



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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Fighting for the future of Central Avenue

By Kathryn M. Miller

The stretch of Central Avenue from Camelback Road south to Indian School Road is reflective of many of the changes that residents are seeing throughout the city right now.

Going away are Main Street mainstays such as Hinkley's Lighting, a fixture at Central and Coolidge Street for 70 years, and community gathering spaces, such as Agave Farms, who made their home at Central and Glenrosa Avenue for only 5 years, but whose impact reverberated far beyond its roughly 15-acre plot.

In their place, multi-story residential units are in the works. And these two properties are not alone. In a quick count, there are an estimated 2,800-plus units, mostly deemed "luxury," either in the planning stages, beginning construction or nearing completion in that one-mile stretch and adjacent. The goal: easing the Phoenix-area housing deficiencies. The hope: that it will fulfill the vision of Reinvent PHX and Transit Oriented Development (TOD).

Some of these developments are including purposeful mixed-use, such as restaurants and retail. Others have included gym amenities that look out on the sidewalk or leasing offices, but little else for new and existing area residents to utilize.

So, is the push for the dense housing units in this area fulfilling the vision and spirit of Reinvent PHX

please see CENTRAL AVENUE on page 6



Phoenix Boys Choir will kick off its 75th Anniversary Season this year with a holiday concert series, "Home for the Holidays," including a performance at Brophy Chapel on Dec. 18 (photo courtesy of Phoenix Boys Choir).

Boys choir celebrates 75 years of song

By Kathryn M. Miller

From a small group of about 30 boys in 1947, to a Grammy Award, performances for four U.S. presidents, performances at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, with world-renowned entertainers, and impacting some 4,000 chorister members along the way, the Phoenix Boys Choir has a lot to celebrate as it kicks off its 75th Anniversary Season. But it is that unique impact on its members' lives that the organization seems most proud of.

"My first tour was to Japan, Philippines and Hawaii, when I was 10," recalled Herbert Washington, who is not only a Choir alumnus, but also its current artistic director. "Imagine a young boy coming from the projects of South Phoenix, joining the Phoenix Boys Choir, touring the world, something that my family had never had an opportunity to do. It afforded me that experience to go out and see different cultures and experience new environments and new people. I learned a lot about the world through that international travel."

Washington is only the third individ-

ual in the organization's 75-year history to hold the title of artistic director since founding director, Dr. Harvey K. Smith. Now in his fourth season, he is keen to not only share his deep love of music, but the skills learned — beginning as a chorister and continuing through masters-level education — but those life-changing experiences as well.

Through an audition process, the choir looks for poise, then music reading ability and matching pitch. From there, the goal is to not only teach technique but to help young people develop into passionate artists and musicians.

"We start at 7, which is about second grade, and

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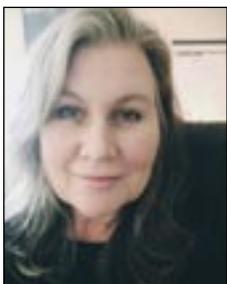
COMMUNITY

From the Editor

Hello, North Central Neighbors!

It is hard to believe that we are about to close out 2022. Where has this year gone?!

A few stories of note this month, on the cover, we explore an amazing arts organization based right in the heart of North Central, Phoenix Boys Choir. The group is celebrating its 75th anniversary season! Our other cover story takes a look at the future of development along Central Avenue and elsewhere in the city's mass-transit corridors. Our Café Chat catches up with another Valley institution, Sylvia Menchaca of Sylvia's La Canasta, and you can find more community, business and school news throughout the issue.



On a more personal note, this month, I'll celebrate one year serving as the editor at *North Central News*. What an amazing opportunity this has been, and your welcome has been so warm and appreciated.

I hope that in the past year we have enlightened, informed and perhaps entertained. In the new year, our goal is to continue to bring you stories that matter, celebrate our North Central residents and businesses and shine a spotlight on the many things to do in Phoenix each month. We also will be bringing you some new ways to explore the news online in 2023 — keep an eye out for details!

In the meantime, we hope that you enjoy our December issue, and wish you all a beautiful holiday season and a bountiful New Year!

All my best,

Kathryn M. Miller
Editor, North Central News
kathryn@northcentralnews.net



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Popular Phoenix hiking trail Cholla Trail at Camelback Mountain reopened to the public Sept. 30. It, along with 11 City of Phoenix parks will have private security and surveillance under a new six-month pilot program (photo courtesy of City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department).

Council vote adds private security in parks

In a 5–4 vote, the Phoenix Mayor and City Council voted Nov. 2 to approve a six-month pilot program to add private security and surveillance in a number of parks throughout the city that were identified as in greatest need of added measures based on identified criteria.

At a cost of \$800,000, the program will be implemented in at least one park per district and will place unarmed private security as an added patrol effort in each area to deter and monitor illegal and dangerous activity between the hours of 8 p.m. and 10 a.m. A similar program in use at three parks in the downtown area.

The initiative was sponsored by Councilmembers Ann O'Brien, Debra Stark, Sal DiCiccio and Jim Waring. Mayor Kate Gallego joined them in voting "yes" on the program, with Councilmembers Yassamin Ansari, Carlos Garcia, Betty Guardado and Vice Mayor Laura Pastor voting "no."

"In a time when we are dangerously low on park rangers and police officers, we need every tool in our tool belt to help keep our communities safe. It's time we expand our security services past just the three parks located downtown," said O'Brien, District 1, in a released statement.

Ansari of District 7 said in a statement, "Starting hourly rate for a park ranger is \$15.91 after pension deductions — this is abysmal. Instead of privatizing and outsourcing core city functions, we need to increase wages and hire people who are accountable to

our city and can deliver the services our residents deserve."

The 11 parks voted to be included in the pilot program are Cortez, Washington, Pierce, Cielito, El Oso, Perry, Cesar Chavez, Maryvale, Sunnyslope, Paradise Valley and Los Olivos, with the addition of the newly reopened Cholla Trail.

Celebrate the season in Sunnyslope

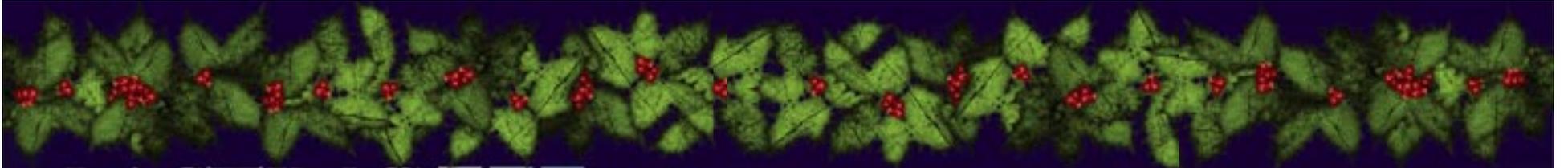
The Sunnyslope neighborhood is celebrating the holidays and its local businesses this month at the Slope Holiday Market and Parade.

Scheduled for Dec. 10, 5:30–10:30 p.m., the event will take place on Hatcher Road from Central Avenue to 7th Avenue.

Attendees can peruse holiday gifts, arts and crafts, enjoy live local music and performances, food, community events and holiday fun, including a community parade. In addition, The Eye Opener will host a beer garden featuring local favorite, North Mountain Brewing Company.

Organized by Hatcher Urban Businesses (theHUB), Sunnyslope Arts District, Sunnyslope Historical Society & Museum, Sunnyslope Village Alliance, Asking Mara Events and North Mountain Brewing Company, with support of the City of Phoenix Office of Arts & Culture, the event is free to all.

For additional information about the event, visit www.sunnyslopeartsdistrict.org or www.sunnyslopehub.com. You also can send an email to hubholidaymarket@gmail.com.



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COMMUNITY

REVITALIZATION *continued from page 1*

and TOD? The answer generally depends on who you talk to, and it is important to know the history.

Planning-wise, 2015 was a big year for the City of Phoenix. Not only was an updated General Plan adopted by City Council in March and subsequently approved by voters in August of that year, the Long Range Planning Team, in conjunction with other city departments and community partners, was knee-deep in Reinvent PHX and TOD Policy Plans.

In Arizona, cities have a mandate to update and/or readopt a general plan every 10 years by public vote. Reinvent Phoenix, however, was driven by transit. Specifically, METRO Light Rail, which began operating in the Valley in 2008. Reinvent PHX created action plans for five initial districts (two more have been added since) along the light rail system, with a goal to “establish a community-based vision for the future and identify investment strategies to improve the quality of life for all residents.”

TOD (www.phoenix.gov/pdd/tod) is broadly defined as “compact, pedestrian-scaled, mixed use development strategically located within a short walk of high capacity transit” — which intersects with one of the General Plan’s five core values: “Connect People and Places.” Along with the TOD, came the Walkable Urban Code, or WU (Chapter 13 of the Zoning Ordinance).

“The Walkable Urban Code is

essentially a design tool to help us to achieve the community vision for those particular areas,” said Joél Carrasco, a member of the Planning Department’s Long Range Planning — Transit Oriented Development team. “It is to support a certain quality of life and balance housing and other uses in a mixed-use environment to support the transit investment of our high-capacity transit system.”

But he is quick to add that the zoning encourages mixed-use, but it is not mandated.

“That’s not to say that there is no opportunity to evaluate that and maybe we can see if there are other ways to encourage our private development community to relook at those spaces [if] they’re not capturing the value that is there.”

Another project that had its beginnings in 2015: Omninet-West, located at Central Avenue and West Pierson Street. It is a challenging location, according to attorney Ed Bull, who represents the developer. Originally zoned as a Planned Unit Development with 286 multi-family units and 14,990 square feet of commercial/retail space, the 3.53 gross-acre project has faced numerous setbacks. It finally gained momentum this year and received preliminary site plan approval in April. But those plans offered a drastically reduced square footage for commercial/retail, 3,125, with around 237 studio, 1-and 2-bedroom units.

In August, the company also requested *please see CENTRAL AVENUE on page 12*

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Are you ready for a change?

It has been an illuminating challenge to write a monthly column for the past 15 years and I really appreciate receiving feedback. If I may be completely transparent, I write the first draft and my wife, MaryAnn, edits. We just celebrated our 36-year wedding anniversary, so she may rephrase and modify when necessary.

Year 2022 has been a unique one, considering prior to June the interest rates were lower and sellers certainly had an advantage over the buyers, due to low inventory. Once June approached, mortgage rates jumped, inventory increased and suddenly the playing field began to shift and favor buyers. Having been a residential realtor in North Central for more than 30 years, I was prepared for the shift. Most of my sellers were receptive as well and, because of my clients, I will sell more than 100 homes in 2022. Prices range from a few condo/patio homes under \$350,000 to 24 homes over \$1 million and everything in between. The highest valued home priced at \$3.4 million. North Central Phoenix offers such diversity in values and is one of the reasons I love the area.

Families are gathering and making their way back to the Valley and Arizona is welcoming visitors from all over the country and the world. If you have friends or family in the market who want to live in our community, I currently have 10 homes for sale ranging from \$450,000 to \$4.975 million. The last-mentioned estate is located at 620 W. Lawrence Road, which is situated on a 1,861 acre lot and was recently featured on FOX10's Syleste Rodriguez "Cool House." The owners invested upwards of \$1.5 million on a major remodel inside the 10,479-square-foot living space that accentuated existing unique original features and added a new roof, new flooring including Saltillo tile, \$165,000 Pella doors and windows, exquisite fixtures throughout and an extraordinary enclosed wine room, complete with a climate-controlled wine area and fireplace. The new kitchen offers two oversized islands, premium appliances and a butler's pantry complete with a dog wash. Included also are seven air-conditioning units and six fireplaces, creating a storybook ambiance. The grounds are resort worthy with a full casita, complete pool house, 50,000-gallon remodeled pool, chipping and putting green, grass volleyball court, lighted tennis/

pickleball court, basketball court and parking for 10, plus an RV entrance.

The new year may have you thinking of selling your home. I currently have five buyers looking for homes over \$1 million in the area; four buyers who want to buy a patio home/condo for under \$500,000 and three buyers who are looking for single-family homes between \$650,000-\$950,000. Please think of me to assist if you wish to sell your home as I know our area and have many content clients. I will work closely with you to price your home competitively, market your property and negotiate for you. If you are looking to buy a home, we will listen to your needs and wants and assist in the buying process from beginning to end, when we hand you the keys.

Buying and selling homes in the North Central corridor is still occurring and is competitive. Homeowner equity, in general, is at its highest point; therefore, homeowners have a great deal of value in their home. Our local market will continue to be in high demand through 2023 because of the steady home values and our coveted neighborhoods.

As we prepare for celebrations, the parties and gatherings with family and friends, remember to be patient with you and yours. When we had The Jockey Club, located at 2110 E. Highland (Town & Country) and 52 E. Camelback (Uptown Plaza), we knew New Year's Eve would be festive and it would be a late night. I worked with my dad, Herb, who brought Michael and me to Phoenix. We know the new year brings new opportunities, an optimism and a resilience comparable to Phoenix. We wish you and yours more cherished memories in 2023.

Bobby Lieb

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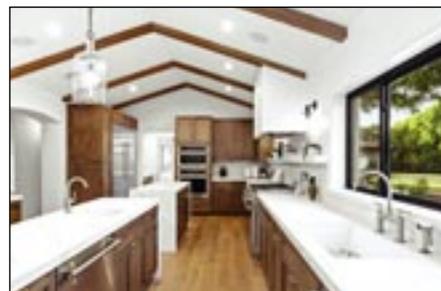


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BOYS CHOIR continued from page 1

we go through...you could be 75," Washington said. "We have an adult men's choir as well. So, this is a place where a boy could come and sing for a lifetime, and potentially singing with a dad or grandfather."

In fact, Washington's own son is in the intermediate choir, bringing the musical experience full circle. But the organization is building lives beyond the music, Washington said.

"The major focus is to produce a high level of excellent music as a professional youth ensemble. The byproduct of that process towards excellence is discipline, great engagement, incredible leadership, being able to have poise, and from an academic standpoint, learning languages and historical knowledge about the world. We find that musicians are much better in academia than they are not being in the art, and that's across the board."

While drawing upon the organization's foundational past, the choir is also firmly focused on the future and have embarked upon several new initia-

tives. The choir launched a choral competition in August and received 92 submissions from around the world, and concertgoers will hear seven premier works this season. They also are working with educators to bring honor choir programs into Valley schools and offering free voice lessons to boys in second through eighth grade at their North Central headquarters. They also recently acquired the Phoenix Girls Chorus, which will allow for collaboration and build the choir into a program open to all youth — something that is important to Washington and is reflected in another initiative.

Drawing upon Washington's roots growing up in a Baptist church, the choir will host "When Dreams Take Flight: Gospel Honor Choir Festival and Celebration Concert," Jan. 28 at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, with a gospel workshop for some 150 educators and choristers the day prior.

"I'm a huge advocate of diversity and going into the community and collaborating with people from all different walks of life and different backgrounds, because we sing in all those different styles," Washington said. "If we want to be a reflection of the community, we must go out and meet people where they are."

Phoenix Boys Choir will kick off its 75th anniversary concert season with a holiday concert series, "Home for the Holidays," that will feature collaborations with a chamber orchestra, solo artists, alumni and audience members, and will include many holiday classics. They will perform four separate concerts, Dec. 10-18. Catch them in Central Phoenix at Brophy Chapel, Sunday, Dec. 18, at 3 p.m.

Looking further down the road, the choir's 75th Anniversary Gala will be held Saturday, Feb. 25, at The Heard Museum. The gala will be emceed by Cedric Ceballos of the Phoenix Suns, and highlights include the premier of several choral works and performances with the Orpheus Male Chorus.

