapy visits provide children with unconditional love and teach core social behaviors.

For more information about the organization or to become a volunteer, call 602-266-0875 or visit [www.gabrielsangels.org](http://www.gabrielsangels.org).

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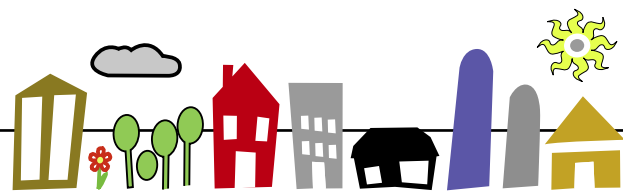
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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Unique North Central  
A shop for the curious  
heading to Melrose

By Kathryn M. Miller

A popular local emporium for those with a curiosity of the natural world, its beauty and its oddities, is changing its location and taking its incredible menagerie down the road to the Melrose District.

After 10 years as a veterinary technician and as a college-level educator, Phoenix native Mason Conway took his interest in natural history and love of the Victorian era aesthetic and turned it into Curious Nature.

Conway found himself frustrated with the for-profit college system and at his job, so he spoke to his partner at the time, now husband, who encouraged him to quit his job and follow his passion.

“It was a scary leap of faith,” Conway said, “But it’s working out so far.”

An avid collector of natural oddities and specimens for many years, he start-



Curious Nature is a gift shop born out of owner and collector Mason Conway’s love of the natural world and Victorian era aesthetic (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

ed Curious Nature in the Roosevelt Arts District in a 300-square-foot shop, then made the move to his current location at Central Avenue and Camelback Road roughly six years ago. The current shop is 1,200 square feet of what the owner describes as a natur-

al history gift shop, with skulls, bones, taxidermy, mounted insects and butterflies and other natural gifts.

Conway’s interest in the natural world started decades ago.

“The short version I tell people is goth kid plus animal nerd intersects

here. But just for a long time I’ve been interested in the aesthetics of the Victorian era. You know, obviously, with my veterinary background and growing up with animals...the science and medicine and anatomy.

“Taxidermy and the collection of natural history specimens was a big past time that really bloomed in the Victorian era. So that’s where the aesthetic kind of tags in there.”

In addition to a wide variety of unique gifts, the shop offers classes on a monthly basis, with everything from taxidermy and entomology to tea leaf reading and a monthly art night, Still Life and Death.

The proprietor says that they are very conscious of where their items are sourced, and that they only utilize things that would otherwise be discarded.

“I lovingly say that I have a network of weirdos and different people that do different things.”

Now, the shop is headed for an even *please see CURIOUS on page 18*

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# HAPPY HOUR WITH HERSCH

Over the years as I have tried to do my best as a father to my boys, I am surprisingly shocked at how much I picked up from my dad. I know that seems like an odd statement but for most of my life I have lived with my mom and would only see my dad for vacations and holidays. Don't get me wrong this was not traumatic just a reality when your parents get divorced when you are young, and they live in different states. My dad has always been an integral part of my life just mainly from afar. The qualities and lessons I learned from him are numerous and varied. If you met my father the first impression you would get is someone who is acerbic, thick skinned and has a mischievous demeanor – traits I have been told I share. But underneath he is one of the fairest persons I have ever met.

He taught me to be kind to all people, not just those that can advance your needs or causes, that life is about experiencing the ups and downs and how you rebound, that perfection is not a destination but a journey and that the goal is to properly accept mistakes and make amends, that being consistent and loyal to your family and friends is imperative and most importantly he taught me to think of others, period. He is the person who will give you the shirt off his back. Hopefully I have been able to share those qualities with my sons. ***I love you dad! Happy Father's Day everyone!***

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



A gathering space at the newly opened Hospice of the Valley Dementia Care and Education Campus (photo courtesy of HOV).

CURIOUS continued from page 16

larger space, about 3,500 square feet, down the road in Melrose. Earlier this year, Conway purchased the old Hennessy Equipment building at 4346 N. 7th Ave. The move will allow for not only more retail space, but a dedicated classroom, “So we’ll be able to do more frequent classes in larger groups,” Conway added.

“I’ve wanted to be in Melrose for a long time, but the market has been crazy and there’s just been a lot of obstacles, even for us getting in this building now,” he said, adding, “This has been a goal and a dream of mine for over a decade, to be able to do something this way and my one goal for me through the business was to have a piece of property that was ours, that I could do what we needed and what we wanted to do our way.”

They have a long demolition and construction process ahead of them, but Conway is hoping to open the new space this fall. In the meantime, you can visit Curious Nature at 5032 N. Central Ave. The shop is open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.

For more information, call 602-314-4346 or visit [www.curiousnatureshop.com](http://www.curiousnatureshop.com).

Business Briefs

New dementia care campus opens

Hospice of the Valley’s (HOV) new Dementia Care and Education Campus held a grand opening celebration April 19. HOV leadership was joined by Governor Doug Ducey and City of Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego as they officially welcomed residents to the campus at 3811 N. 44th St.

The decision to bring the facility to fruition was based on two major factors. First, Arizona has the highest growth rate of people living with dementia in the U.S. By 2025, an estimated 200,000 Arizonans will be affected — a 43 percent increase from 2018. Second, Alzheimer’s and other dementias are Arizona’s fourth leading cause of death.

Modeling an innovative, state-of-the-art approach to comprehensive dementia care, this is a first-of-its-kind campus. Whether a loved one is just starting to show signs of dementia, or is advanced and needing hospice care, the campus provides resources to help with every step of the caregiving journey.

The campus will open in phases, and in addition to serving people with all stages and all types of dementia, it will offer individualized care; provide caregivers with compassionate support; and help families navigate the challenging dementia journey by bringing vital resources together in one place.

To learn more, call 602-767-8300 [www.dementiacampus.org](http://www.dementiacampus.org).

Chamber to hold annual meeting

The Greater Phoenix Chamber invites members of the business community to connect with other business leaders, hear new perspectives from Arizona executives and stay up to date on issues in the business community at its 2022 annual meeting on June 10.

This year’s meeting will showcase leaders who are new to the Valley, their company, or their role as they discuss how they plan to contribute to their business and the state.


Guests include Brian Harrison, senior vice president, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company; Jim Macdonald, managing director, Intermountain Middle

please see MEETING on page 20





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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

MEETING continued from page 18

Market, JPMorgan Chase Bank; and Dr. Kevin Tulipana, CEO, Cancer Treatment Centers of America.

The event will be held Friday, June 10, 11 a.m. –1 p.m., at the Hilton Phoenix Resort at the Peak, 7677 N. 16th St. The cost to attend is \$65/person for members; \$85/person for non-members. To register or for more information, call 602-495-2195 or visit [www.phoenixchamber.com](http://www.phoenixchamber.com).