"It's just a great combination of the history — celebrating 75 years of song, education, friendship, community and excellence," Washington added.

Learn more at www.boyschoir.org or by calling 602-264-5328.

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I Recycle Phoenix returns to Christown

Residents are invited to do some early spring cleaning as the I Recycle Phoenix event returns to Christown Spectrum Mall. Presented by Keep Phoenix Beautiful, the free drive-through event will be held Saturday, Jan. 7, at Christown from 7 a.m. to noon behind Wal-Mart.

Items accepted include hard drives, laptops, computer towers, printers, cell phones, flat TVs and monitors and other acceptable electronics. In addition, donations of gently used bicycles, non-perishable food, clothing, acceptable personal care products, books, office and school supplies and acceptable housewares and furniture will be accepted.

Up to five boxes of personal documents will be shredded for free onsite until the truck is full. All other documents will be securely shredded at Security Data Destruction. Monetary donations are accepted by Keep Phoenix Beautiful for additional boxes.

Hazardous waste, prescription drugs, batteries, light bulbs and CRT monitors and televisions will not be accepted. For additional information on acceptable items, call 602-262-4820 or visit www.keepphxbeautiful.org/i-recycle-phoenix.

Find holiday cheer at Uptown Plaza

Uptown Plaza invites the community to a family-friendly Santa Soiree event Dec. 17.

Held from 4–6 p.m., shoppers can get in the holiday spirit with pictures

with Santa Claus, crafts, face painting and festive tunes in the courtyard. Plus, live entertainment will be hosted by Funergy. The first 150 guests get to decorate an LED glow tree ornament to take home.

Uptown Plaza is located on the northeast corner of Central Avenue and Camelback Road and boasts over 20 retailers. For additional information, visit www.uptownplazaphx.com.

Library hosts Just Read book club

In an effort to keep residents engaged in reading, the Phoenix Public Library hosts Just Read, a come-as-you-are, read-what-you-like online book club.

This monthly online book club is genre or theme based. Each month, a new genre or theme will be announced, with individuals participating on their own and through social media.

Whether already an avid reader or with goals to be, whether looking for recommendations or with an idea of preferences, whether reading for personal enjoyment or reading to someone else, Phoenix Public Library wants to help provide a little inspiration.

Each month, the library will announce a book club genre or theme on its website. Residents can read what they like within this genre or theme and participate throughout the month by posting on social media, tagging Phoenix Public Library and #JustReadPPL to share, discuss and recommend book choices.

Learn more at www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/browse/interest-guides/reading/just-read.

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Join us for Worship at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

As we approach seasons of Advent and Christmas, we invite you to join in our many special worship opportunities. In contrast to the commercial busyness of the of the season, our worship services are a refuge and opportunity to catch our collective breathes and reflect on the true meaning of the season. Weekly worship services are every Sunday at 9:00am in English and 11:00am in Spanish. Please see the schedule below or visit faithalive.com for more information.

Mid-Week Advent Services 7:00pm (*soup supper at 6:00pm)

- 11/30* Vespers and commemoration of St. Andrew (Apostle)
- 12/07* Vespers and commemoration of St. Ambrose (Bishop of Milan)
- 12/14* Advent Lessons and Carols presented by the Chancel Choir
- 12/21 Las Posadas followed by a festive reception

The Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe

12/11, 7:00pm, followed by a festive reception

Christmas Eve

12/24, 7:30pm, The Festival Eucharist of the Nativity of Our Lord
Prelude music begins at 7:00pm. This service is filled with Christmas carols and candlelight, accompanied by our glorious pipe organ and musical guests.

Blue Christmas

12/28, 7:00pm, Observance of "Blue Christmas" and commemoration of The Holy Innocents (Martyrs). Because Christmas can be difficult for many, this meditative service acknowledges the darkness in life and provides a space for those who grieve.

801 East Camelback Rd | Phoenix, AZ 85014 | 602-265-3394 | FaithAlive.com

A Reconciling In Christ Congregation of the ELCA

COMMUNITY

CENTRAL AVENUE continued from page 6

ed adding a stipulation that would add another year to its seven-year timeframe to begin construction, which was approved by the Planning Hearing Officer (PHO). This did not sit well with some neighbors.

Without intervention, "Central Avenue will be transformed to a soulless zombie corridor of primarily cookie-cutter residential projects," said Ken Waters, an area resident. Calling the current development trend, "a tragic case study in how the Light Rail's Walkable Urban, Transit Oriented Development promise is all going horribly wrong."

Waters has lived near the Omninet project site for more than two decades and has been following the progress of other developments along Central. His primary concern is the lack of mixed-use (retail and commercial) in the high-density housing being developed.

"There are opportunities for some of the those smaller-scale retail shops along Central. But right now, it's just not something that we are mandating," Carrasco said. "We are encouraging, alongside the

community, that if developers can make these work, then we are all for it, and we have the tools to support that with our Walkable Urban Code."

Waters filed an appeal to the PHO approval. His appeal was heard by the Phoenix Planning Commission Oct. 6 — they voted to grant the developer's request. Waters' appeal was then scheduled to be heard by City Council Dec. 7, but Bull intervened.

What turned the tide, Bull said, "was input from neighbors, discussions with city staff and others."

He advised his client that an increase in the amount of ground floor, non-residential space would be in everyone's best interest. The developer listened and has reversed course to bring the square footage back to close to that originally proposed.

Bull expressed his hopes that neighbors would support the retailers, "If the retail goes in, I hope they, in fact, shop there, because that's been a challenge for ground-floor retail at these vertical mixed-use developments."

Positioned at the gateway between Uptown and Midtown, the Omninet-West project has an opportunity to set the tone for subsequent development along this stretch of Central Avenue by activating its streetside spaces with vibrant retail and commercial, showcasing all that this North Central corridor has to offer. For now, all sides of the development seem satisfied, and construction will begin in 2023.

As far as the future of Central Avenue and other areas along the Light Rail, how does the community further that initial vision of Reinvent PHX?

"Well, one, having the mayor and Council adopt community decisions is a huge step in attracting the type of development and investment that we want to see," Carrasco said. "But we are learning a lot. We hope to revisit all of these areas together in the next few years. I think there are some lessons learned that we can take from here, that we can apply in other areas and look at things a little bit more holistically at the city level."

In 2023, the city will once again reach out to residents for their input as they gear up for the 2025 General Plan, which will more fully integrate TOD and help refocus the vision behind Reinvent PHX. But, once again all parties will need to show up to the table, make their voices heard and then invest in that vision.

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HAPPY HOUR WITH HERSCH

My youngest son is a huge sports fan. He loves to play sports, too, but has dealt with health issues that have limited his ability to participate in a meaningful way.

But through treatment and advancements in medicine, his health has slowly improved. This spring, **he shocked his mom and I with a stated desire to play ice hockey.**

I'm not proud to say my initial reaction was fear and hesitancy: First he had never skated, let alone played hockey. Second, it can be a very physical sport. After reflection with my wife, I realized this was an inappropriate response.

I am glad to say we are enjoying watching him grow through the game. Though I am still a little nervous, I am so proud of his determination. My son has persevered through so many challenges: I should have automatically known that through sheer will and effort, he would make it work.

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COMMUNITY

Christown hosts holiday market, more

Christown Spectrum invites the community to visit the center's Christown Cringle and Mrs. Claus' Kitchen experience from noon to 3 p.m. on three weekends in December (Dec. 3-4, Dec. 10-11 and Dec. 17-18).

These whimsical and charming events will include an interactive Mrs. Claus' Kitchen, a Be Merry Elves Storytime, a holiday craft, appearances by holiday characters, playful photo backdrops, live music and more. During each Saturday Christown Cringle event in December, the first 75 children who bring a canned good to benefit the Phoenix St. Mary's Food Bank will receive a \$5 gift card to Harkins Theatres (while supplies last).

Other holiday happenings include The Retail Therapy AZ: Holiday Market on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Another highlight of every holiday season is children and their families sharing wish lists and taking keepsake photos with Santa, which continues on select dates through Christmas Eve. During



Families can enjoy cooking with Mrs. Claus, visits with Santa and more during Christown Spectrum's holiday events at the mall on weekends from Dec. 3-18 (submitted photo).

the special community events, which take place throughout the indoor common area and outdoor areas of the shopping center, there will be more than 100 local vendors, food trucks and more.

Other than Santa photo packages, these holiday events are free and open to the public. To learn more, visit <https://christownspectrum.shopkimco.com>.

Get Merri in Melrose at annual event

Dec. 10 marks the Seventh Annual Merriment in Melrose event to raise funding for the award-winning Osborn School District Music Program for kinder through eighth-grade students.

The music program plays a vital

role in the development of Osborn students by reinforcing their social, intellectual, physical, emotional, cultural and artistic well-being. Sponsorships and donations are collected through the Melrose Community Alliance (MCA) and are remitted to the Osborn School District Music Programs. All donations are tax deductible.

The December event will feature live music, night vendor market, free photos with Santa, a family fun area and food trucks. It is free and open to the public.

Since the first event in 2015, Merriment in Melrose has been able to purchase new xylophones, baritones and bell kits for Osborn music students. Donations raised through the raffle enable the Osborn Music programs to purchase student instruments for their growing programs.

Merriment in Melrose will be held Saturday, Dec. 10, 2-6 p.m., along 7th Avenue, between Glenrosa Avenue and MacKenzie Drive. For more information, follow the event on Instagram (@merrimentinmelrose) and Facebook (Merriment in Melrose) or visit www.melrosemerchantsassociation.com.

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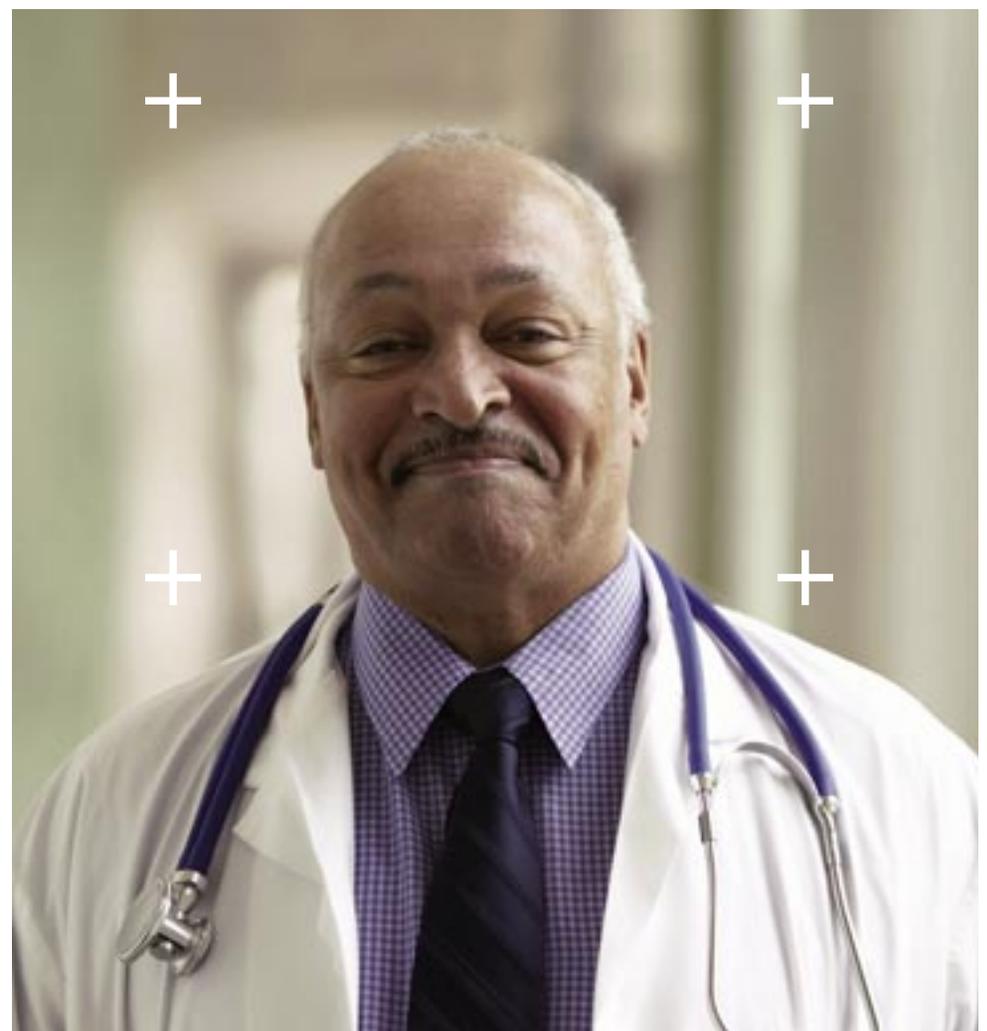


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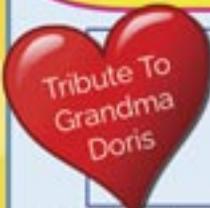
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This Comic was created by Blondie Realtor aka Megan Ternes with the use of a flyer design program and the program's tools.

This ad has been approved by HomeSmart.

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COMMUNITY

Fresh Start celebrates 30 years of giving

Fresh Start Women’s Foundation celebrated and honored the inaugural Fresh Start Visionaries Oct. 27. These generous businesses, philanthropists and organizations have contributed to Fresh Start’s life-changing work with gifts totaling \$100,000 or more throughout the organizations 30-year history.

CEO Kim McWaters explained, “The Fresh Start Visionaries understand that when you give at-risk women access to the resources and support to transform their lives, you not only positively impact their lives, but their children and generations to come. This work breaks cycles of transgenerational poverty and changes our collective future.”

During the event, the who’s who list of inaugural Fresh Start Visionaries, including some of the Valley’s most notable companies, philanthropists and foundations, were acknowledged for their contributions to women in the community. Fresh Start Founders Pat Petznick and Beverly Stewart were honored for their work and vision. Mayor Kate Gallego attended the event in-person and



Fresh Start founders Pat Petznick (standing) and Beverly Stewart were honored for their contributions to women in the community during a 30th anniversary event at the end of October (photo courtesy of Fresh Start Women’s Foundation).

issued an official proclamation declaring Oct. 27, 2022, Fresh Start Women’s Foundation Day in the city of Phoenix.

The organizations says that the celebration of the Fresh Start Visionaries comes at a transformational time, as it celebrates its 30th anniversary and builds resources and infrastructure in support of its new Impact Program. This science-based and proven model

leverages Fresh Start’s three-decade history providing wrap-around support services to women and adds new focus on education, job skills and career placement so women can earn wages at a self-sufficient level.

Impact Program momentum continues to grow, including the U.S. Department of Labor’s recent grant award of \$542,000 to Fresh Start in

support of more women entering non-traditional well-paying careers in technology and the skilled trades.

Learn more about the organization at www.freshstartwomen.org.

Shop local at holiday market

Rise Uptown Hotel is making it easy to cross items off those holiday shopping lists with the Holiday Maker’s Market, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 3, from 9 a.m. to noon. Plus, shoppers can release some stress from the season with a complimentary yoga class guided by Desert MVMT at 9 a.m. on the event lawn. Cartel Roasting Co. also will be on-site to keep shoppers warm with some of their signature brews.

Among the participating local vendors are Bow and Hoop Jewelry, Cacti & Camo, Cisco Studio, Dig It Gardens, Fe Boutique, Form Floral, Jade & Clover, LATHER, Milky Candle Company, Modern Moon, Mollz to the Wallz, Voyager Bake Shop and Wild Rye Baking.

Rise Uptown is located at 400 W. Camelback. For details, call 480-536-8900 or visit www.riseuptownhotel.com.



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Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, December 24



7:00 pm Family Worship with Holy Communion

11:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
 1212 E Glendale, Phoenix
www.oslconline.org

COMMUNITY

Council election results in runoff

The City of Phoenix held its regularly scheduled Council Election Tuesday, Nov. 8, to elect Council Members in Districts 2, 4, 6 and 8. The election is for a four-year term that begins April 17, 2023.

As of 1:39 p.m., Nov. 21, the unofficial election results as provided by the Maricopa County Recorder's Office, which conducted the election, show that two seats were held by the incumbents and two will head to a runoff election. Council Member Jim Waring, District 2, held his seat against two challengers and Council Member Laura Pastor, District 4, held her seat in an uncontested race. Council District 6 will have new representation with the departure of Council Member Sal DiCiccio, but it will go to a runoff election.

In a crowded District 6 race, vote leader Kevin Robinson did not receive the 50% +1 votes required to secure the seat (with 12,072 votes, which is 20%) and he is likely to face Sam Stone (currently holding 10,548 votes, 17%),

March 14, 2023, in a runoff election. At press time, the third and fourth spots were held by Moses Sanchez (10,098 votes, 16%) and Joan Greene (10,036 votes, 16%), respectively.

District 8's Council seat is up in the air as well, with the incumbent Carlos Garcia facing Kesha Hodge Washington in the March runoff. At press time, Garcia had obtained 40% (13,896) of the vote and Washington 38% (13,371).

The latest date to register to vote in the March 14 City of Phoenix conducted Council runoff election is Monday, Feb. 6. In-person voting will be held over three days: March 11, 13 and 14.

To register to vote in Maricopa County, visit www.maricopa.vote.

Church hosts holiday events

Desert Christian Fellowship invites the community to visit its Christmas Village on Saturday Dec. 17, from 4–7 p.m. There will be a Nativity scene reenactment, food, children's crafts, a train for the small children, caroling by the Arizona Girls' Choir and more.

In addition, church seniors will hold a potluck and "white elephant" gift exchange Thursday, Dec. 8, at noon. Bring your favorite dish to share, and a creative, funny, or tasty gift to exchange.

Desert Christian Fellowship is located at 1445 W. Northern Ave. For additional information, call 602-861-4008.

Boy Scouts open Christmas tree lot

It's a holiday tradition that spans seven decades in Phoenix, and one that helps boys in the community enjoy some extraordinary experiences.

Troop 41 of the Boy Scouts of America Grand Canyon Council will hold its 73rd annual Christmas Tree Lot once again this year at 1104 E. Northern Ave. in Phoenix.

This year's lot will include fresh cut trees from a small farm in Molalla, Oregon. And, despite price increases in the industry, the Scouts will keep prices low while providing a wide selection of trees for Valley residents along with holiday wreaths and supplies.

The lot opened on Black Friday and will be open 5–9 p.m. weekdays and 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends. The lot also offers Christmas tree supplies to keep the trees healthy. For more information visit www.bsatroop41az.org.

NORTH CENTRAL'S 'HIDDEN GEM'



New Contemporary Elevations

A hidden gem in the middle of Phoenix's most livable neighborhood, the North Central home of your dreams is waiting at Willow. Tucked behind a privacy gate, this 14-home community showcases indoor and outdoor living with flexible and open floorplans that encourage connection with nature and neighbors, as well as the vibrant city beyond.

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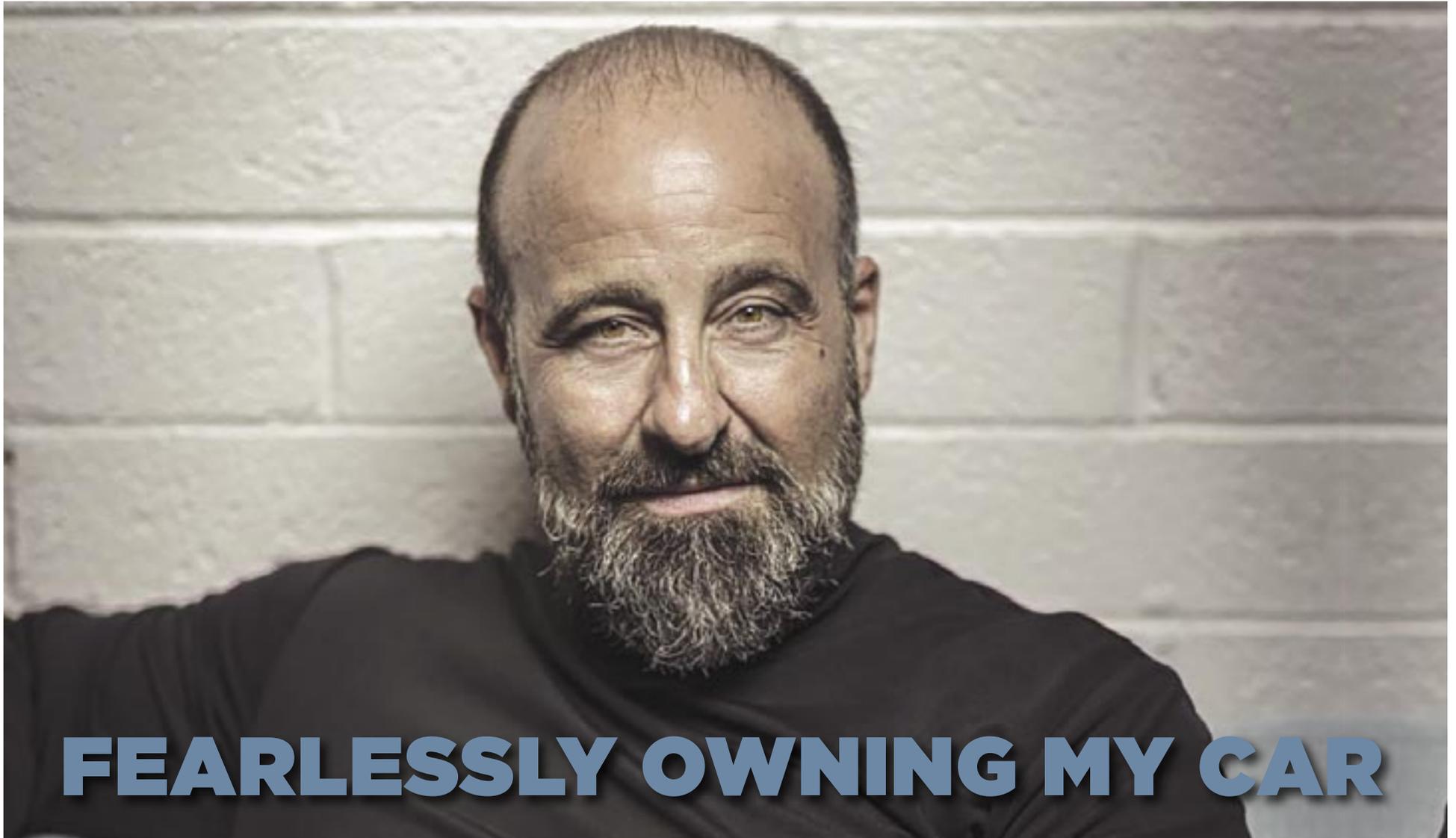
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FEARLESSLY OWNING MY CAR

There is no doubt that car prices are unquestionably at an all-time high, thanks to the pandemic's domino effects, which have prompted buyers to buy cars like a pack of wild horses, and Car costs continue to climb as every consumer is feeling the pinch.

According to KBB, in January of 2022, the average transaction price for a brand-new car was over \$42,000. Used car prices also reached a record high average of over \$25,000 as of December 2021, paired with an average of 68,000 miles on the vehicle.

We can't help but ask, what is causing the rise of these crazy prices? It's a combination of multiple influences, including a semiconductor (chip) shortage, insufficiency from car manufacturers to meet demand, super low interest rates from lenders, a sprinkle of high credit scores and the extra built up savings from consumers while the country was on lock down

While experts paint a picture of being at the mercy of your local auto dealer, there are numerous ways to go about car shopping to not only be a sensible car owner but also get the best value without overpaying for your personal vanity.

LET'S SIT CROOKED AND TALK STRAIGHT FOR A MOMENT

Here are some real valuable steps to take to help you become your own first line of defense and feel good about it.

ASK YOURSELF

Why do I want to buy a vehicle? How bad is my current one? We all get busy and forget how much we really spent owning the current vehicle we drive and depend on every day. A few big-ticket repairs can make us believe that our car is ready to go and a big headache, until you calculate your spending. Here is a simple way to get to the truth: Gather all your receipts of all repairs for your vehicle for the past 3 years and divide by 36, what's your number? If our average monthly number is

under \$200.00, you're ahead of the game! You'll be surprised that 7 out of 10 used car owners 3 year average is under \$150.00 a month. If for some reason you're pushing over \$300.00, it maybe time to consider saying goodbye and starting over.

AUDIT YOUR EMOTIONS

Start by auditing what purpose and value are you buying your vehicle for. Always buy on functionality! Yes, the sunroof, the roof rack and step sides are awesome looking, the Bluetooth features along with all its loud decorations, all of that means nothing if you're driving by yourself in the vehicle with just you, your cup of coffee and your cell phone. Buy on functionality first! If you may go off road once or twice a year, you don't need a 4x4. Rent one for those 2 trips and save yourself a ton of money.

UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE BUYING

Ask yourself how many miles a year will you be driving? If you're buying a car to drive less than 7,000 miles year, you need to understand that that vehicle will be dry rotting and deteriorating by putting it to sleep. Make sure you know how you're going to use your vehicle and for what purpose.

DO THE MATH

It's simple to buy a vehicle intelligently once you've gotten past all the emotional wants. Call your insurance company and ask how much coverage for that year, make, and model of automobile will cost if you buy it. Remember to factor in tax, title, licensing, and doc fees if you're buying from a business, such as a dealership. The fees are common and might range from \$1,800.00 to \$3,000.00 depending on the tax bracket in your state. So, a \$10,000 budget is really \$7,000 to \$8,000.00. Make a provision for it in your budget. None of these costs will apply if you're buying from a private seller.

DO YOUR PART

If you're going to purchase from a private party or dealership, you only need a few but smart steps to take.

1-Go look at the vehicle, drive it good. Not just around the block but on the highway for speeds of 60-70mph to listen, feel and recognize anything abnormal.

2-Get a carfax, they are not that expensive. You can prepay for 3-5 at a time for discount rate. If you're buying from a dealership, they will provide you one for free anytime you ask for it.

3-Have your trusted auto repair shop perform a full buyer's inspection of the vehicle before you buy it. Sure, you can kick the tires and open the hood and turn on all the light and play with the windows, but is that really enough? An expensive OBD reader will only tell you if it has a current code—(Which can be erased easily and you will never know) A buyer's inspection will go through the vehicle from bumper to bumper and advise you of anything needed now and coming soon. From brakes to tires to body damage, you will know it all before you buy it. The cost can range between \$45.00 and \$75.00 depending on who is doing it.

BOTTOM LINE

Buying a car right now is not only a difficult but also a costly procedure. If you work from home, it's preferable to put off buying a car and instead experiment with a more carefree lifestyle. If you really must buy a car, think about all your possibilities outside of your local car dealership, including internet platforms such as Facebook Market Place, Carvana, and Vroom.

AVOID BUYING A VEHICLE BECAUSE YOU WANT CONFIDENCE, INSTEAD BUY IT WITH CLARITY. SEE THE CAR AND ITS OWNERSHIP RESPONSIBIITYAS IT IS. YOUR FEELINGS ARE NOT A CHOICE, YOUR BEHAVIOR IS.

Shahe Koulloukian is an auto industry attaché / Speaker / Educator of Automotive Ownership and Author of Upcoming Book Car Confidential / <https://carconfidential.net>

COMMUNITY

Pet of the Month

Meet mighty handsome Maurice

The Arizona Humane Society hopes those who see Maurice's adorable face will have an open mind and open heart when it comes to adopting an older furry friend.

Although his muzzle may be a bit grayer, the lovable 10-years-young German Shepherd mix still has so much love to give.

Maurice was originally rescued as an injured stray all the way back in September of this year. Found by a Good Samaritan and brought to the Arizona Humane Society, the perky eared pup was found to have significant wounds on his hind legs, which he received treatment for over the course of a few weeks, including surgery. He was also treated for a puppy cold during his time at AHS and is considered to be a bit overweight. But other than that, is happy and healthy, as his smiley picture would suggest.

Now that he is better, Maurice is hoping there is a family out there open



Rescued as an injured stray, Maurice is an adorable older gent who is cheerful and still loves a great adventure (photo courtesy of Arizona Humane Society).

to giving this senior baby the forever home he deserves. Maurice is house trained, loves learning new tricks and is a sweet older gentleman who would love a few nap spots in his future home. While he may not be as quick as he once was, there is nothing stopping this cheerful boy from going on his daily walks, as he still loves a great adventure.

To help him find his true forever home, Maurice's adoption fee is waived. Interested adopters can meet mighty Maurice (pet number 712325) at the Arizona Humane Society's South Mountain location. His adoption fee

includes his neuter surgery, current vaccinations, a microchip and a free follow-up wellness exam with a VCA Animal Hospital.

Visit www.azhumane.org/adopt to choose one of three convenient ways to adopt.

Chamber to host pet adoption event

The Phoenix Metro Chamber Foundation will host its Winter Pet Adoption Event in conjunction with PACC911, Phoenix Metro Chamber of Commerce and Floor & Décor, Sunday, Dec. 11.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Floor & Decor, located at 5880 W. Bell Rd., Glendale. One hundred prize bags will be given to those who adopt pets at the event. Attendees can also participate in a silent auction and raffle, and donations of pet food, toys or supplies will be accepted to distributed to PACC911 and its animal welfare partners.

For more information, visit www.pmc.foundation or www.pacc911.org.



Homeless pets are one step closer to a cozy, loving home thanks to BISSELL Pet Foundation's Empty the Shelters — Holiday Hope event (submitted photo).

Holiday Hope for homeless pets

Working in conjunction with local shelters, BISSELL Pet Foundation is bringing hope to homeless pets this holiday season with its "Empty the Shelters — Holiday Hope" event from Dec. 1–11. This effort has helped nearly 126,000 pets find loving homes, making Empty the Shelters the largest funded adoption event in the country.

"Shelters are overcrowded and in desperate need of support due to slowed adoption rates and increased length of stay for pets," said Cathy Bissell, Founder of BISSELL Pet Foundation. "With so many people seeking to add pets to their family around this time of year, our 'Empty the Shelters — Holiday Hope' event is the perfect opportunity to make a difference in your community by saving a life and creating space to give another homeless pet a chance."

During each nationwide event, the foundation sponsors reduced adoption fees so shelters can charge \$50 or less to take deserving pets from kennels to the couches of loving homes. The Empty the Shelters event will be hosted at more than 275 organizations in 43 states.

Participation dates vary by shelter. In the Valley, participating shelters include Arizona Animal Welfare League, Arizona Humane Society and Maricopa County Animal Care and Control. Potential adopters are encouraged to visit the event website to find the nearest participating shelter and confirm adoption day details. For additional information, visit www.bissellpetfoundation.org/programs/empty-the-shelters.