Theater company expands capacity, opportunity

The state’s oldest theater has launched the final phase of its Centennial Capital Campaign in support of construction of a state-of-the-art, 500-seat theatre along with the creation of an arts innovation and training wing to support its community service programs. So far, The Phoenix Theatre Company, which was founded in Phoenix in 1920, has raised nearly \$17 million of the \$20 million goal.

The theater company says it will expand its current 250-seat Hormel



A rendering of improvements that will take place at The Phoenix Theatre Company as a result of its Centennial Capital Campaign(submitted photo).

Theatre to 500 seats. Technical improvements will include a full fly loft, below-stage traps and a stage large enough to accommodate pre-Broadway show development.

Improvements to the Company’s Hardest Theatre complex, which will provide rehearsal and training space for its signature programs dedicated to healing and educating through the arts, including Partners That Heal and its inclusive Summer Theatre Camp offerings, will also be funded by the capital campaign.

The Phoenix Theatre Company is located at 1825 N. Central Ave. in Phoenix. For additional information, visit [www.phoenixtheatre.com/elevate](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com/elevate).

**Britt named president of Phoenix College**

The Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) and Phoenix College (PC) announced that Dr. Kimberly Britt will serve as the next president of PC. Britt will replace interim president Dr. Clyne Namuo, who

served in the role since March 2021. Britt assumed her new role June 1.

Britt has 25 years of experience in higher education, and when selected as president, was serving as the vice president of Academic Affairs and the accreditation liaison officer at PC, overseeing 17 academic departments as well as the academic support services.

She holds a doctorate in higher education from the University of South Carolina, a master’s degree in English from Northwestern State University and a bachelor’s degree in English from Charleston Southern University.

Goodwill store opens on Bethany

A new Goodwill location opened in North Central with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Friday, April 22.

Located at 1515 E. Bethany Home Rd., Suite 160, in Phoenix, the retail store and donation center is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays, and from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sundays.

For additional information, visit [ww.goodwillaz.org](http://ww.goodwillaz.org) or contact the Bethany East store at 602-216-3941.



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4901 E Lafayette Blvd .....	In Escrow .....	4443SF .....	4BR/4.5BA .....	\$2,800,000
7020 N 21st St.....	In Escrow .....	6853SF .....	7BR/6.5BA .....	\$2,500,000
8989 E Ganiey Ranch Center Dr #228	In Escrow .....	1970SF .....	2BR/2BA .....	\$1,150,000
1025 E Morten Ave .....	In Escrow .....	4215SF .....	5BR/4BA .....	\$1,050,000
7247 N 6th Pl.....	In Escrow .....	3128SF .....	4BR/3BA .....	\$1,040,000
38 W Bethany Home Rd .....	Just Listed .....	3131SF .....	4BR/3.5BA .....	\$ 995,000
732 E Gardenia Dr.....	Just Listed .....	2728SF .....	3BR/3BA .....	\$ 725,000
4735 E Sleepy Ranch Rd .....	Just Listed .....	2026SF .....	3BR/2BA .....	\$ 725,000
8124 E Whitton Ave .....	Just Listed .....	1600SF .....	3BR/2BA .....	\$ 650,000
3401 W Taro Ln.....	In Escrow .....	2306SF .....	4BR/2.5BA .....	\$ 550,000
7526 N 10th Pl .....	In Escrow .....	1655SF .....	2BR/2BA .....	\$ 460,000
804 E Corte Oro .....	Just Listed .....	1768SF .....	3BR/2BA .....	\$ 525,000

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1527 W Caribbean Ln.....	\$2,000,000	1146 W Royal Palm Rd .....	\$ 980,000	6357 S Blake St .....	\$ 480,000
1 E Northview Ave .....	\$1,700,000	1324 E Lupine Ave .....	\$ 975,000	903 W Glendale Ave #3 .....	\$ 465,000
526 E Tuckey Ln.....	\$1,575,000	10251 N Central Ave.....	\$ 915,000	2340 E Turney Ave .....	\$ 450,000
3229 E Sells Dr .....	\$1,525,000	7730 N 2nd Ave .....	\$ 900,000	605 E Royal Palm Square.....	\$ 435,000
5112 N 34th Pl .....	\$1,300,000	4128 E Sunnyside Dr .....	\$ 825,000	7321 N 11th Pl .....	\$ 425,000
3436 N 38th Pl .....	\$1,299,500	7536 N 10th St.....	\$ 810,000	914 E Osborn Rd #205.....	\$ 425,000
10 E Cactus Wren Dr .....	\$1,225,000	1415 E Flower St .....	\$ 616,000	6223 N 12th St #13.....	\$ 422,000
2016 Estate Ave .....	\$1,200,000	7321 N 11th Pl .....	\$ 575,000	2531 S 156th Ave.....	\$ 378,000
2022 202 E Kaler Dr.....	\$1,195,000	1110 E Orangewood Ave.....	\$565,000	5816 N 64th Dr .....	\$ 342,000
1545 E Northern Ave .....	\$1,070,000	1106 E Wagon Wheel D .....	\$ 549,000	750 E Northern Ave .....	#1089 \$310,000
		77 E Missouri Ave #17.....	\$ 520,000	1263A E Maryland Ave.....	\$ 255,000
		1527 E Hudson Dr .....	\$ 519,000		

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732 E Gardenia Dr • \$725,000



3401 W Taro Ln • \$550,000



7526 N 10th Pl • \$460,000



1106 E Wagon Wheel Dr • \$549,000



1110 E Orangewood Ave • \$565,000



8124 E Whitton Ave • \$650,000



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Wladimir Chaló of the Los Angeles Dodgers reads to Madison Heights kindergartners at a recent event (photo courtesy of Madison School District).

**Dodger players visit Heights students**

Madison Heights Elementary offers a 50/50 Spanish Immersion program in which half of the academic content is learned in Spanish. At Heights, students take a Spanish acquisition class, as well receive instruction in Science and Social Studies in Spanish.

Recently, bilingual players from the Los Angeles Dodgers joined the kindergarten students at Heights for a day of fun. The Dodgers talked to the students about their home countries: Venezuela, Cuba, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Curaçao.

The players also read books to the kindergarten students, showed their home country’s flags and talked about where they are from. They shared the significance of being bilingual and finished off the day with a dance party.

**School Briefs**

**GLENDALE UNION  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
GUHSD schools make  
America’s top list**

Since its inception in 2007, all nine Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) high schools have consistently been ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* for Best High Schools. This year is no exception — all nine high schools have once again been ranked among America’s best high school by the publication.