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Marguerite Tram is celebrating 24 years as owner of Purple Lizard Boutique, which offers something for everyone, including sustainable and comfortable clothing, unique handmade items and found treasures (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

Purple Lizard marks its 24th anniversary

By Kathryn M. Miller

When you talk to Marguerite Tram, the owner of Purple Lizard Boutique, three words come to mind: warm, welcoming and spirited. And those qualities are reflected in her business as well.

Purple Lizard is a Phoenix brick-and-mortar store located at the southeast corner of 15th Avenue and Thomas Road in the Encanto Village Shopping Center. The store opened Sept. 4, 1998 — a day that had special meaning to the owner. It was her dad's birthday.

That family connection is important to her. She grew up on the East Coast in a family of Italian tailors and entrepreneurs. Her mother taught her to sew when she was around the age of 5 and she began creating and sewing her own doll clothes, then later, designing and making all of her own clothing, which is where her artistic eye for fashion began to develop.

Among other enterprises, her entrepreneurial parents ran an appliance store in New Jersey and a shoe business, and she recalls going into the city on stocking trips.

Back then, "Business was done in a very different way. A lot of honor system, a lot of handshaking and a lot of trust and coming to know you as a businessperson. I was raised with that, and I saw their mannerisms and how well they dealt with people. They were

truly loved by the people in our small town, and I grew up knowing that was one of the things to take with me in my heart through my life."

The family moved to Arizona in the 70s and she continues in that entrepreneurial spirit today.

"Both my parents are gone now, but I carry that; we carry it forever and I cherish it."

As Purple Lizard readies to reach a milestone quarter century in 2023, its owner is reflective.

"I can't believe I have 24 years behind me. You know, life has a way of being just like that. I could remember moments when I thought, 'How will I get through this fire?' And you do. And then the next and the next. And then I realized how powerful that was to get through that."

The boutique was founded based on inclusion — a safe place where there would be something for everyone, including clothing that is sustainable and comfortable for ever-changing lives, as well as unique handmade items and found treasures.

As customers' tastes changed, the boutique has evolved over the years and today includes a broad variety of art and gift items, vintage Mexican santos, textiles and ceramics, along with the clothing and accessories. An emphasis is on natural fibers such as cotton and easy-care linen from small artisans around the world.

please see 24 YEARS on page 24

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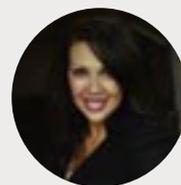
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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

24 YEARS continued from page 22

“I have a lot of wonderful designers in here now. I have not only domestic, but I have Australia, France, Italy, Sweden, Lithuania.”

In 2020, as with most businesses during the height of the pandemic, the boutique owner faced yet another trial and was forced to close her doors to customers.

“COVID changed everything for a lot of people, not only business owners but artists,” the entrepreneur said. “We all came full stop. I was able to do some thinking.”

As the pandemic spread, she followed the news about the tragedy unfolding and paid keen attention to how other business owners were handling the fallout and adjusting their business models. She found inspiration in the midst of it and a way to get through that fire.

“I thank God that some of those things we heard about didn’t happen to me and my family, but I see so much beauty that has come from it. My doors are not open to the public at this time,

but with my appointments it has given me this magnificent time to be with my customers one-on-one.”

The boutique is back open by appointment only, which not only gives customers a personalized shopping experience, but allows the busy business owner to more spend time with her family, and slow down a bit and enjoy each moment — and perhaps, pass on some of her gained wisdom to up-and-coming entrepreneurs.

“Just enjoy every moment and be as grateful as you possibly can at that moment, even if you’re struggling. Just be your best and try and get through it. Ask for help and don’t feel in any way less than to ask for help.

“And be open. You don’t have to do what everybody says. I have made decisions that work for me. And it brought me to this place now.”

Purple Lizard Boutique is located at 2827 N. 15th Ave. in Phoenix. For more information or to make a shopping appointment, call 602-728-0980 email info@purplelizardboutique.com. Customers also can shop the boutique online at www.purplelizardboutique.com.

Business Briefs
Infrared fitness studio set to open

Hotworx Phoenix Northern is coming to 1221 E. Northern Ave. in early December.

The brand is the first ever 24/7 infrared fitness studio franchise. Members use the Hotworx Burn Off App to schedule 30-minute Isometric or 15-minute HIIT workouts, led by a virtual instructor, inside the Hotworx patented infrared sauna. High quality sanitation supplies and hand sanitizers are provided to customers for additional cleaning and hygiene measures beyond the required routine cleaning performed by staff. The patented sauna combines heat, infrared energy, and exercise — called 3D Training — and makes it a workout unlike any other fitness program available, says the Northern location franchises, Kat Proffitt.

“As the infrared heat penetrates your body causing you to sweat, the isometric postures further accelerate detoxification by physically removing

the toxins from your organs through muscle contraction,” she said.

Residents are invited to contact the studio to learn more about the concept and discounted opening rates or to try a free workout. For additional information, call 602-612-2448 or visit www.hotworx.net/studio/phoenix-northern.

Chamber seeks IMPACT nominations

The Greater Phoenix Chamber is seeking nominations for its 2023 IMPACT Awards, which honor the accomplishments of outstanding organizations and the positive impact they’ve made in Greater Phoenix.

Celebrating the 36th Anniversary of the IMPACT Awards, the Chamber has recognized companies that embrace community involvement, contribute to the Valley’s economic growth and vitality, strive to innovate and advocate for the state. The Chamber encourages community members to nominate their favorite business — including their own business — headquartered in or

please see IMPACT on page 26

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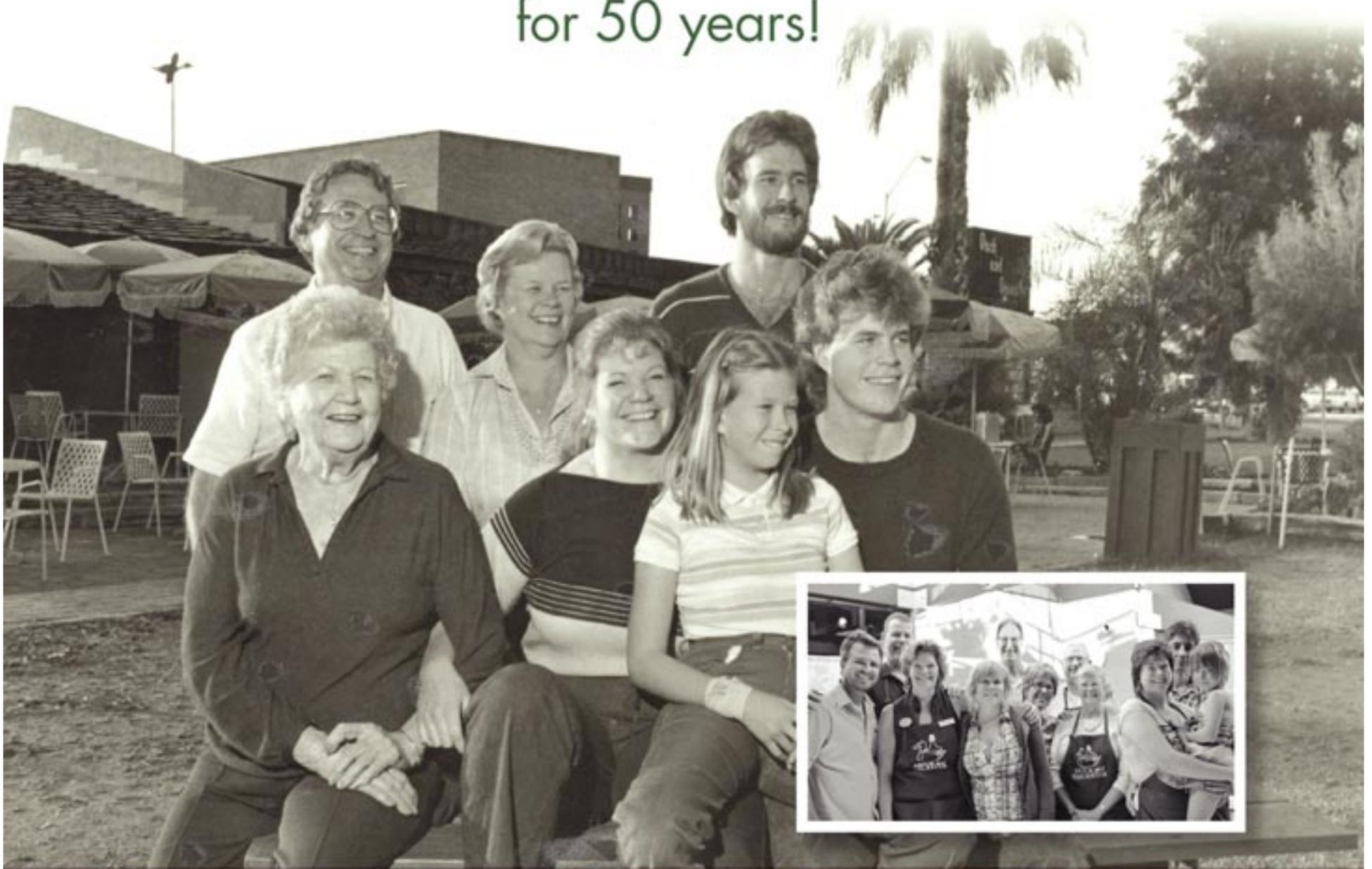
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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



Pricing for the remaining builder model homes at KARMA on east Bethan Home Road starts at \$1.45 million (photo courtesy of Boyer Vertical).

IMPACT continued from page 24

with a major presence in Arizona and deserving of special recognition.

Three small businesses and three large businesses will be recognized as finalists in each category at the Greater Phoenix Chamber's IMPACT Awards Reception June 22. Of these finalists, one business in each sector will be named as an IMPACT Business of the Year.

Nominations can come from anyone in the community and are open until Friday, Feb. 3, 2023, at 5 p.m. and can be submitted through the Chamber's website at www.phoenixchamber.com/nominate.

Two homes remain at infill on Bethany Home

When Boyer Vertical founder Jason Boyer first saw three large lots near 13th Street and Bethany Home Road two years ago, he says he had a vision for something entirely new that would breathe new life into the neighborhood. He purchased the three adjacent properties created a new community of 11 modern homes featuring sustainable features throughout.

The company reports that, to date, five new owners have moved in, with nine of the 11 homes sold, leaving just two homes still available. All homes at KARMA will be completed this coming February 2023.

"I am always looking for opportunities to create spaces where homeowners can enjoy living in a beautiful functional home in a great location, while minimizing their impact on the environment," said Boyer. "At the same time, I prioritize the neighborhood

around my projects. It's always rewarding to transform neglected property in a community that adds value to both the owners and neighbors."

Pricing for the two remaining builder model homes starts at \$1.45 million. The Brokery is handling all sales for KARMA. Additional information can be found at www.karmaphx.com and www.thebrokery.com.

SRP general manager plans to retire

In early November, Salt River Project (SRP) general manager and CEO Mike Hummel announced to the board of directors that he will be retiring from SRP in May 2023.

As Hummel approaches his fifth year as general manager, he decided the time was right to retire after nearly 41 years at SRP.

"Mike has led us through a major sustainable transformation in his time as the general manager and CEO of SRP," said SRP president David Rousseau. "Under Mike's leadership, SRP implemented an industry-leading sustainability plan and has taken aggressive steps towards decarbonizing our power system while maintaining reliability and affordability. In addition, with Mike's strategic guidance, SRP continued to innovate new ways to uphold a resilient water supply for the Valley. As a company and a community, we've had the good fortune to have him lead SRP at a critical time."

The SRP board will conduct a talent search to fill his role with support from executive search firm Korn Ferry. The Board expects to identify a new general manager before Hummel retires in May.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Nonprofit launches Pathways program

Dress for Success Phoenix has been selected by Women's Foundation for the State of Arizona (WFSA) as the nonprofit partner to launch the "Pathways Program for Single Moms" in the state's central region.

This new program is designed to eliminate the barriers to higher education for single moms by giving them the necessary resources to secure livable wages and forge a career path. Taking a holistic approach, the program helps women navigate life's challenges by supporting the successful completion of a one-year certificate program in STEM fields. The tuition-free certificate prepares these women for careers in growing industries that pay a thriving wage, thus confronting the cycle of poverty in their families.

Pathways Program for Single Moms was launched in 2020 in Southern Arizona, and organizers say that due to its success, it has expanded to cover the entire state. Dress for Success Phoenix is focusing on Central Arizona outreach, with an initial goal of helping 70

women during the first 18 months of the program. The organization will be working with Maricopa County Community Colleges (MCC), which has 10 campuses throughout the Valley.

"This is an honor we do not take lightly, and we are ready to implement Pathways Program for Single Moms in the Valley. Assisting single moms in providing financial stability for their families sets the stage for future generations to flourish," said Tamala McBath, CEO of Dress for Success Phoenix.

Dress for Success Phoenix is currently accepting applications for the Pathways Program for Single Moms. For more information or to apply, visit www.pathwaysphoenix.org.

Mint opens new location

Mint Cannabis celebrated the official opening of its fourth Arizona dispensary, located near the I-17 and Northern Ave. in November.

"Since our inception in 2016, we have been on a smart, steady growth trajectory in Arizona," said Eivan Shahara, co-founder and CEO of Mint



Mint Cannabis opened its newest Arizona location at 2444 W. Northern Avenue (submitted photo).

Cannabis. "We plan to continue to grow and expand our brand. We hope to broaden our footprint by opening additional dispensaries in the state during the next few years."

"A big part of the reason for our growth is our commitment to innovation. We are always looking for new ways to serve patients and customers," Shahara added. "We also currently have some open positions to fill due to our growth."

Mint Cannabis, located 2444 W. Northern Ave., Phoenix, will be open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week. For additional information, visit www.themintcannabis.com.

Resident recognized for health research

North Central resident Dr. Frank LoVecchio recently received the Arizona Public Health Association's Public Health Research Award. The award recognizes an individual or team whose research contributes to the advancement of public health science and/or practice in Arizona.

LoVecchio has served as vice chair and director of Research for the Valleywise Health and Arizona State University, College of Health Solutions, and has been an emergency medicine physician, medical toxicologist, public health and addiction physician for more than two decades.

He is a principal investigator with The PReventing Emerging Infections through Vaccine EffectiveNess Testing (PREVENT) Project, which will measure the comparative effectiveness of available COVID-19 vaccines by conducting an observational study of health care personnel who develop symptoms of COVID-19 in 16 academic U.S. medical centers. It is being conducted by EMERGENCY ID NET.