**Sunnyslope senior receives academy appointment**

Sunnyslope High School senior Samuel MacDonald has received an appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy, which is a federal service academy that graduates leaders who serve the nation as licensed merchant marine officers and commissioned officers in the Armed Forces.

The appointment is equivalent to a scholarship worth approximately \$290,000 over a four-year period.

**WHS seniors awarded Dorrance scholarships**

Three Washington High School seniors have been awarded the Dorrance Scholarship to attend ASU, NAU or UofA.

Jasmyn Delgado, Herman Mendoza Bustos and Daniela Valdovinos will each receive this competitive scholarship, which provides money for tuition and an orientation and summer bridge program, a dedicated advisor and tutoring, international travel to Europe and cultural enrichment events.

**Thunderbird’s Titan Voices shine at choir concert**

Thunderbird High School’s Titan Voices participated in many events, such as the CC fest, VE fest, Men’s Fest, and Jazz Madrigal Festival at NAU. Vocal Ensemble received an excellent rating on their performance of “Sicut Moses” by Heinrich Schutz, which they performed at this year’s Spring Concert.



SCHOOL DAYS

Students performed a wide variety of music, including compositions in Swahili and Latin and top hits by Billie Eilish, Billy Joel and Maroon 5.

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Camelview to receive Piper grants

Madison Camelview will receive Back-to-School Grants from Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust. These \$2,300 yearly grants will be provided for the next three years and will be used to support Madison students in the classroom. Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust is a private foundation supporting organizations that enrich health, well-being, and opportunity for the people of Maricopa County. The Trust focuses its grant making in six core areas: healthcare and medical research, children, older adults, arts and culture, education and religious organizations.

Madison Park hosts STEAM Night showcase

Madison Park Middle School's STEAM program provides students with a curriculum that places an emphasis on science, technology, engineering, arts and math, giving them an advantage when entering a STEAM High School. Students are taught to engage, explore, explain, elaborate and evaluate, and are provided a three-year engineering curriculum that includes hands-on learning labs with 22 engineering lab stations that include 3-D printing,

pneumatics, rockets, robotics and more. Madison Park showcased this program during STEAM night in April. The event included projects and displays from the classes Medical Detectives, App Creators, Automation and Robotics, and Flight and Space. Student science projects on Earth's biomes, cell models, research projects and various maker's projects were also exhibited.

OSBORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Montessori classrooms meet furry friends

The Primary Montessori classrooms at Montecito Community School in the Osborn School District had a week full of fun and furry visitors in May. The classroom of Montessori guide Tere Obrochta was introduced to farm animal friends while extending their learning of farms and the farming lifestyle. Savannah Coyle from the Humane Society, along with her husband Anthony, brought rabbits and chickens to show and discuss care and animal husbandry for the children during the first week of May. Children learned information first-hand about raising animals they may see on or off a farm and the care and love it takes to be a pet owner. In other activities, members of Xavier's EPICS (Engineering Projects in Community Service) program dropped by for a visit and to donate a composter

*please see FURRY on page 26*

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SCHOOL DAYS

FURRY continued from page 25

to the Montessori program, which will be used to help create compost for all of the gardens on campus.

Enrollment is being accepted for 3, 4 and 5-year-olds and first and second graders for the 2022-23 fall school year. Interested parties can reach out to [jsingh@osbornsd.org](mailto:jsingh@osbornsd.org) or call 602-707-2500 for more information or to schedule a tour. Visit [www.osbornnet.org](http://www.osbornnet.org) for additional information.

PHOENIX UNION  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Camelback student nets  
\$1M in scholarship offers

Shiwee Cruz, a senior in the Camelback Montessori micro-school at Camelback High School, is one of Phoenix Union's few million-dollar scholars this year, which means that she has received more than \$1 million in scholarship offers from the schools to which she has been admitted.



Shiwee Cruz

Cruz participated in the STEP program, which helps first-generation students who want to attend college out of state. A member of the Navajo Nation, she has been dancing at Pow Wows and competing in dance competitions since she was young and is learning the Navajo language from her grandmother. She hopes to do her part to keep her culture and language alive. Cruz also said that she is inspired by the work that Maria Montessori did and has loved being a part of a Montessori school.

Cruz plans to attend either Brown University or Bowdoin College to study dermatology. Her goal is to combine holistic practices from her Navajo culture with modern medicine learned through her studies.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
WESD announces  
new administrators

The Washington Elementary School District (WESD) has announced new administrators for the 2022–23 school year.

The district welcomed new principal of Mountain Sky Junior High, Julia

Herman; the new principal at Mountain View School, Philip Liles; the new assistant principal at Shaw Butte Elementary, Marcy Hyde; and the new director of Fiscal Analyst, Dr. Christopher Thuman.

Herman comes to the WESD from the Phoenix Union High School District where she is currently an assistant principal for instruction.



Julia Herman

Liles has been the principal at Arroyo School for the last 11 years. During his 26 years in WESD, he has been a CCB teacher, intervention specialist and assistant principal.



Philip Liles

Hyde is currently the instructional coach at Tumbleweed Elementary and previously taught second, third and fifth grade in the district.

Thuman is filling a new role in Business Services, the director of Fiscal Analyst, that has been created to meet the current and future needs of the WESD. Thuman is coming to the district with 20 years of school district experience including teacher, school administrator, a community education director and district-level administrator.

The administrators will begin their respective roles on July 1.

PRIVATE AND  
CHARTER SCHOOLS  
BASIS Phoenix ranked  
one of the 'Best'

The *U.S. News & World Report* 2022 Best High Schools rankings, which evaluates nearly 24,000 public high schools across the country each year, were released at the end of April. Out of those 24,000 schools, BASIS Phoenix ranked #52 in the nation this year. This is the fourth year in a row that the school has ranked in the top 100; only one other school in the city of Phoenix ranked in the top 100 nationally, BASIS Ahwatukee (#45).

The BASIS schools in Arizona are a tuition-free public charter school system. *please see RANKING on page 28*





**RAMMS** is a parent run, volunteer organization founded in 1961 to provide recreational youth sports opportunities for children in and around North Central Phoenix.

We welcome all children regardless of skill level, school or previous experience and look forward to continuing to serve our community.

.....**2022-2023 SPORTS SCHEDULE**.....

**FALL**.....

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(GRADES 1-8)  
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Evaluations: 8/13/22  
Season Starts: 9/10/22  
Playoffs End: 11/2/22

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**(Girls and Boys Leagues)**  
(GRADES 3-8)  
Registration Opens: 7/9/22  
Player's Clinic: 8/6/22  
Evaluations: 8/13/22  
Coach's Clinic: 8/20/22  
Season Starts: 9/10/22  
Playoffs End: 10/29/22

**WINTER**.....



**BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL**  
(GRADES K-8)  
Registration Opens: 10/1/22  
Evaluations: 11/5/22  
Season Starts: 12/3/22  
Playoffs End: 2/25/23

**SPRING**.....

**BASEBALL, SOFTBALL, FARM & T-BALL**  
(GRADES PREK-8)  
Registration Opens: 1/2/23  
Evaluations: 1/28/23  
Season Starts: 3/4/23  
Playoffs End: 5/20/23

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**SCHOOL DAYS**

**RANKING** *continued from page 26*

tem that offers a K-12 curriculum focused on college preparation.

BASIS Phoenix (grade 6–12) is located at 13231 N. 22nd St. For additional information, call 602-595-9870 or visit [www.basised.com](http://www.basised.com).

**Junior creates bilingual healthcare search website**

Junior Nicolas Cevallos created a website dedicated to helping uninsured individuals find affordable or free care in their area of residence.

His idea was sparked by the stories his mom, a frontline health care worker, told him about patients, who could not get proper post-COVID-19 care due to lack of insurance. In many cases, a language barrier made it even more challenging to find low-cost healthcare and navigate healthcare system.

Nicolas created the website, "Healthcare You Can Afford/Salud Que Puedes Pagar" after researching and collecting information about affordable medical, dental and mental health clinics across Metropolitan Phoenix. The

Brophy junior Nicolas Cevallos provides families from a local school with training on how to use the website to find affordable health care on April 12 (submitted photo).

website, [www.saludquepuedespagar.org](http://www.saludquepuedespagar.org), is a search instrument, both in English and Spanish, that allows users to search for medical, dental and mental health clinics using the city or ZIP code where they live. Also included is information about free COVID-19 testing and vaccines, as well as flu vaccines, as well as direct links to some clinics that give free care and that help Spanish-speaking people, regardless of immigration status.

Nicolas hopes to expand the number of clinics in the database as well as the number of individuals served. He can be contacted about making presentations at a community organization and adding clinics to the website at [ncevallos23@brophybroncos.org](mailto:ncevallos23@brophybroncos.org).

**Kelly to return as Brophy soccer head coach**

Brophy principal Bob Ryan announced in April that former head coach Marc Kelly will return to the helm of Brophy's soccer program. Kelly, a 1987 Brophy graduate, coached the Broncos from 2001 through 2013, leading the team to state titles in 2008, 2011 and 2013 and amassing a record of 242-21-5.

Kelly, who teaches ceramics and sculpture in Brophy's art department and serves as the technical director in the theater department, played soccer at Brophy and at Gonzaga University. He has coached with the Arizona Olympic Development Program and at the community college level. In 2012, the National Soccer Coaches Association of America named him the Region 4 (nine western states) High School Coach of the Year.





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2pm to 7pm | \$5 admission  
Includes hot dog, chips and drink – Children admitted free

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**JUNE 23:** 8am-Noon and 4pm-7pm  
**JUNE 24:** 8am-Noon  
**JUNE 25:** 8am-Noon



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### SCHOOL DAYS



NATIONAL LETTER OF INTENT SIGNING  
**XAVIER COLLEGE PREPARATORY**

Avery Allen, Grace Hull, Theresa Romero

Pictured L-R are Xavier seniors Avery Allen, Grace Hull and Theresa Romero, who signed National Letters of Intent April 28 (submitted photo).

### Three athletes sign letters of intent

In April, three Xavier College Preparatory student-athletes signed their National Letters of Intent. The event was the culmination of many years of hard work and commitment to their respective sports. The event was held at Xavier's Performing Arts Center.

This was the 21st year that the ceremony was held for student-athletes, and Xavier was the first school in Arizona to hold the event for girls' sports. Also, 21 Xavier student-athletes have signed National Letters of Intent this school year.

Xavier seniors who signed letters of intent on April 28 are Avery Allen, Track & Field, Montana State University, Psychology; Grace Hull, Swimming, Loyola Marymount University, Psychology; and Theresa Romero, Volleyball, Trinity International University, Political Science.

### Brophy dedicates campus solar project

Brophy College Preparatory dedicated its completed campus solar project May 5, with administration, faculty and students participating. The project, which includes carport solar systems across 118 parking spaces, as well as rooftop solar panels, will provide 911.25kW DC or 736.0kW AC of power and offset about 48 percent of Brophy's annual electricity consumption.

Brophy's Student Climate Coalition (SCC), led by alumnus and faculty member Cooper Davis, was the primary force initiating the project. The students researched the cost and benefit and presented their results to Brophy's board of trustees, who approved project funding last year. Brophy contracted with Ameresco, Inc., a cleantech inte-

grator based in Framingham, Mass., for the development and installation of the solar arrays around campus.

### Drone Racing team attends championship event

In mid-May, Madison Highland Prep's (MHP) Drone Racing teams attended their first ever World Championship event in Dallas, Texas. MHP sent two teams, Team A (Jack Sanders, Joseph Arias, Riley Falk and Jaden Hamilton) and Team B (Mason MacArthur, Evan Marske and Jeshelle Reyes), with coach Nicole Gomez.

A total of 67 teams competed at the RADC World Championships. MHP's Team A finished 10th in the skills rankings, 18th during the qualifying rounds, and made it to the quarter final round before being eliminated. MHP's Team B finished 23rd in the skills ranking and just missed the elimination round.

### Enrollment at Midtown charter now open

Phoenix Modern, a public charter school, is experiencing a growing demand for its innovative K-8 learning community in Midtown.

"There are a few open spots and a waitlist at some grade levels," said Andrew Collins, founding director.

The school opened in 2019 with a "completely reimagined, whole child approach to learning where children age 5–13 explore, create and prepare for a life of possibility through academic workshops and hands-on projects."

Phoenix Modern is located at 200 E. Mitchell Dr., Phoenix. Families can learn more and apply now through summer at [www.phoenixmodern.org](http://www.phoenixmodern.org). Call 480-779-3117 for additional information.