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902 E Kaler Dr	Just Listed	Lot		\$ 750,000
1400 E Bethany Home Rd #29 ..	Just Listed	1756SF	2BR/2.5BA	\$ 619,000
11502 E Enrose St	New Price	2440SF	4BR/2BA	\$ 599,900
5302 N La Plaza Circle	In Escrow	2160SF	3BR/2BA	\$ 625,000
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4901 E Lafayette Blvd	\$2,700,000	1146 W Royal Palm Rd*.....	\$ 980,000	1106 E Wagon Wheel Dr.....	\$ 549,000
800 E Circle Dr	\$2,500,000	1324 E Lupine Ave	\$ 975,000	6532 N 16th Dr	\$ 530,000
7020 N 21st St	\$2,450,000	42 E Marlette Ave	\$ 970,000	77 E Missouri Ave #17.....	\$ 520,000
1527 W Caribbean Ln.....	\$2,000,000	132 E Tuckey Ln.....	\$ 925,000	1527 E Hudson Dr	\$ 519,000
3120 E Coolidge St	\$1,990,000	10251 N Central Ave.....	\$ 915,000	700 W Northern Ave	\$ 510,000
7011 N Wilder Rd.....	\$1,745,000	7730 N 2nd Ave	\$ 900,000	804 E Corte Oro Dr.....	\$ 494,000
1 E Northview Ave	\$1,700,000	1033 E Kaler Dr	\$ 899,000	1124 E Rose Ln #21**.....	\$ 485,000
526 E Tuckey Ln.....	\$1,575,000	7904 S 29th Pl	\$ 875,786	6357 S Blake St	\$ 480,000
3229 E Sells Dr	\$1,525,000	4128 E Sunnyside Dr	\$ 825,000	1241 E Kaler Dr	\$ 475,000
5112 N 34th Pl	\$1,300,000	77 E Missouri Ave #67.....	\$ 815,000	903 W Glendale Ave #3	\$ 465,000
3436 N 38th Pl	\$1,299,500	7536 N 10th St.....	\$ 810,000	2340 E Turney Ave	\$ 450,000
640 E Echo.....	\$1,266,500	800 W Bethany Home Rd.....	\$ 800,000	8850 S Grandview**.....	\$ 449,000
18005 N 65th Pl	\$1,225,000	8058 E Via Del Desierto	\$ 775,000	7526 N 10th Pl	\$ 440,000
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		8039 N 10th Ave	\$ 600,000	1263A E Maryland Ave.....	\$ 255,000
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		8124 E Whitton Ave	\$ 570,000		

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SCHOOL DAYS

Cross Roads UMC Christmas Events

7901 N Central Ave (Central & Northern)

Christmas Eve
Nativity Scene

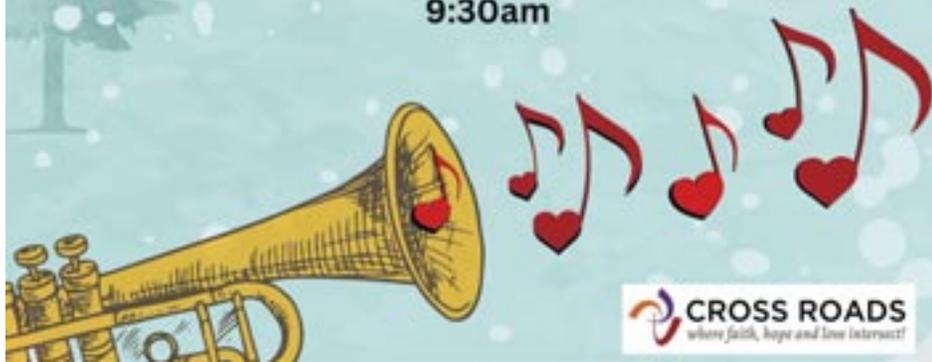
Saturday, Dec. 24th
4:30pm - 5:30pm

Lessons & Carols
Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, Dec. 24th
6:00pm - 7:00pm

Ugly Christmas Sweater
Sunday Service

Sunday, Dec. 25th
9:30am



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Governor Doug Ducey presented Sister Joan Fitzgerald with a commendation for her 60 years of service to Xavier College Preparatory at a Nov. 1 assembly at the school (photo by David Willkie/Duke Photography).

Xavier president celebrates six decades

Xavier College Preparatory's Sister Joan Fitzgerald, BVM, celebrated her 60th year at Xavier Nov. 1.

At the morning assembly, Governor Doug Ducey presented Sister Joan with a commendation from the State of Arizona in honor of her dedication and steadfast efforts to support and serve Phoenix communities for over 60 years. In the evening, a dinner was held at Xavier where Sister Joan was honored by Bishop John Dolan of the Diocese of Phoenix and Arizona Supreme Court Justice and Xavier alum, Kate Hackett King, among others.

Sister Joan told the audience that when she arrived at Xavier in 1962 to teach Spanish, "there was only one school building, one student came to school on horseback and tied her horse to the tennis court fence, and tuition was \$14."

Since 1962, Sister Joan has served as teacher, treasurer, principal, and president today. She has raised \$50 million (so far) for scholarships, campus improvements and capital campaigns. Over 45 percent of Xavier students receive some financial aid to attend the college preparatory school.

While much has changed in the world since Sister Joan has been at Xavier, her passion for students and faculty remains as strong as ever.

"What makes us different from other educational institutions is that the Church is the center of our life and hopefully the girls will go away with that and carry it out," Sister Joan said.

School Briefs GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Three schools earn 'A' rating

Three North Central schools in the Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) earned an "A" rating from the State of Arizona: Sunnyslope, Thunderbird and Washington high schools.

An "A" rating is the highest rating a school can receive and is based on student proficiency and growth on the national ACT exam, graduation rate and the opportunities a school provides in preparing students for college and careers.

Club hosts health event

Sunnyslope High School students received their certification or recertification in BCLS with the Health Occupations Students of America Club (HOSA) and Phoenix Firefighters Association.

HOSA is a new club on campus this year. The student members also attended the Fall Leadership Conference.

SCHOOL DAYS



Members of the Thunderbird High School NJROTC recently held a clean-up event along 19th Avenue and on campus (submitted photo).

NJROTC compete and clean area street

Thunderbird High School's NJROTC participated in the John S. McCain JROTC Leadership Competition, hosted by the American Legion Post 41. Ten schools from across Arizona and representing all branches of the military service competed in athletic events, exhibition drills and a citizenship test.

Thunderbird NJROTC scored third place in the citizenship competition, second place in drill, and third place overall. The cadets received a \$1,000 check.

In addition, the NJROTC conducted an Adopt A Street clean up. The

cadets cleaned up 19th Avenue and Thunderbird Road. They also cleaned up around the Thunderbird campus.

**MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Madison breaks ground at STEAM site**

In October, Madison Park Middle School held a ceremony that included students, staff, Madison Elementary District's governing board and Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Guerin. The event was to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new Madison Park STEAM building.

Park's STEAM program provides

please see SITE on page 32

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madisonaz.org/enrollment



SCHOOL DAYS

SITE continued from page 31

students with a solid curriculum emphasizing math, science and engineering, giving them an advantage when entering a STEAM High School and preparing them for future careers.

“I want to thank the Madison community for their support, which allows us to provide modern facilities for our students,” Guerin said. “Madison Park originally opened its doors in 1956 and we are so excited for the new building to open in the 2023–24 school year. The new Madison Park building will be a state-of-the-art school, enhancing Park’s STEAM signature program and supporting Madison’s vision of inspiring students to develop a passion for learning and leading in our ever-changing world.”

The 110,000-square-foot facility includes 40 classrooms, science labs, STEM action lab, maker spaces, art and music rooms. The classrooms have collaboration hallways that allow for extended classrooms where students can work in small groups. In addition, there is a media center, gym, and preschool center. Emphasis was placed



Madison Park Middle School students joined district staff and leadership at an October groundbreaking for its new STEAM building (submitted photo).

on natural lighting, safety and security features, and furniture to meet the learning needs of students.

“Construction of the new, state of the art Madison Park School will significantly enhance the already strong educational cultural environment of

the Park community,” said governing board vice president Scott Holcomb. “Park is a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) school. The innovation, dedication, and focus of ADM Group and Chasse Building Team in working with

the Madison School District to advance Park’s STEAM Signature Program has created a unique, innovative and welcoming campus to serve the Park students, educators and families far into the future.”

Madison hiring MAC leaders

The Madison Adventure Club (MAC) is the Madison School District’s before and after school program that provides Madison students safe, affordable and high-quality after-school care by trained staff. The district takes pride in its MAC program, which it says provides a safe, positive and fun learning environment, positive peer group experiences, hands-on activities and much more.

District leadership added, “We are always looking for MAC Club Leaders to join our team! This position is perfect for anyone who is passionate about supporting and enriching students’ social and emotional skills and anyone who is looking for a flexible schedule.”

Those interested in applying should visit www.madisonaz.org/jobs.

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Dates to Remember!

Admissions/Placement Exam

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022 | 7:30 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022 | 7:30 a.m.

Registration for exam and application information at xcp.org. **9th Grade applications are due Monday, Jan. 9, 2023.**

Affording a Xavier Education

Financial Aid Workshops available to interested parents during the **Entrance Exam Testing.**

Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022 | 7:30 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022 | 7:30 a.m.



SCHOOL DAYS

OSBORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Osborn teacher receives grant

Martha Clark, a Spanish teacher at Clarendon Elementary School, part of the Osborn School District in Phoenix, was awarded a \$2,500 grant through the Palo Verde Fiesta Bowl Charities Wishes for Teachers Draft Day presented by SRP.

The grant will allow Clark to provide additional Spanish resources and flexible seating for the classroom.

Fiesta Bowl Charities granted 400 teachers—including 85 Phoenix teachers—with \$2,500 each through the program. Recipients included those teaching the arts to science, both gifted and special education, and languages and life skills amongst a diverse group of subjects. The 400 wishes granted will benefit teachers who will aim to enrich the lives of their students through technology improvements, addition of educational programs and fitness equipment and much more.

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Camelback teacher granted wish

Recently, Danielle Smith from Camelback High School was awarded \$2,500 from Fiesta Bowl Charities as a part of the Wishes for Teachers program. Smith's wish that is now granted is "to purchase flags to represent Arizona tribes and create a library of Native American authors."

Now in its seventh year, Fiesta Bowl Charities in partnership with Palo Verde, are granting \$2,500 classroom wishes to 400 teachers across the state of Arizona for a total of \$1,000,000. The Fiesta Bowl organization saw that many teachers spent their own money to enhance their classroom experience and in 2016 developed this program to aid teachers in that effort. As a way to support, celebrate and honor Arizona educators, teachers were invited to fill out an online application detailing their school and classroom wish. Wishes are randomly selected to receive a grant and teachers are notified and surprised in a Palo Verde Fiesta Bowl Charities Wishes for Teachers Draft Day presented by SRP event.

Over the past 6 years, Palo Verde Fiesta Bowl Charities Wishes for



Camelback High School teacher Danielle Smith (pictured holding check) was awarded \$2,500 through the Fiesta Bowl Charities' Wishes for Teachers program (submitted photo).

Teachers has granted \$4.7 million to Arizona teachers, impacting more than 500,000 students across the state.

Learn more at www.fiestabowl.org/sports/wishes-for-teachers. Learn more about Phoenix Union High School District at www.pxu.org.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

District awards mini-grants for 29 projects

The Washington Education Foundation (WEF) awarded \$37,000 in mini-grants, which funded 29 pro-

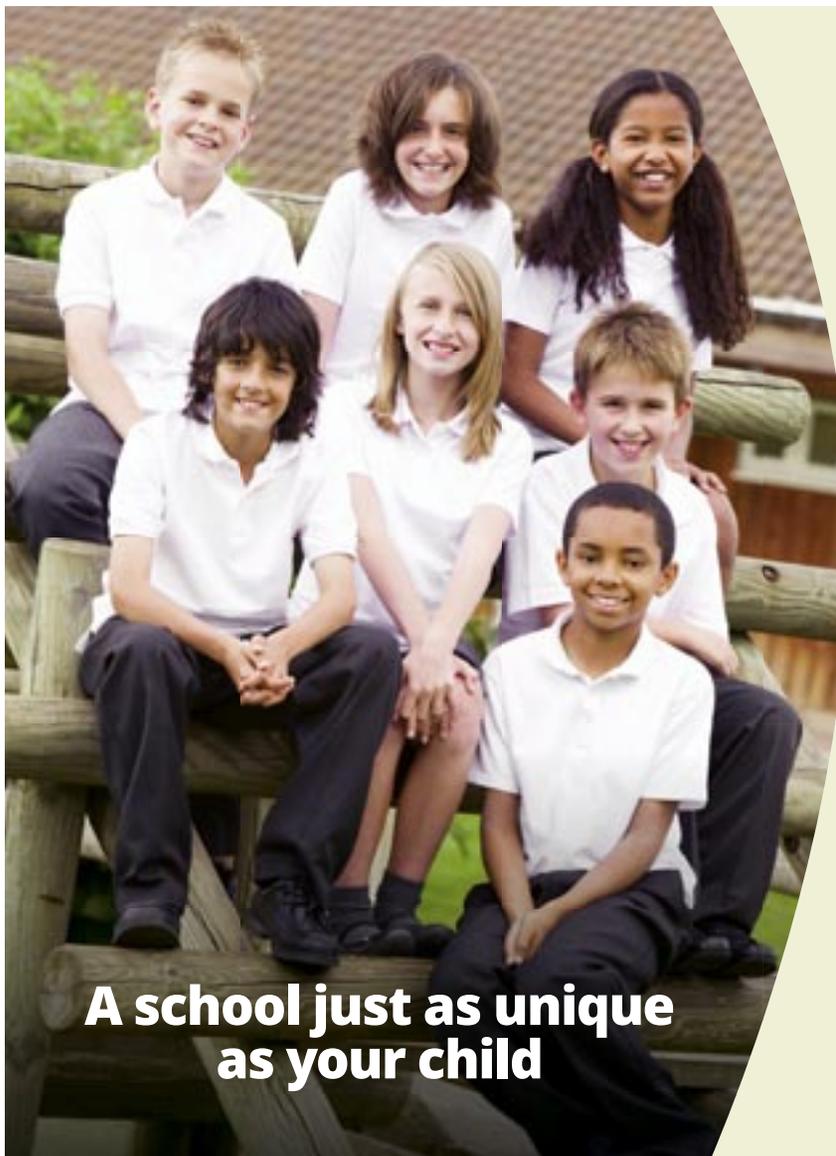
jects at 16 WESD locations during a celebration in November. WEF's first in-person celebration in more than two years included opening remarks from WEF President and retired WESD principal Luanne Herman and Superintendent Dr. Paul Stanton, as well as congratulatory wishes from Governing Board members Bill Adams and Lindsey Peterson.

Each year, the WEF awards \$500 mini-grants to teachers and staff to enhance the learning, as well as learning environments, for students. Funded projects included materials for gardens and an Egyptian mummification lesson, as well as books, adaptive seating and supplemental learning materials for the classrooms.

City departments support Sunnyslope families

The Washington Elementary School District (WESD) recently thanked the Phoenix Police Department, Phoenix Fire Department and the City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department for collecting and donating

please see SUPPORT on page 34



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SCHOOL DAYS



Moon Mountain Perfect Score students pose with WESD assistant superintendent Dr. Lyn Bailey and WESD governing board president Tee Lambert.

SUPPORT continued from page 33

supplies for the Sunnyslope Elementary School families and children who were affected by an apartment fire in October.

Families gathered at Sunnyslope Elementary School where they were greeted by several police officers who provided them with a variety of toys and games.

Students earn perfect assessment scores

WESD congratulated its perfect score students from Moon Mountain Elementary School. At a recent WESD Governing Board meeting, these students were celebrated for receiving perfect scores on either the English Language Arts or Math portions of the 2022 Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (AASA).

Moon Mountain earns 'A'

Moon Mountain Elementary School was designated as an "A" school from the Arizona Department of Education. Over the last few years, Moon Mountain has increased from a "C" to a "B" and now to an "A" school.

On the achievement, WESD said, "We are so proud of Moon Mountain for earning this incredible achievement and admire their ongoing commitment to improvement and growth!"

CHARTER AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS Mathletes compete in Caribou Cup

This school year Madison Highland Prep (MHP) introduced a new competitive club to its extracurricular lineup, Mathletes.

Mathletes is a competitive math club where solving math problems is fun, challenging, and engaging. This year, members are competing in the Caribou Cup Math contest. Thursday, Oct. 20, MHP Mathletes competed in their first contest of the year. Over 6,630 participants competed and MHP students went up against competitors from around the world and in the U.S.