# 2022 Summer Camps

Registration forms available in the office or at [MadisonHighlandPrep.org](https://MadisonHighlandPrep.org)

## Football

**Mon through Thu**  
**July 11th – 28th • 8:00 am – 11:00 am**  
This camp is open to all incoming and current MHP student-athletes. The Heat football staff will focus activities on strength and conditioning, teambuilding, football skills, and drills. No equipment will be needed for camp. **Fee: \$200.00**

## Men's Soccer

**Mon through Thu**  
**July 11th – 28th • 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm**  
This camp is open to all incoming and current MHP student-athletes. The Heat soccer staff will focus activities on conditioning, formations, transitions, and set pieces. No equipment will be needed for camp. **Fee: \$75.00**

## Women's Volleyball

**Mon through Thu**  
**July 18th – 21st • 8:00 am – 11:00 am**  
This camp is open to all incoming and current MHP student-athletes. The Heat volleyball staff will focus activities on conditioning, volleyball skills, and teamwork drills. No equipment will be needed for camp. **Fee: \$75.00**

## Cheer

**Mon through Thu**  
**July 25th – 28th • 8:00 am – 11:00 am**  
This camp is open to all incoming and current MHP student-athletes. The Heat cheer staff will focus activities on conditioning, cheer and dance skills, and teamwork drills. No equipment will be needed for camp. **Fee: \$75.00**

## VEX Robotics

**Mon through Thu**  
**July 18th – 28th • 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
This camp is open to all incoming and current MHP students. The VEX Robotics staff will focus activities on design, programming, and build skills in preparation for the 2019-2020 VEX competition game. No equipment will be needed for camp. **Fee: \$125.00**

## Pep Band

**Mon through Thu**  
**July 25th – 28th • 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
This camp is open to all incoming and current MHP students. The Pep Band staff will focus activities on preparing for performance during the upcoming football season. Band instruments are required for the camp. **Fee: \$75.00**

## Aerial Drones

**Mon through Thu**  
**July 11th – 14th • 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
This camp is open to all incoming and current MHP students. The Aerial Drones staff will focus camp activities on technical skills in preparation for the 2021 Aerial Drones competition. No equipment will be needed for camp. **Fee: \$75.00**







GENERATIONS

Senior Living  
Learn how to keep older adults safe from abuse

Throughout the month of June, and in recognition of World Elder Abuse Day, June 15, the Area Agency on Aging is stepping up its efforts to reduce vulnerability based on the theme, “Together We Can Tackle Elder Abuse.”

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) reports that approximately 1 in 10 who are 60 years and older are abused every year. During Fiscal Year 2021, Arizona’s Adult Protective Services reported more than 27,000 allegations of abuse, including physical abuse, financial exploitation, neglect and self-neglect.

According to the NCOA, elders who have been abused have a 300 percent higher risk of death compared with those who have not been mistreated.

Elder abuse can take the form of physical abuse, sexual assault, emotional abuse, neglect, abandonment and financial exploitation. If you suspect elder abuse, document the signs, and contact Adult Protective Services at 1-877-767-2385 or report online at [www.azdes.gov/reportadultabuse](http://www.azdes.gov/reportadultabuse). If the abuse is severe or you suspect the person may be in danger of more harm, call 9-1-1. If you suspect abuse in a nursing home or other long-term care facility, contact the Area Agency on Aging Long-Term Care Ombudsman at the 24-Hour Senior HELP LINE 602-264-4357 (HELP).

For more information, visit [www.aaaphx.org](http://www.aaaphx.org).

Volunteers needed to help homebound seniors

One hundred one-year-old Mary Turkal still lives in her townhome of 20 years, but these days, she relies on the assistance from volunteers by Duet: Partners In Health & Aging to help her remain independent.

Phyllis, a Duet volunteer, calls every Monday afternoon to chat. Sharp as ever, Turkal is revved for conversation. “My engine’s running,” she shared with Duet, “but my body’s rusting out.”

She used to have a Duet volunteer drive her places, but now that she moves more slowly, another volunteer, Carol, grocery shops for her near the



Centenarian Mary Turkal (left) relies on Duet volunteers like Carol Bedner to assist with grocery shopping each month (photo courtesy of Duet: Partners In Health & Aging).

beginning of each month.

Turkel moved from the Midwest to be near her daughter a few decades ago. She turned 100 during the height of the pandemic, which precluded a party. So, she was celebrated with a drive-by parade of decorated cars as she sat in her carport. COVID-19 is just another scourge to survive, she shrugs, citing the Depression, WWII, polio and HIV.

“I’ve lived through 19 presidents,” said Turkal. “Some good. Some bad. America still is here.”

But many of her original friends are no longer are here. When she first arrived, she and other single ladies at her church had a good time together.

“They’re all gone, now,” she said. “But you can’t give up. I had to go to a second level of friends. They’re all much younger, in their late eighties.”

She counts her Duet volunteers among her friends and looks forward to connecting with them.

There are many homebound adults who can no longer drive that are awaiting volunteers from Duet. Valley residents can help by driving to appointments, grocery shopping, calling or making friendly visits. For more information about volunteer orientations and being paired with someone in their geographic area, residents can call Duet: Partners In Health & Aging at 602-274-5022 or visit [www.duetaz.org](http://www.duetaz.org).

Residence hosts sock hop event

La Siena invites residents who may be interested in learning more about the facility to dust off their poodle skirts and saddle shoes for a Sock Hop

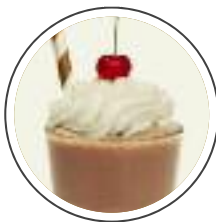
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GENERATIONS

event on Wednesday, June 22, at 2 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to dance to tunes by the band Bring Back Buddy, a band inspired by the music of Buddy Holly and the Crickets, while enjoying '50s-themed diner food and drinks. While there, visitors can also take a tour of the independent and assisted living residence. To register for the event, call 602-814-0506

La Siena is located at 909 E. Northern Ave., Phoenix. For more information, visit [www.lasienasenior-living.com](http://www.lasienasenior-living.com).

Kids & Families  
Libraries kick off

summer reading program

Valley residents — both young and old — are invited to head to their local library this summer to participate in the 2022 Summer Reading program, “Oceans of Possibilities.” Throughout the event, area libraries will host events such as scavenger hunts, storytimes, book bingo, and art and engineering projects.

At Phoenix Public Library, the program begins June 1 and runs through Aug. 1. Participants are encouraged to read (and log) at least 20 minutes a day. Throughout the program, those participants who achieve various levels of minutes read are eligible to earn special badges and prizes, such as free books, AZ State Park Passes, Phoenix Mercury tickets; free Rubio’s, Raising Caine’s and Peter Piper Pizza meals. Those achieving 1,000 minutes or more will be entered into a drawing to win a fam-



Qualified Valley students are invited to interview for fall music classes at Rosie’s House (photo courtesy of Rosie’s House).

ily four-pack to the Superbowl Experience 2023 and more.

The program is geared towards reducing what is known as the “Summer Slide” — the learning loss experienced while transitioning between school years — but adult readers are encouraged to join the fun and help meet the Maricopa County Reads 2022 goal of 50,000,000 minutes read.