After their first competition, MHP's Mathletes two teams are ranked 2nd and 10th in Arizona and 30th and 77th in the World. Liam Steindler, Casey Deng and Isaac Lewis placed in the top 20 percent, and Harrison Communale placed in the top 25 percent. The second competition for MHP's Mathletes club was Nov. 23–24. There will be subsequent competitions in January, February, April and May. The addition of the club has enriched the school's mathematics program and added new competitive opportunities to students who love math.

Learn more at www.madisonhighlandprep.com.

Xavier Christmas pageant welcomes public

The community is invited to join Xavier staff and students at the school's 20th Annual Christmas Pageant, "The Work of Christmas," to be held at the Virginia G. Piper Performing Arts Center at Xavier, Sunday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. Prior to the pageant, an Alumnae Reception will be held in the Alumnae Courtyard at 1 p.m.

The performance is being provided as a gift to the community. No tickets are necessary. Xavier College Preparatory is located at 4710 N. 5th St., Phoenix. Learn more at www.xcp.org or by calling 602-277-3772.

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SCHOOL DAYS

Student-run nonprofit helps local children

Soles 2 Souls, a local nonprofit launched in 2021 by two high school students, partnered with Arizona Helping Hands to help children in foster care recently.

Alec Bansal and Jake Krotnosky, juniors at Brophy College Preparatory, created the nonprofit and decided to host a basketball event with families from Arizona Helping Hands.

The students started the nonprofit after seeing a person experiencing homelessness on the side of the street with run down, holey shoes. The pair wanted to provide bare essentials to people in the community in need and began a grassroots campaign, then after being introduced to Brophy teacher Bryce Deline, they started thinking bigger. The teacher suggested that they partner with Arizona Helping Hands.

Fifty children in foster care were invited to an Oct. 16 event to play basketball, soccer and dodgeball, and Soles 2 Souls was able to provide everyone with a new pair of Nike shoes. The games took place at Brophy College

Prep gym and the school reported that everyone had a great time.

To date, Soles 2 Souls has raised over \$6,000 and donated more than 100 pairs of shoes to people in the community. Learn more at www.soles2souls.shop.

Xavier community donates over half-million cans

Giving back to the community is a way of life for students at Xavier College Preparatory. Each year, students give over 30,000 hours doing volunteer work and community service as part of Xavier's Christian Service Program. Many activities are designed by students where they see a need to fulfill.

Xavier's National Honor Society (NHS) started its Canned Food Drive to benefit St. Vincent de Paul in the 1990s. The initial goal was 10,000 cans. Each year, Xavier breaks the record of food collected. This year, the Xavier community broke another record and donated 603,499 cans for St. Vincent de Paul and raised more than \$60,000 in cash donations alone.

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<p style="font-size: x-small; color: red; font-weight: bold;">UNDER CONTRACT</p> <p>1619 E Seldon • \$1,075,000 3 bed, 3.5 bath, 3,086 sf</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; color: red; font-weight: bold;">ACTIVE</p> <p>1065 N Revere • \$505,000 3 bed, 2 bath, 2124 sf</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; color: red; font-weight: bold;">BROUGHT THE BUYER</p> <p>2916 N 8th Ave • \$490,000 3 bed, 2 bath, 1240 sf</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small; color: red; font-weight: bold;">CLOSED</p> <p>71 E Hoover Avenue • \$532,000 2 bed, 1 bath, 1047 sf</p>

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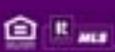
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Christmas Eve – Saturday, December 24:
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SCHOOL DAYS



Eight Brophy students, four Xavier students, two faculty moderators and a Brophy/BNAC alumnus were part of the Oak Flat Unity Summit in Washington, D.C. (submitted photo).

Junior nominated for Best Director

Sejal Patel, a junior at Xavier, was recently nominated for Best Director by the Young Artist Academy for her short film, “Life with the Patels.”

The 43rd Young Artist Academy Awards was held at the Directors Guild of America in Los Angeles in October. Patel attended the awards ceremony with her entire family

Patel hopes to attend USC Film School after she graduates Xavier in 2024.

Native American Club travels to D.C.

Relentless. Fearless. Committed. It would be hard to find a group of young people who demonstrate these qualities as well or as effectively as the Brophy Native American Club (BNAC), Brophy administration says.

Like the Indigenous tribes they count as their ancestors, they have roamed miles of Arizona trails and terrain. But these recent wanderings — including a 230-mile run in February from Arizona’s northern mountains to the central high deserts — have a specific purpose — to advocate for environmental justice and the right to keep the sacred sites of their people inviolate.

On Saturday, Nov. 12, these students took their efforts 2,300 miles further as they boarded a plane for Washington D.C. with a packed agenda that included meeting with the secretary of the Interior, the secretary of Agriculture and many members of Congress, including all of Arizona’s delegation.

For the past two years, BNAC members have been activists in defense

of Oak Flat, a Native American sacred site that is vulnerable to mining exploitation. In 2015, Resolution Copper received federal permission for a land transfer that would give it ownership of a 3,000-acre site that includes Oak Flat. Thanks to the work of Apache Stronghold, supported by Earthworks, the Sierra Club, the National Congress of American Indians and efforts such as those of the BNAC, the land transfer is now on hold until there can be additional tribal input.

Brophy receives community partner award

The sixth annual Saving Amy Celebration took place Oct. 22 at the Heard Museum where Brophy College Preparatory was recognized with the Community Partner of the Year award for Brophy’s work with Saving Amy’s Kids Go program.

Saving Amy is a local nonprofit that works with families transitioning from homelessness. Brophy students act as big brothers to the younger students in the Kids Go program where they help them with their homework, take them on outings and encourage them to work hard and do well in school.

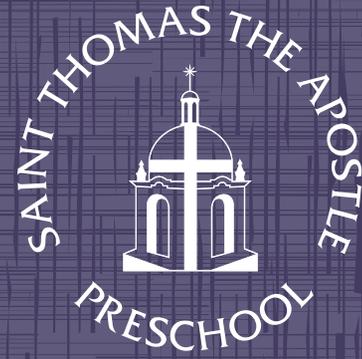
Brophy senior Peter Calihan, who spoke about his experience as a tutor and mentor, noted that after he reassured a student that it was cool to make good grades, the younger boy’s grades went from average to straight As.

Brophy students also volunteered at the event, which honored Saving Amy’s graduating families, covering the live and silent auction, checking people in and out and selling raffle tickets.



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CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE: Sat., Dec. 24th, 4:00PM • 7:00PM

MIDNIGHT MASS Music begins at 11:30PM

CHRISTMAS DAY: Sun., Dec. 25th, 9:00AM • 11:00AM



GENERATIONS

Senior Living Meal program supports residents

Hunger is a very real issue in Phoenix, and the need tends to feel even more critical during the holidays.

Esperança's Stove to Table meal delivery program was born during the pandemic when many low-income seniors expressed their inability to cook dishes using items from food box deliveries. Ingredients are often not familiar amongst the diverse cultural groups for which Phoenix is known, or physical disabilities hinder seniors from standing long enough to cook at all.

Post-pandemic, the Stove to Table program continues to use fresh vegetables from Esperança's community garden to cook and deliver 200 healthy meals to low-income seniors each week. Recipes keep in mind cultural preferences and chronic conditions like diabetes or high blood pressure. Deliveries happen solely through the power of motivated volun-



Volunteers are invited to help pack meals to be delivered to Valley seniors (photo courtesy of Esperança).

teers from our community.

Held every Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Esperança demonstration kitchen, Stove to Table offers Phoenix residents the opportunity to volunteer to be part of the movement connecting seniors with the food they need to live healthily for the years that count.

Volunteer slots are limited to eight per day. Interested parties should save their spot in advance by calling 602-252-7772 or visiting www.esperanca.org.

December events at Phoenix senior centers

City of Phoenix senior centers offer a gathering place for older residents to find

engaging activities, friendship and fun.

The Devonshire Senior Center, located at 2802 E. Devonshire Ave., will hold holiday events this month, including Build Your Own Candy Cane Cupcake, Dec. 7, Winter Holiday Show with Jay Farris, Dec. 23, and 2023 Sparkling Cider Toast, Dec. 30.

The center also hosts the City's Memory Café Program every Thursday, 10:30–11:30 a.m., for those living with early to moderate dementia, offering them a safe place to socialize and participate in activities that stimulate and support brain health. The Café events also offer support for caregivers. To register, call 602-534-5750 or email memory.cafe@phoenix.gov.

For more information about the Devonshire center, call 602-262-7807. The Sunnyslope Senior Center, located at 802 E. Vogel Ave., will host its Holiday Birthday Party Tuesday, Dec. 20, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Festivities will include music by DJ Ken, snacks, refreshments, drawings and a special



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GENERATIONS

visit from Santa. Members are also invited to bring a gift to play the “White Elephant Game.”

In addition to dozens of regular classes and activities, Sunnyslope offers Geri-Fit strength training workouts for older adults Tuesdays and Fridays, 10–10:45 a.m. To learn more about this program, offered through Area Agency on Aging, visit www.aaaphx.org.

For additional information about the Sunnyslope center, call 602-262-7572.

Both centers are open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with lunch served daily at 11:30 a.m.; a recommended contribution of \$2.50 is requested per meal. In addition, Devonshire hosts St. Mary’s TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) the first Tuesday of each month.

Membership gives residents access to all 15 Phoenix senior centers. The annual membership fee is \$20 for Phoenix residents and \$40 for non-residents. For additional information, visit www.phoenix.gov/residents/seniors

The Veteran’s Commitment Plan is intended to ease the friction of going to college after military service. Typically, veterans who are released from duty and want to go to college have to reconnect with their high school to get transcripts, test scores and other items in order to apply for college admission. The Veteran’s Commitment Plan would eliminate those steps by helping students prepare for their post-military college education while still in high school.

Participants in the Veteran’s Commitment Plan are also eligible for ASU’s New American University merit scholarship. This award is offered in varying amounts based on GPA, test scores and other academic criteria. Additionally, students can begin taking ASU courses through ASU Online while still on active duty. Students graduating from high school in spring 2023 will be the first cohort eligible for the Veteran’s Commitment Plan.

For more information and details, visit <http://veterans.asu.edu/asu-veterans-commitment-plan>.

Kids & Families

Program offers post-military university entrance

Arizona State University’s Enrollment Solutions Lab announced in November a new program that enables Arizona high school seniors who plan to join the military after graduation the option of attending ASU immediately upon completion of their military service contract.

Piano program now enrolling

Music Works Community will begin a new 18-week semester of Prelude piano classes for young musicians the week of Jan. 9. Registration is now open, according to director and owner Carolyn Inabinet.

Piano Preschool ShiningStars classes are offered for children ages 3–5 to gently prepare little fingers for piano,

please see PIANO on page 40



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GENERATIONS

PIANO continued from page 39

to sing and move, and develop hand coordination and rhythm with drumming. LeapFrog piano lessons are offered for kindergarten and first-grade students in small group classes.

Music Works Community, also known as The Piano Place, offers lessons in piano for all ages and levels. For more information and registration forms, visit the Prelude page at www.musicworkscommunity.com, send an email to director@musicworkscommunity.com or call the studio at 602-264-5188.

Nominations open for young leaders

Junior Achievement of Arizona's 18 under 18 nominations opened in November and closes Jan. 31.

The criteria include demonstrated leadership, community service and entrepreneurial spirit. The organization is looking for youth who are active in the community, selfless leaders, change makers and innovators.

"The Junior Achievement of

Arizona 18 Under 18 all have something in common: They're not waiting until they're adults to make a difference in the world," said Katherin Cecala, CEO of Junior Achievement of Arizona. "Whether it's helping refugees, selling shoes, publishing a book, or finding a youth poet laureate, these entrepreneurs all realize the power that a single, driven person has."

Anyone under 18 years of age by July 1, 2022, and who attended K-12 in Arizona and resides anywhere in the state can apply. Winners will be announced in person Thursday, April 27, 2023, from 5-6:30 p.m. Cash and other prizes will be awarded to the winners. To learn more, visit <http://18under18.org>.

VYT offers winter classes

Valley Youth Theatre (VYT) will present its winter classes Jan. 9–March 4, offering everything from improv and play pretend, to musical theatre and advanced acting.

Whether children are looking for a place to start, or are already a seasoned performer, VYT's classes are fun,

engaging and will foster a passion for acting, dance, musical theatre, storytelling, improvisation and more. Classes are designed to develop a young performer's stage presence while teaching life-skills, enriching self-esteem, building confidence and communication, and creating an ensemble and community of VYT family.

For additional information on classes or to register, visit www.vyt.com/education/performing-arts-classes

New exhibition features art by at-risk youth

A new art exhibition will feature the art created by local youth who have lived at or below the poverty line — many of them experiencing homelessness. Through the art of photography, "Kids in Focus: A New Lens on Life" allows children to create connections with trusted mentors and reframe the way they see their world, building confidence, resilience, and hope.

Western Spirit: Scottsdale's Museum of the West will host the Kids in Focus exhibit. The Phoenix nonprofit organization is dedicated to giving at-risk

youth the chance to see themselves and the world in a new light, equipping them with essential life skills to make the shift from surviving to thriving. During the 9-week afterschool program, local photographers become mentors to the kids, building trusting relationships as they travel all over the Valley exploring and taking images.

Upon completing this initial program, the kids keep their cameras and become members of the Grads in Focus and Junior Mentor programs, which keep kids actively engaged for several years, through high school and beyond.

"When kids experience trauma, they disconnect from the world and themselves. A camera in these kids' hands, with the right guidance and encouragement, ignites imagination and can switch the light in their eyes back on, giving them confidence and the resilience they need to overcome the challenges they face," said Karen Shell, founder and executive director of the nonprofit.

The exhibit will run through Dec. 30. For more information, visit www.kidsinfocus.org or www.scottsdale-museumwest.org.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

New graphic novel based on 'Carmen'

After a successful spring Kickstarter campaign in which Arizona Opera more than doubled its campaign funding goal of \$20,000, thanks to 829 backers, the opera company announced that it will be publishing "Carmen: The Graphic Novel" for release this holiday season.

Published by Clover Press, the 112-page hardcover book is an adaptation of Georges Bizet's opera, "Carmen," into a graphic novel by tenor, director and writer Alek Shrader, with layout and page design by well-known artist P. Craig Russell (Neil Gaiman's "American Gods"), illustrations by the artist Aneke Murillenem and lettering by Hassan Otsmane-Elhaou.

The graphic novel will be available in early December for consumers nationwide via Barnes & Noble, independent bookstores and comic shops, and is currently available for pre-order through Amazon for \$35.

Learn more at www.azopera.org.

Valley Metro launches art grant program

Downtown and South Phoenix residents will soon enjoy artistic and cultural enrichment to reflect the community and complement construction of the South Central Extension/Downtown Hub light rail project. Through 2024, Valley Metro will fund a total of \$90,000 in grants to local community organizations who will facilitate arts and culture projects.

"We look forward to seeing the cre-



Georges Bizet's "Carmen" comes to life on the pages of a graphic novel published by Arizona Opera and available this December (cover graphic courtesy of Arizona Opera).

ativity and ideas of the local community through this new program. Supporting public art and local artists is one of the ways we celebrate and engage with the rich cultural diversity of the community," said Valley Metro CEO Jessica Mefford-Miller. "This program is an extension of our comprehensive public art program, which seeks to reflect the neighboring community and beautify our transit spaces."

Funded projects may include, but are not limited to, site-specific performances, cultural heritage celebrations, workshops or panel discussions, pop-up arts events, murals and more. Grant Review Panels, made up of community

please see ART GRANT on page 42

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Gather with family and friends and skate Downtown Phoenix's winter wonderland at CitySkate, which runs through Jan. 1 (submitted photo).

ART GRANT *continued from page 41*

members who live, work, organize or volunteer within one mile of the project alignment, will aid in selecting grant recipients.

Valley Metro invites community organizations to apply for the first round of grant funding by Dec. 12.

Visit www.valleymetro.org and search "Art Grant Application."

Skate in downtown this holiday season

Residents are invited to celebrate the holidays with family and friends and experience Downtown Phoenix as a winter wonderland.

CitySkate, Downtown Phoenix's most popular and real outdoor ice-skating rink, is back at CityScape Phoenix this holiday season. Presented by the Arizona Lottery at CityScape, located at Patriot's Park at CityScape, 11 W. Washington St., CitySkate runs through Jan. 1.

Skaters can enjoy 90-minute sessions from 4–5:30 p.m., 6–7:30 p.m., 8–9:30 p.m. and 10–11:30 p.m. Dates and times are subject to change due to weather conditions. Check the website for updates.

Pricing includes skate rental and is \$20 for general admission; \$15 with a student discount (with ID) on Sunday Funday; \$13 for military, seniors and children 8 years old and under; free for children 3 years old and under. Tickets are \$5 off if you bring your own skates.

Visit <http://cityskatephx.com> for more information and for special events and promotions.

Theater company seeks Latine playwrights

Arizona Theatre Company announced that submissions for the 2023 National Latine Playwrights Award are open through Thursday, Dec. 15.

Established in 1995, the National Latine Playwrights Award is unique in both its longevity and prescience. Of the past 27 recipients, 25 have gone on to productions across the United States and around the world.

The winner of the National Latine Playwrights Award will receive \$2,500 and the option of a developmental workshop at Arizona Theatre Company. The selection process for the award includes a national panel.

Full-length and one-act plays, with a minimum of 50 pages, on any subject will be accepted. The winner will be notified by June 15, 2023. For more information about application requirements, visit www.atc.org and click on the "Programs" link.

Herberger issues call to artists

Arizona is best known for the Grand Canyon, and the Herberger Theater Center is currently looking for artistic interpretation of the majestic landmark for a new exhibit, "The Grand Canyon State."

Art submissions ranging from realism, impressionistic to abstract will be accepted electronically or postmarked by Dec. 15, 2022.

The exhibit will be on display at the

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



The Heard Museum's new multi-sensory journey features digital storytelling with historic works and contemporary art commissioned by leading Indigenous artists. (submitted photo).

Herberger Theater Center, located at 222 E. Monroe St. in Phoenix, Feb. 3–April 2, 2023. For additional information, call 602-252-8497 or visit www.herbergertheater.org.

New exhibit explores Indigenous identity

The Heard Museum opened a new multi-sensory experience, “Substance of Stars,” Nov. 6. The experience takes visitors on a storytelling journey with four distinct communities — the Haudenosaunee, Yup'ik, Diné and Akimel O'odham — as they share their unique perspectives, stories and experiences. The exhibition incorporates Indigenous languages, spiritual and foundational knowledge, and value systems that figure prominently in the identities of Indigenous peoples.

The exhibition features a multi-level excursion of historic and contemporary works centered around an impressive 360-degree theatrical experience titled the Sky-Dome. The Sky-Dome has edge-blend technology that offers dynamic changing landscapes by the four seasons on 20-foot-high walls. Simultaneously, the ceiling is a fiber optic map of the cosmos centered on the North Star that rotates four times to replicate the change of seasons as seen from the Arizona night sky.

“Substance of Stars” is a culmination of a three-year collaboration with advisors from four Indigenous Nations. New works by contemporary Indigenous artists have been commissioned for the exhibition and will be featured prominently alongside historic works and site-specific immersive media. These include works by Marie

Watt (Seneca), Peter Lind (Alutiiq), Steven Yazzie (Diné/Laguna Pueblo/Anglo) and Jacob Butler (Akimel O'odham) as well as a range of contemporary and cultural arts drawn from the Heard's permanent collection.

The Heard Museum is located at 2301 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. For additional information, call 602-252-8840 or visit www.heard.org.

On The Town

Celebrate the holiday season with live music and theater, art, holiday markets, family-friendly events and much more. See you on the town in December!

Las Noches de las Luminarias

Dec. 1–31
Desert Botanical Garden
www.dbg.org; 480-941-1225



'Black Nativity'

Dec. 2–18
Black Theatre Troupe at Helen K. Mason Performing Arts Center
www.blacktheatretroupe.org; 602-258-8128

'A Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Tail'

Dec. 2–23
Valley Youth Theatre
www.vyt.com; 602-253-8188



'Valensole Shed' by Matt Cohen

Exciting Travel Photography: featuring Matt Cohen

Dec. 2–Jan. 3
Herberger Theater Center Gallery
www.herbergertheater.org; 602-252-8497

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Dec. 3
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www.phoenix.gov/parks/elp

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ZONA Music Festival

Dec. 3-4
Margaret T. Hance Park
www.zonamusicfest.com



'To Kill a Mockingbird'

Dec. 6-11
ASU Gammage
www.asugammage.com; 480-965-3434

'The Wickhams: Christmas at Pemberley'

Dec. 8-23
Arizona Theatre Company
www.arizonatheatre.org; 602-256-6995

Erik, Sam & Ellis

Dec. 9
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

Rhythm & Blues Holiday Party

Dec. 9
The Rhythm Room
www.rhythmroom.com;
602-612-4981

House of Broadcasting Living Legends Holiday Concert

Dec. 9
Central United Methodist Church
www.houseofbroadcasting.com



Photo by Alexander Iziliaev

'The Nutcracker'

Dec. 9-24
Ballet Arizona
www.balletaz.org;
602-381-1096

Fred Boswell, Jr.

Dec. 10
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

45th Annual Indian Market

Dec. 10-11
Pueblo Grande Museum
www.pueblogrande.com



Adam Sandler

Dec. 11
Footprint Center
www.livenation.com

Red Rocks Music Festival

Presenting violinist Shlomo Mintz
Dec. 11
Madison Center for the Arts
www.themadison.org; 602-664-7777



An Evening with Dr. Jane Goodall

Dec. 12
Arizona Financial Theatre
www.livenation.com

Nash Education Programs Winter Concert

Dec. 14
The Nash
www.thenash.org;
602-795-0464

'Taming of the Shrew'

Dec. 14-18
Ronin Theatre Co.
at Irish Cultural Center
www.azirish.org/performances
info@azirish.org

Rockabilly Christmas Extravaganza

Dec. 15
The Rhythm Room
www.rhythmroom.com;
602-612-4981

'A Chorale Christmas: Navidad'

Dec. 15-19
Phoenix Chorale
www.phoenixchorale.org



Gladys Knight

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Celebrity Theatre
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The Dolly Disco

Dec. 16
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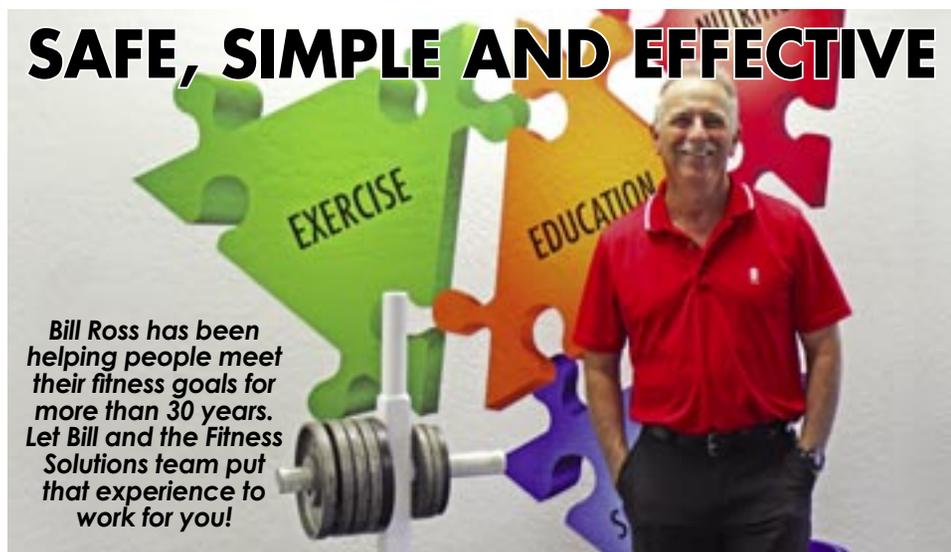
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Cirque Du Soleil: 'Twas the Night Before'

Dec. 16–24
 Arizona Financial Theatre
 www.livenation.com



'Twas the Night Before Christmas'

Dec. 17–18
 Phoenix Gay Men's Chorus
 Galvin Playhouse
 www.phxgmc.org

Cold Shott and the Hurricane Horns

Dec. 31
 The Rhythm Room
 www.rhythmroom.com; 602-612-498



Alton Brown: Beyond the Eats

Dec. 18
 ASU Gammage
 www.asugammage.com; 480-965-3434



New Year's Eve Concert

Dec. 31
 The Phoenix Symphony
 www.phoenixsymphony.org;
 602-495-1999

'Home for the Holidays'

Dec. 18
 Phoenix Boys Choir at Brophy Chapel
 www.boyschoir.org

3rd Annual New Year's Eve Labyrinth Masquerade Ball

Dec. 31
 Thunderbird Lounge
 www.thunderbirdloungephx.com

Melrose Vintage Market

Dec. 18
 Phoenix Melrose District
 www.melrosevintagemarket.com

'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer'

Thru Dec. 24
 Childsplay at Herberger Theater Center
 www.childsplayaz.org; 480-921-5700



María Amorocho as the Fairy Godmother



Roger Clyne & The Peacemakers

Dec. 30–31
 Crescent Ballroom
 www.crescentphx.com; 602-716-2222

'Cinderella'

Thru Jan. 1
 The Phoenix Theatre Company
 www.phoenixtheatre.com;
 602-254-2151

All event dates are current at time of publication. Check with individual venues for the most up-to-date show information. For news about other upcoming events as they are announced, visit www.northcentralnews.net.

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We3 and Sheila Early

Dec. 31
 The Nash
 www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Café Chat

It's tamale time at Sylvia's La Canasta

By Marjorie Rice

Sylvia Menchaca is making tamales with her son, Mateo Menchaca, sharing tips and techniques she acquired over decades working in her family's restaurants and then at her own, Sylvia's La Canasta.

Dried corn husks are soaking on the spacious kitchen island in her century-old North Central home, next to a big bowl of beef in red chile sauce, another bowl filled with masa, and squares of parchment for wrapping the filled and folded tamales — an assembly line that helps her make quick work of the preparation.

"Corn husks have a rough side and a smooth side," she tells Mateo, running a fingernail over the husk to test. "You want to put the masa on the smooth side, otherwise it will stick to the husk when you try to unwrap it."

The soaked husks look like a fan, and Sylvia holds one in her cupped hand, smooth side up, with the long edge facing away from her. With a few deft strokes she spreads a heaping spoonful of masa over the top half of the husk. That's followed by a spoonful of beef and red chile sauce (chilled so it's thick). She wraps the husk over the fillings, folding in one side, then the other, like folding a letter. The bottom husk is folded up to form a neat package, and the finished tamale is wrapped in a square of parchment paper, ready for steaming.

Sylvia says with prepared ingredients, making tamales is easy.

"You can buy everything from us, including the prepared masa, to make your own tamales," she said. She makes it look easy, but for most folks, ready-made tamales are their choice for holiday meals, and that means busy weeks for the Sylvia's team.

That also used to mean lines of customers out the door of her venerable restaurant, Sylvia's La Canasta at 7th Avenue and Missouri. It closed in 2018, after 30 years, and recently Sylvia closed its final location, in Deer Valley.

While their brick-and-mortar restaurants are gone — they're looking for a new location — Sylvia's La



Sylvia Menchaca, left, Mateo Menchaca and Mercedes Martinez currently operate Sylvia's La Canasta from their ghost kitchen location (photo by Marjorie Rice).

Canasta carries on, with a "ghost" operation for online delivery and pick-up orders at the Highland Food Hub at Highland and 7th avenues.

They're gearing up for the holiday

crush while planning big changes for the family business. Once they find a location and get it up and running, Sylvia will be stepping away from actively running that business so she

can focus on a new venture, consulting for restaurateurs and writing a blog, Sonoran Restaurant Consulting.

She'll be working with would-be restaurateurs, as well as established company owners, sharing knowledge she acquired over decades in the business. Her first blog article is titled, "So You Want to Open a Restaurant," focusing on basics for new restaurateurs.

"Number one is finances," she writes. "Consider the amount of money you have to do this ... Can you sell your vision to a loan officer or lender?"

Other topics include selling and marketing, the importance of ingenuity and flexibility to adapt to change, and organization skills.

While the blog and consulting will take most of her time going forward, "I'll still do some cooking, but not day-to-day," Sylvia said. "I'll be helping out, guiding Mateo."

And she'll still come in to help make tamales. At the holidays, that's an

please see TAMALE TIME on page 48

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

TAMALE TIME *continued from page 47*

all-hands-on-deck endeavor.

Meanwhile, Mateo is working his way toward completely running the new restaurant, building on all he's learned while growing up in the family business. In a sense, he's Sylvia's first consulting client, coaching her son on the ins and outs of running the business.

"I'm also going to write a book, either a family story or a cookbook," she said.

When the new restaurant opens, they'll decide on the future of their ghost operation, Sylvia said.

"We may keep that open, but only because of the on-line aspect – people are used to that now."

They also will continue their catering service.

"We hope to get some of my crew back from Sylvia's La Canasta," Sylvia said, "but what I've learned at the ghost kitchen is we don't need as many people as we used to have."

"I think we're going to try to stay small and efficient. That's the key."

The new place will have old favorites on the menu, but Mateo plans

some additions.

"I want to be open to new things, adding things like wraps, salads and soups."

One thing customers can count on – there always will be tamales at Sylvia's.

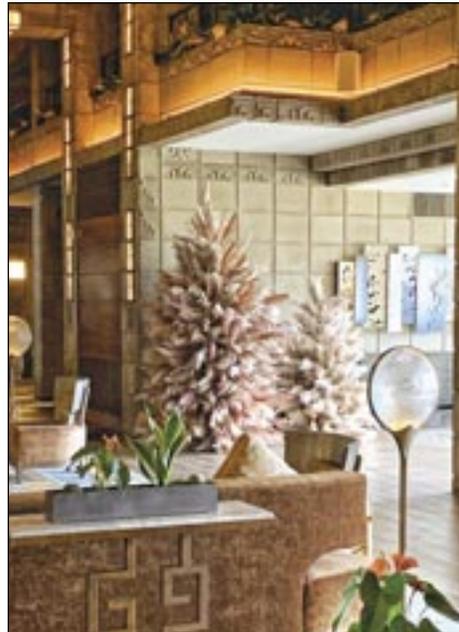
Sylvia's La Canasta Central Phoenix Cloud Kitchen is open for orders from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 5–9 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. For information, call 602-740-8871 or visit www.sylviasfiesta.com.

Dining Briefs

Biltmore brings the holiday spirit

Holidays at the Arizona Biltmore will be a sight to see as the grand lobby will transform into an artisanal desert winter wonderland with over a dozen unique trees and sparkling holiday décor, inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's ethos of nature in motion.