To register, go to [www.maricopa-countyreads.org](http://www.maricopa-countyreads.org) or visit your local library. To find your branch, visit [www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org](http://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org).

Rosie’s House hosts fall student interviews

Rosie’s House, a free music program founded in 1996, is gearing up for its fall 2022 classes. The organization will host interviews for students and families interested in enrolling its after-

school music program June 4 and 11, from 9 a.m. to noon. No prior experience required to participate.

Located at 919 E. Jefferson St., Rosie’s House provides group and private music instruction for students in grades K–12 in piano, strings, winds, choir, band, orchestra, guitar, mariachi and digital music. Enrolled students also participate in Rosie’s House youth development programs including its volunteer service, academic support and college readiness programs.

Students qualify for Rosie’s House programs based on the number of people in their household and income range. To see if your student qualifies, call 602-252-8475 or visit [www.rosieshouse.org/enrollment](http://www.rosieshouse.org/enrollment). Eligible students and families interested in participating should sign up at [www.rosieshouse.org](http://www.rosieshouse.org) by June 3.

Musical theater camps offered this summer

Valley Youth Theatre will bring the magic of musical theatre to area youths during its four-week, two-week and one-week summer camps.

Campers will help create a full musical production from audition to performance alongside professional teaching artists who will provide foundational training in acting, singing and dance. Family and friends will applaud their hard work on the final day of camp with a performance.

Optional before and after care will be available. Classes run June 6–July 1, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., daily. Two- and one-week camps are also available, July 11–22 and July 25–29, respectively.

Valley Youth Theatre is located at 525 N. 1st St., Phoenix. For pricing and more information, call 602-253-8188 or visit [www.vyt.com/education/camps](http://www.vyt.com/education/camps).

Diamondbacks to host summer youth camps

Players ages 7 to 12 are invited to attend the Arizona Diamondbacks’ Super Star Baseball Camps. The half-day camps, hosted at Chase Field June 18, July 23 and Sept. 17, will offer young players on-field training and small-group instruction from a D-backs celebrity coach and D-backs Baseball Academy coaches.

Registration is \$150 per child. For more information, visit [www.dbacks.com/superstar](http://www.dbacks.com/superstar).



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## New exhibit showcases late 1800s ledger art

In May, the Heard Museum opened an exhibition showcasing 28 selections from a ledger book made by six artists from the Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho Reservation between the late 1870s and 1882.

The exhibit, “Between the Lines: Art from The No Horse Ledger Book,” also features historic photos from the Connell Collection. An archive of these historic photos can be found at the Heard Museum’s Billie Jane Baguley Library and Archives Digital Library in the Trustrim Connell Collection.

Ledger art is a continuation of artistic painting traditions that were done on buffalo or elk hide. When graphite and colored pencils, ink, watercolors and ledger books, provided by traders and government agents, were introduced those same artistic skills and knowledge of art were transferred to ledger paper.

The artwork in the No Horse



“Line Dance,” created in the 1880s by an a now unknown Cheyenne artist using graphite, ink and paint, is just one of the ledger art examples in a new exhibit (artwork, bequest of Carolann Smurthwaite; photo courtesy of Heard Museum).

Ledger Book primarily depicts scenes of warfare and includes processional group dances and displays of horsemanship. The images reveal the artistry and individualism of the makers, expressed between the lines of ledger paper.

This is the first time the Heard has

focused exclusively on the collection of drawings from The No Horse Ledger Book since it was given to the collection by the Connell Family in 1982, who had it in their private collection for more than 100 years.

Trustrim Connell, a Civil War

Medal of Honor recipient, was in charge of the Wells Fargo Agencies in Indian Territory during the 1880s when his family acquired the ledger book. It is one of the rare ledger books that remained intact with a single family.

“Between the Lines” will be on display through April 23, 2023, at the Heard Museum, 2301 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. For more information, call 602.252.8840 or visit [www.heard.org](http://www.heard.org).

## Students collaborate at Madison Center

Now in the second year of their collaboration, the School of Ballet Arizona and the Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestras will continue their remarkable partnership with the performance of “The Sleeping Beauty,” June 3–5 at the Madison Center for the Arts.

In the midst of the pandemic, these two groups formed a partnership that brought student artists together in hope, joy and artistry. The young



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

artists endured some of the toughest artistic conditions, dancing and playing with masks, outdoors and in nonstandard spaces — and produced a collaborative performance of “Swan Lake” at the Desert Botanical Garden last May.

This year, they will work together once again, this time, bringing the charms and grandeur of classical ballet with elaborate choreography, memorable characters, and Tchaikovsky’s magnificent score, to the stage.

Audience members will get a glimpse of the progression in ballet and musical training from intermediate to advanced-level students on the verge of professional careers, as they perform the treasured fairy tale full of curses, magic and fantasy.

Tickets are available at [www.balletaz.org](http://www.balletaz.org) or by calling 602-381-1096. For more information, visit [www.balletaz.org/school](http://www.balletaz.org/school) or [www.pysorchestras.org](http://www.pysorchestras.org).

On the Town

As temperature rise, Valley venues are chilling things out this summer. Check out local musicians and national acts, in addition to live theater, art exhibits and family-friendly events on the town in June.

Spoon

June 4  
The Van Buren  
[www.thevanburenphx.com](http://www.thevanburenphx.com)



Dog Days at the Garden

June 5–26 (Sundays)  
Desert Botanical Garden  
[www.dbg.org](http://www.dbg.org); 480-941-1225

Lunch Time Theater:  
‘D is for Disguise’

June 6–16  
Pandanda Players at  
Herberger Theater Center  
[www.herbergertheater.org](http://www.herbergertheater.org);  
602-252-8497

‘Always...Patsy Cline’

June 8 – Aug. 7  
The Phoenix Theatre Company  
[www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com);  
602-254-2151

Barenaked Ladies

June 9  
Arizona Federal Theatre  
[www.arizonafederaltheatre.com](http://www.arizonafederaltheatre.com);  
602-379-2800



Umi

June 10  
Crescent Ballroom  
[www.crescentphx.com](http://www.crescentphx.com); 602-716-2222

‘High School Musical’

June 10–26  
Valley Youth Theatre  
[www.vyt.com](http://www.vyt.com); 602-253-8188

JiGgle

June 11  
The Nash  
[www.thenash.org](http://www.thenash.org); 602-795-0464

Joe Jackson

June 11  
Celebrity Theatre  
[www.celebritytheatre.com](http://www.celebritytheatre.com);  
602-267-1600

The Bayou Bandits

June 11  
The Rhythm Room  
[www.rhythmroom.com](http://www.rhythmroom.com); 602-612-4981

Andrew Bird w/ Iron &  
Wine, Allison Russell

June 12  
The Van Buren  
[www.thevanburenphx.com](http://www.thevanburenphx.com)

Kind Folk

June 12  
The Nash  
[www.thenash.org](http://www.thenash.org); 602-795-0464



Tori Amos

June 12  
Orpheum Theatre Phoenix  
[www.phoenixconventioncenter.com](http://www.phoenixconventioncenter.com)  
*please see ON THE TOWN on page 36*



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ON THE TOWN *continued from page 35*

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(photo courtesy of Phoenix Art Museum)

**'Generation Paper: Fast Fashion of the 1960s'**  
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All event dates are current at time of publication. Check with individual venues for the most up-to-date show and safety information.





FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Café Chat  
Aunt Chilada’s  
oozes Arizona lore

By Marjorie Rice

Aunt Chilada’s, with roots going back upwards of 120 years, oozes local lore and atmosphere, serving up stories of eccentric Phoenix characters along with enchiladas, nachos and house specialties including a killer pollo fundido. Sisters and co-owners Tiffany Allison and Michelle Woods love to share that lore with customers.

Aunt Chilada’s sits at the base of Piestewa Peak near the Dreamy Draw. The building dates back to the 1890s when it was a grocery store for miners who dug ore from the nearby Rio Rico mine. The miners were digging cinnabar — an ore processed to extract mercury — and the intoxicating substance caused many to finish work in a woozy state from the fumes and dust.

“That’s how it got the name Dreamy Draw,” Woods said. “In the



Sisters and co-owners Tiffany Allison, left, and Michelle Woods, serve up customer favorites along with stories about the restaurant’s history at Aunt Chilada’s (photo by Marjorie Rice).

1960s, George Cocreham, who was a captain in the Phoenix Fire Department, bought the place and

opened it as George’s Ole!” He expanded the building and found a novel way to obtain building supplies.

“The beams came from the downtown railroad line after it was broken up,” Woods said. “George would pay firefighters with beer and food if they’d bring him a railroad tie.”

There are more than 3,000 ties in the structure — that’s a lot of free suds and tortillas. The fireplace uses stone from nearby Piestewa Peak.

When they did a recent remodel, they tracked down old railroad ties to fit in with the décor.

The growth and renovations continued recently with an update of the patios.

In the 1980s Pointe Resorts bought the place and renamed it Aunt Chilada’s. (There’s another Aunt Chilada’s in Tempe, but it’s part of the Pointe Resorts organization, not affiliated with the original in North Central Phoenix, and is only open for private events.) Ken Nagel, an executive with the company, bought it in the 1990s and today his daughters have taken the reins. In fact, most of the family has

*please see AUNT CHILADA’S on page 38*

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**AUNT CHILADA'S continued from page 37**

worked in some aspect of the business over the years, the sisters said.

"I started when I was 16, and Tiffany was 13," Woods said. "When the children wouldn't take a bottle, my husband would bring the baby in to nurse during my shift."

"Michelle and I are what's left," Allison said. "Just the two of us run it and are considered partners. 'The next generation is getting involved and Michelle's daughter is starting to train for her job (managing group sales) this year. I manage the kitchen and the front of the house.'"

When Aunt Chilada's began, the menu focused on traditional Sonoran Mexican food familiar to most Arizonans, Allison shared.

"Tacos, enchiladas, chimichangas — that sort of thing," Allison said. "We really didn't branch out. Even today, cheese enchiladas, machaca, pollo fundido, fish tacos and seafood enchiladas are items we'll never take off the menu."

But over time, with food fusions and food trends, and Allison's extensive travels — she's been in more than 50 countries all over the world — some of those flavors have found their way onto Aunt Chilada's menu.

A case in point is the shrimp-stuffed pineapple. Think Thai-Mexican mashup that starts with a hollowed-out pineapple half that's grilled to caramelize the fruit's sugars, then packed with shrimp, bell peppers and green onions, all tossed with a pineapple salsa laced with Thai chili sauce. And there's no oil — so it's great for dieters.

"You also have to keep with trends, like gluten allergies," Allison said. "And we have variations of menu items that are rebuilt to be vegan."

"We have a 100 percent scratch kitchen, with the exception of our tortillas. It's literally a morning, noon and night job making the flour and corn tortilla chips."

And they've developed their own "magic seasoning," with 18 different spices that goes into many menu items.

"Tiffany is the chef of the family; she went to the Cordon Bleu in Paris," Woods said. Fluent in French, Allison worked as an interpreter there while studying. "She did an entire salsa challenge for 100 people a few weeks ago — in French."

The challenges are especially popular corporate team-building events



A rendering of the newly reimaged exterior of the building at 8525 N. Central Ave., which is slated to become the newest Little O's location (photo courtesy of Little O's).

where Tiffany demonstrates how Aunt Chilada's makes salsa then brings out and breaks attendees up into groups who have to create their own salsa.

"Part of the competition is they have to act out a commercial and sell it to us," Allison said.

"We're locally owned for three generations of our family. We eat, sleep and breathe this business," she continued.

Remodels, menu adaptations and innovative group events notwithstanding, Aunt Chilada's remains what it began as — a place for people to gather, enjoy great food and celebrate friendships and community.

"We are sharing memories for our community's families," Woods said. "We have baby showers and when those kids grow up, we have their college graduations."

"It's really touching to see what a community Aunt Chilada's has created, and we want that to go on forever. We never want to take that for granted."

Aunt Chilada's, at 7330 N. Dreamy Draw Drive, is open 3–9 p.m., Monday through Thursday; and for dining 10 a.m.–10 p.m., with the bar open until midnight, Friday and Saturday; and 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sunday. For more information, call 602-944-1286 or visit [www.auntchiladas.com](http://www.auntchiladas.com).

## 'Top of Central' set for next incarnation

By Kathryn M. Miller

From a canal-side dance pavilion, The Arbor, to a theater and any number of clubs and restaurants, since 1918 there have been nearly 30 eating, drinking and entertaining establishments on the acre-size wedge of land where Central Avenue meets the Arizona

Canal, according to Phoenix historian Ed Dobbins. And at a May 5 neighborhood meeting, the current property owners and new tenant of the building at the "top of Central" laid out their plans for the next incarnation of the iconic location.

Most recently Spoke & Wheel, a bicycle-friendly tavern that closed in July 2021, the wheels are in motion to turn the building at 8525 N. Central Ave. into the newest Little O's location. A concept of O.H.S.O. Brewery and Eatery, Little O's is a neighborhood restaurant with marketplace and take-out services.

The restaurant aspect of the concept provides a simple menu, on-premises indoor and outdoor dining and accommodations for take-out services. The marketplace will sell retail items, such as T-shirts, hats, etc., and, it is hoped, to-go wine and beer.

The property owners are requesting a text amendment to the Historic Canal-Side Restaurant Overlay District to allow the packaged liquor retail sales (beer and wine only) and marketplace.

Currently, the restaurant has 2,726 square feet of floor area, which includes the bar, dedicated to interior dining, and 1,877 square feet of outdoor patio dining. Little O's is proposing to reconfigure the interior of the existing building to reduce the interior floor dining area to 1,986 square feet. The remainder of the unused interior dining area will be incorporated into the marketplace and take-out pickup area.

The entrance facing Central Avenue would also undergo a facelift under the proposal, with a new, branded look and an additional entry/exit on the south side to allow for take-out service. The canal-side screen wall will be

removed, opening the patio up to a newly landscaped area to take advantage of the location's proximity to the Arizona Canal Trail.

At the May 5 meeting, neighbors in attendance were largely receptive to the Little O's concept, and Brian Roehrich, who was in attendance representing O.H.S.O., addressed neighbors' concerns about parking and other issues, saying that he and the management team will be engaged with the neighborhood and responsive to their needs and concerns throughout the process.

Roehrich stated that the company has a 15-year lease and will invest roughly a million-and-a-half dollars into the property, so they want to make sure that the neighborhood is happy with what they are doing.

The next hurdle for the owners is to present their proposal to the North Mountain Village Planning Committee, likely in June, then, assuming approval at a subsequent July Village Planning meeting, the project will go to the Planning Commission and on to City Council for final approval.

To learn more about the project, visit [www.littleosnorthcentral.com](http://www.littleosnorthcentral.com).

## Dining Briefs

### Sandfish set to open in the Melrose District

Sandfish Sushi and Whiskey is bringing its hand-crafted sushi and whiskey pairings to Phoenix's Melrose District.

Originally established in Palm Springs, the new Phoenix location will open at 4232 N. 7th Ave. The current Palm Springs menu ranges from signature rolls such as the Sandfish Roll (spicy tuna, crab meat and avocado topped with lightly fried potato threads, spicy aioli, teriyaki sauce, micro greens, green onions and black truffle zest) to signature dishes like the Japanese Pork Belly Bao Buns (Japanese pork belly, Gojuchang honey glaze, cucumber black radish Sunomono, and sesame seeds). Desserts include Matcha cheesecake, sorbets, gelato and more.

The restaurant is headed by award-winning chef and owner Engin Onural, who earned his sushi certification from the Japanese government and is a certified sake sommelier.

To keep up to date with the restaurant's progress, follow them on Facebook, @sandfishphx, or visit [www.sandfishphx.com](http://www.sandfishphx.com).



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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### Treat Dad to cocktails, coffee, craft beer and more

Now through June 16, Valley families can treat Dad to a food-centric pampering gift package from retailers at Uptown Plaza.

The “Ultimate Father’s Day Experience” is brimming with craft beers, cocktails and guy-friendly pampering such as a Face FORM and a rocking T-Shirt. The package includes a mix and match of two cocktails and coffee from Dapper & Stout; “Beer for Dad” with an option to take home a case of 24 beers or enjoy five pints at the Huss Brewing Co. taproom; 15-Minute Face FORM from Hi, Skin; and a product bag from Lather including Bamboo Silk Face Scrub, Bamboo Lemongrass Body Moisturizer and Organic Lemongrass Olive Oil Bar Soap.

This premium package is \$120 (total value is \$174). Punch cards will be available for pick up at Huss Brewing Co. at Uptown Plaza on Friday, June 17. Receipt of purchase will be required. To purchase tickets, visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and search “Uptown Plaza.”

Uptown Plaza is located on the northeast corner of Central Avenue and Camelback Road. Other dining options include Chula Seafood, Elly’s Brunch & Cafe, Lou Malnati’s Pizzeria, Shake Shack and more. For more information, visit [www.uptownplazaphx.com](http://www.uptownplazaphx.com).

### The Genuine opens in North Central

Phoenix-based hospitality group Genuine Concepts opened its first-ever flagship restaurant in late April. With a culinary focus on Chef Jeremy Pacheco’s “elevated wood-fired fare,” the former The VIG Uptown location has been transformed into The Genuine, a light-filled, indoor-outdoor mid-century modern gem.

Located on 16th Street, just north of Bethany Home Road in what was once a bank designed by famed local architect, Ralph Haver, the restaurant maintains and refreshed its mid-century roots.

The restaurant is open daily for lunch and dinner, plus weekend brunch, and Pacheco’s menu of shareable, wood-fired cuisine includes items such as the House-Made Garlic Knot Pull-Apart Bread, Wood Oven Roasted Mussels with orange blossom ale and Schreiner’s sausage, or Charred Spanish Octopus, cooked to order inside the open kitchen’s

custom Forno Bravo oven. Plus, roasted chicken, pizzas, pastas and an ever-changing selection of sharable charcuteries and artisan cheeses, all paired with Genuine’s signature selection local craft beers, wines and cocktails.

The Genuine is located at 6015 N. 16th St., Phoenix. For additional information, call 602-633-1187 or visit [www.genuineconcepts.us](http://www.genuineconcepts.us).

### Nook completes patio addition

Nook Kitchen’s patio plans that were announced at the beginning of this year are now complete. Misters are also at the ready now that warmer weather has arrived.

“It makes the entire place feel larger, more open, and has been a somewhat seamless extension,” said Nook founder and co-owner Frank Vairo. “When our large interior windows are open, the interior dining room appears larger as well.”

Nook Kitchen is located at 4231 E. Indian School Rd., Phoenix. For additional information, call or visit [www.nookkitchen.com](http://www.nookkitchen.com).

### Lunchtime dining for a cause

Throughout the month of June, Barro’s Pizza will donate a portion of the sales from all lunch specials at all locations to the Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children (ACFC). This is the seventh year that the family-owned and operated Barro’s Pizza and Pepsi have teamed up to raise money for children and families affected by pediatric cancer.

Beginning June 1, all Barro’s Pizza locations will donate proceeds, up to \$40,000, from the sale of any lunch special to this local nonprofit whose mission is to help Arizona families with the high costs and challenging logistics while caring for their children during cancer treatment.

Arizona Cancer Foundation for Children was founded in 2013 by Chrisie Funari after she lost her young daughter, Ava, to cancer. Funari started the organization to empower families by ensuring they have a secure place to live, access to medical treatment and continued support.

The family-owned pizza operation has 47 locations in Arizona. For more information, or to find a location near you, visit [www.barrozpizza.com](http://www.barrozpizza.com).



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