A reimagined 1930s living room, complete with vintage decorations and furniture, will be nestled by the History Hallway to further highlight the resort's iconic background. Families and friends also are invited to enjoy a collection of



The Biltmore will bring the holiday spirit with sparkling holiday décor and bespoke classes (photo courtesy of Arizona Biltmore, A Waldorf Astoria Resort).

bespoke classes, from wreath making, holiday house building and cookie decorating to a speakeasy cocktail class.

The resort will provide house-made pre-baked cookies alongside frosting, candy and delectable toppings for every skill level of cookie decorator Saturday, Dec. 10, 1–2 p.m. in the Paradise

Garden, at its cookie decorating class. Whether it be a classic design or intricate patterns, the Biltmore welcomes guests to express their inner artist before savoring every delicious last bite. For those who enjoy the art of mixology, speakeasy cocktail classes will be held Saturdays, Dec. 3, and Dec. 17, 6–7:30 p.m. in the Mystery Room.

Arizona Biltmore is located at 2400 E. Missouri Ave. For additional information on classes or other holiday offerings, visit www.arizonabiltmore.com.

Make the holidays merry and flight

U.S. Egg breakfast and lunch restaurant wants to make the holidays merrier with the return of its Christmas Mimosa Flight, available beginning Dec. 1.

For \$21, guests at can enjoy the annual mimosa trio featuring the Apple Cinnamon mimosa with apple juice, champagne and cinnamon garnish, the Peppermint Can-mosa with cranberry juice, champagne and mini candy cane garnish as well as the Peppermint Bark Champagne featuring a chocolate syrup and crushed peppermint rim.

The restaurant offers both vegan



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

and gluten-free menus, in addition to its extensive full menu, which includes traditional breakfast items, omelettes, pancakes, waffles and Idaho hot skilletts and more than a dozen specialty dishes. For lunch, grab an angus burger, all American sandwich or a variety of gourmet salads.

Open seven days a week from 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., in Phoenix, visit U.S. Egg at 402 E. Greenway Parkway. For additional information, call 602-993-2122 or visit www.useggrestaurant.com.

Satisfy cookie cravings late-night, via delivery

Insomnia Cookies, known for serving warm cookies all day and late into the night, opened its first store in Phoenix Nov. 19. The new location, situated in CityScape and within walking distance of Arizona State University's Downtown Phoenix campus and Chase Field, marks the brand's third location in Arizona and 229th location nationwide.

The company offers in-store, pick-up and delivery options for customers



Insomnia's Moon Cookie Cake (pictured lower left) is a crescent-shaped cake with two Classic cookie flavors, your choice of decorative icing, and an optional message applied with buttercream icing and toppings (submitted photo).

to experience its signature warm cookies. From the classic Chocolate Chunk cookie to favorites like Snickerdoodle and Confetti Deluxe, a full slate of vegan options, frequently-rotating limited-edition menu, and ice cream to top them off, the brand's offerings satisfy every sweet tooth – warm or cold.

The new store, located at 1 E. Washington St., Suite 180, will deliver throughout surrounding neighborhoods including to Arizona State University's Downtown Phoenix campus, Midtown, Uptown and South Mountain Village. For more, visit www.insomniacookies.com.

Huss introduces new milk stout

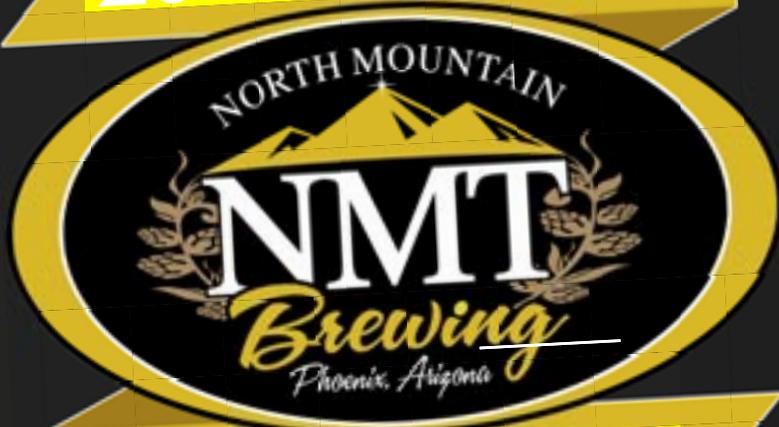
Just in time for the holidays, Huss Brewing Co. introduced its newest brew, the Brown Cow Imperial Chocolate Milk Stout. This seasonal addition to the Huss family is described as a "big, bold American style Imperial Chocolate Milk Stout brewed with over 40 pounds of cacao beans, making it the perfect beer for chilly Arizona months."

"We love to get creative in the brewery, and we knew there was a need for a flavorful stout in the Arizona market," said Leah Huss, who owns Huss Brewing Co. with her husband Jeff. "We put our heads together to come up with the perfect recipe to bring this seasonal beer to life just in time for the winter months in Arizona."

The new 8.0% ABV brew is now available statewide at local Fry's Food Stores, Bashas' and Total Wine stores among many more as well as the Huss Taprooms in Tempe, Uptown Phoenix and Downtown Phoenix. For additional information, visit www.hussbrewing.com.

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For more information visit us at
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The VIG set to open in former Ladera space

First founded in 2006 with the opening of The VIG Arcadia, The VIG North Central is the fifth location for the community-driven tavern brand and it is set to open Monday, Dec. 5, inside a remodeled space that was formerly home to Ladera Taverna Y Cocina.

Located on Central Avenue just south of Dunlap, The VIG North Central will greet the neighborhood with the brand's signature mix of warm and welcoming wood-lined interiors and expansive, tree-lined outdoor dining and drinking patios. This all-new VIG delivers on the promise owners Genuine Concepts made to continue to serve this neighborhood after The VIG Uptown closed earlier this year to make for The Genuine restaurant.

Open for dinner daily, plus weekend brunch, the restaurant will also be the neighborhood's first chance to savor chef Jeremy Pacheco's revamped menu of upscale tavern fare. Highlights include starters such as salt seared tuna, spicy fried cauliflower, shrimp and crab ceviche and crisp red onion rings per-



When The VIG North Central opens in December, one of the menu highlights will be the Salt Seared Tuna (photo courtesy of Genuine Concepts).

fect for dunking in white BBQ sauce. Other crave-worthy dishes include new salads such as blackened tuna, sandwiches such as hot honey chicken and braised beef dip, and entrées such as housemade rigatoni and grilled mahi mahi sandwich.

The restaurant also tempts with an expansive selection of Vignature cocktails, craft beer and wine, and features weekday happy hour from 3-6 p.m.

The VIG North Central is located

at 8727 N. Central Ave. For additional information, visit www.thevig.us.

Green Woodpecker coming to Midtown

The Green Woodpecker is set to open inside a spacious indoor-outdoor space in the heart of Midtown Phoenix this month.

Led by brothers Aaron and Jared Pool of Gadzooks Enchiladas & Soup, this twist on the traditional beer hall is

highlighted by an ever-changing lineup of 15 craft beers on tap, all handpicked by their third brother, Drew Pool of Wren House Brewing. The Green Woodpecker is part of the recently-established Poolhouse Group, which also includes Mama Linda's Bakeshop, led by the Pools' mother.

"Growing up in Phoenix and living and working in Midtown for more than a decade, I know how important Park Central is to this neighborhood," said Aaron Pool. "We're honored to be able to help revitalize this important historic property, the first-ever shopping center built outside of downtown Phoenix, and wanted to create something that caters to today's diners and drinkers, while also recognizing Park Central's amazing history."

Scheduled to open in December inside the central courtyard of this newly revitalized open-air center, The Green Woodpecker will serve up a compact menu of house-made tortilla chips with fresh salsas, plus al pastor tacos carved-to-order right off the rotating trompo grill. And as a nod to the longtime former gift and flower shop at Park Central that inspired the name, The Green Woodpecker also will sell fresh floral arrangements alongside premium canned beers, wines and other to-go items.

The plan is to open nightly at 5 p.m., offering a limited food menu that will be available from open till the tacos sell out. In addition, weekday happy hour, 5-7 p.m., will include discounted craft beer drafts and more. Another project coming soon to Park Central, Poolboy Taco, scheduled to open in January.

Learn more at www.thegreenwoodpecker.com.

Postino rings in the New Year

For one night only, guests can get festive and dress to the nines to ring in the New Year at Postino.

This New Year's Eve, Postino is rolling out its Boujee Board & Bottle — an upgraded Board & Bottle deal featuring a board of bruschetta and bottle of premium bubbles for \$75 from 5 p.m. to midnight. Guests can secure a reservation for up to 15 people to take advantage of the limited time offer.

In Phoenix, visit Postino in Arcadia (3939 E. Campbell Ave.) or Central Phoenix (5144 N. Central Ave.) Learn more at www.postinowinecafe.com.

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Get festive on Floor 13

Miracle holiday pop-up bar will return to Arizona for the third year at Hilton Garden Inn's Floor 13 Rooftop Bar in Phoenix.

The festivities at the Hilton kicked off Nov. 21 and will run through Dec. 31. Miracle on Floor 13 Rooftop Bar will feature a holiday oasis with over the top kitschy, festive décor and a themed cocktail menu with fan favorites such as Christmapolitan, Christmas Carol Barrel, Snowball Old-Fashioned, Jingle Balls Nog, Nice Shot, and Naughty Shot. New this year is the Santa Little Helper, Christmas Cricket, Holiday Spiked Chai, and Grandma Got Run Over by A T-Rex cocktails.

The venue also is activating a Miracle Suite on property at the Hilton Garden Inn. The suite will feature one room fully Christmas decorated that has its own patio with a private entrance to Miracle on Floor 13 Rooftop Bar. Miracle Suite guests will not need reservations for Miracle on Floor 13, they can simply enjoy Christmas cocktails on their patio all evening. The suite can accommodate three guests max and reservations can be made at 602-343-0008.

At the end of this year's season, Miracle will donate 10 percent of all proceeds from the sale of Santa Pants, Christmas Carol Barrel and Santa Heads signature glassware to the Seva Foundation, a global nonprofit eye care organization that works with local communities around the world.

Hilton Garden Inn is located at 15 E. Monroe St. in Phoenix. Miracle holiday pop-up bar will be open Sunday through Thursday, 5–10 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 5 p.m. to midnight. Guests can follow Floor 13 on Instagram, @Floor13RooftopBar, or visit www.floor13rooftopbar.com.

Barro's Pizza to host food bank fundraiser

Barro's Pizza will host the 11th annual Doran Barro Holiday Hunger Fight benefiting St. Mary's Food Bank Tuesday, Dec. 6. From open to close at 46 locations across the Valley, the Barro family will donate 100 percent of the proceeds from all sales to help those in Arizona facing hard times during the holidays.

"This annual fundraiser, to help the hungry in our community, means so



Enjoy a Chirstmapolitan or a bevy of other specialty cocktails at this year's Miracle on Floor 13 Rooftop Bar pop-up event (photo by Melissa Hom).

much to our family," said Bruce Barro, co-owner of Barro's Pizza. "This time of year, it's especially important to think about those that may be struggling so we encourage the whole community to come out and give back on this day by visiting any Barro's Pizza location throughout the Valley and Tucson.

Last year, the company raised more than \$330,000 for St. Mary's Food Bank and the Barro's is hoping to set a record, this year. Every dollar donated equates to seven meals, so last year's donation provided 2,310,000 meals to Arizona's hungry during the holiday season. Over the last 10 years, Barro's has raised over \$2.1 million, which equals more than 14.7 million meals.

For more information, visit www.barrospizza.com.

Sheraton announces culinary staff

Sheraton Phoenix Downtown welcomed two new culinary team members to its roster of gastronomy talent. John De Souza will serve as executive chef and Ryan Lamkin as director of food and beverage. With a food and beverage program that draws inspiration from the local landscape, heritage and history of Arizona, the company says that these newly appointed team members will continue to elevate the property's epicurean offerings.

De Souza will manage all food-related functions for the hotel including daily kitchen operations, menu development, and ensuring the production of high quality fare across the property's culinary offerings. Lamkin will oversee the culinary department as a strategic leader, managing all operations includ-

ing restaurants and catering.

Sheraton Phoenix Downtown offers an array of dining options, including & More by Sheraton (an all day and night concept); rooftop Breeze Bar located next to the pool boasting views of downtown Phoenix and beyond; curated catering offerings set amongst a backdrop of the newly renovated meetings and event spaces; and signature restaurant Carcara.

Since opening in March 2022, Carcara has established itself in downtown Phoenix's bustling restaurant scene, welcoming guests with a Sonoran-inspired menu using locally sourced ingredients to commemorate the heritage and history of the local community. Carcara's menu is influenced by the rich traditions of the Southwest and the five C's of Arizona (copper, cattle, cotton, citrus, and climate), which are celebrated in the dishes, handcrafted cocktails, and spirits.

For more information, visit www.sheratonphoenixdowntown.com or call 602-262-250.

Blue Hound celebrates the holidays

Kimpton Hotel Palomar Phoenix and Blue Hound Kitchen & Cocktails are bringing back its Blue Blitzen Holiday Cocktail Pop-up Bar for the fifth year.

To ring in the season, Blue Blitzen is serving up festive cocktails, over-the-top decor and holiday-inspired bites through Monday, Dec. 26. For a more intimate experience, Snow-Globe Winter Igloos will also be available to rent that include cozy seating for up to six guests, vinyl records, games and

blankets starting at \$50/igloo.

Menu highlights include Cousin Eddie's White Loafers, a playful cocktail featuring homemade eggnog, Bourbon, Cognac + Rum; A trendy Orange Pomegranate Butter Board served with Arizona citrus whipped butter, pickled pomegranates, thyme, mandarins and toasted bread; Christmas in Killarney, a cozy cocktail made with Irish Whiskey and Spiced Pear liqueur; and Festively-themed Chimney Potatoes, a.k.a. crispy, smoked potato croquettes topped with goat and manchego cheeses and cured tomato aioli.

Blue Hound Kitchen & Cocktails is located adjacent to Kimpton Hotel Palomar Phoenix, located at 2 E. Jefferson St. For reservations and additional information, call 602-258-0231 or visit www.bluehoundkitchen.com.

Miracle Mile offers Hanukkah specials

Miracle Mile, a New York style delicatessen in Phoenix, will offer Valley families a holiday feast this Hanukkah.

Diners can choose between two complete family meals. The Hanukkah Dinner Delight serves six people (\$225) and includes 3 lbs. of signature brisket of beef, 6 potato latkes, 1 pint of applesauce, 1/2 pint of sour cream, 2 quarts of homemade matzoh ball soup, 1 quart of baked macaroni and cheese, 1 quart of coleslaw, 6 fresh challah kaiser rolls and 1 whole pie of choice.

There also is an Oven Roasted Turkey Family Feast that serves six people (\$225) and includes 3 lbs. of oven roasted white meat turkey breast, 1 quart of turkey gravy, 6 potato latkes, 1 pint of applesauce, 1/2 pint of sour cream, 2 quarts of matzoh ball soup, 1 quart of baked macaroni & cheese, 1 quart of coleslaw, 6 challah kaiser rolls and 1 whole pie of choice

Individual entrees include the Hanukkah Special \$(19), which is a plate of brisket of beef, 1 potato latke, a cup of matzoh ball soup, Noble Rye Bread and butter; or the Oven Roasted Turkey Dinner (\$19), which includes white meat or dark meat served with homemade mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, cranberry sauce, Noble Rye Bread and butter.

Open for lunch and dinner, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Miracle Mile Deli is located at 4433 N. 16th St., Phoenix. For more information, call 602-776-0992 or visit www.miraclemiledeli.com.

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