



# north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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## Renovation in the works for North Mountain Park

By Kathryn M. Miller

While the City of Phoenix Parks & Recreation Department has been putting the finishing touches on its Dreamy Draw Park revitalization, with a projected opening of early September 2023, it has been busy at work on yet another plan: the redevelopment of North Mountain Park.

“We have a little over 4,000 hikers a month who hike Trail 44,” said Jarod Rogers, the deputy director of the Natural Resources Division of the Parks and Recreation Department. He is responsible for the management, maintenance and operations of all of the mountain preserves, including North Mountain Park, which is located near 7th Street and Peoria Avenue.

Trail 44 is a 1.6-mile trail that travels through the heart of North Mountain, and a good indicator of park usage. And some of the outdated amenities are an indicator that it is due for some revitalization.

Rogers says that the department is systematically going through the city’s older preserve parks and bringing them up to modern standards.

“We are reusing, where we can, historic old ramadas, but then incorporating new ramadas and new features that are more in line with how people use our preserves today, which is a little bit different than how they were used back in the 60s when North Mountain was developed,” he explained.

*please see PARK on page 8*



Teddy, one of more than 100 individuals experiencing homelessness who visit each day, takes respite at Sunnyslope’s St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room (photo courtesy St. Vincent de Paul).

## ‘We can’t be OK with it ... we can do better’

By Kathryn M. Miller

How do you measure the greatness of a city? Some would say that the vibrancy of its downtown area is a good gauge, others might point to growth as a key indicator, and still others would look at sustainable design, which might include things such as walkability, mass transit systems, mixed land use and a diversity of architecture serving a variety of economic levels.

There also is an argument that great cities can be judged by how well they care for the most vulnerable of their residents, and whether there is equity — in income, housing, education and access to services. If you go downtown to 12th Avenue and Madison and witness the area surrounding the Human Services Campus (HSC), it is clear that Phoenix still has some work to do.

There are some 900 people within the campus itself, receiving shelter and services to help them heal and get out of homelessness. The sea of tents and desperate humanity outside the campus stretches for blocks and houses another 900 or more individuals.

While the reasons that people experi-

ence homelessness, whether sheltered or unsheltered, are many and varied — lack of affordable housing, the fentanyl epidemic, rising costs of living, and mental health issues, among others — it is clear that something has to change.

### **The numbers are staggering**

In January 2022, the Point-in-Time count identified 9,026 people experiencing homelessness in Maricopa County, 56 percent of which were unsheltered. The 2023 number is expected to be higher.

“It’s definitely a crisis that we’re experiencing,” said Richard Crews, the program manager at HSC. Crews also serves as the co-chair of the Maricopa

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COMMUNITY

## From the Editor

Hello, North Central Neighbors! For this month's cover stories, I spoke with our Parks Department about the renovations that are in the works for North Mountain Park. They are closing in on the final master plan design, which they will present to residents in June. I also spoke with North Central neighbors, businesses and community service organizations about the homelessness crisis. It is an uncomfortable subject and situation that is going to take a multi-faceted, collaborative effort that everyone will have to engage in if we are going to find solutions.



In Community, we take a look at two community murals that are bringing beauty to the neighborhood and

remind you to be safe when hiking trails this summer. In Business, we share an update on the Metrocenter Mall redevelopment and details on a special farewell event, feature two businesses celebrating anniversaries and more.

For this month's Café Chat, Marjorie Rice sat down with Amy Vasquez, who sums up her family's half-century of growth and success serving customers at their Poncho's and Someburros restaurants, with the Three Cs: Cuisine, Culture and Community.

As always, you can read about the great things happening in our North Central schools, catch up on other community news and explore our round-up of things to do in the Valley.

We wish all the moms out there a very Happy Mother's Day, and hope that you enjoy our May issue!

Kathryn M. Miller  
Editor, North Central News  
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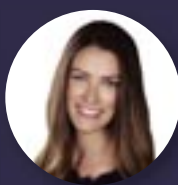
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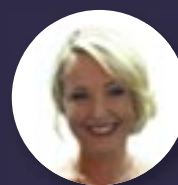
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COMMUNITY

## Murals bloom in North Central

By Kathryn M. Miller

We've likely all heard the saying, "April showers bring May flowers," but in two North Central neighborhoods, the "flowers" bloomed early — in the form of two beautiful new murals.

At a bustling business complex on the northeast corner of 19th Avenue and Glendale, Carter Chase, a Brophy College Preparatory student and member of Boy Scout Troop 329, spent his time the last couple of months working to beautify the space. A beautiful mural, which he designed and then painted with the help of a few friends and Scouts, served as his Eagle Scout project.

"It's a visual thing that everyone in the community sees, and they are able to have a sense of emotion and connection to the community around them," the student said.

Local businesses such as Barry's Ace Hardware and Preach Building Supply, among others, donated supplies to the effort, and the community response has been positive.



Community members gathered to celebrate a new mural at 19th Avenue and Glendale on April 3, including (from left) proud parents Mark and Kristi Chase, neighborhood leaders Cindy Graber and Pam Fitzgerald, Sgt. Jonathan Scott, Eagle Scout/artist and project leader Carter Chase, property owner Larmon Haugen, Lt. Mark Schweikert and 19North Community Alliance's Shannon McBride (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

"It's awesome for those of us who live here and drive by," said Shannon McBride at an unveiling event April 3. McBride heads up the 19North

Community Alliance and helped put the wheels in motion on the project. "This was just such a scary spot, and now every time I drive by, I see people sitting

at the bus stop, beautifully safe. This is a testament to community collaboration."

Larmon Haugen, the owner of the building, agrees. His family has owned the property for the past 47 years and he also gladly supported the effort.

"We've seen a lot of changes there over the last, well, since the light rail came. I think it's changed a lot."

They had issues near the bus stop where the mural was painted, with trash and trespassing, but that has changed since the mural was completed, with neighbors, area businesses and those just passing through taking note of the beautification efforts.

"I think it just brings attention to the neighborhood and it's positive attention," Haugen added.

A few miles northeast, another community mural was celebrated at an April 7 event at the Sunnyslope Historical Society and Museum, near 7th Street and Hatcher Road. Created by artist Eli Faria, the mural that graces the walls of the building is bursting with colorful sunflowers and the iconic "S" mountain.

This is Faria's fourth mural in the area, and it was made possible through a \$5,000 grant funded through the Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department's Love Your Block grant program.

During the April presentation, Ray Yocopis, who oversees the program along with Ashley Henderson, said that the Love Your Block grant program is available to registered neighborhood groups, who can use up to \$5,000 to implement projects such as the Sunnyslope mural in their own community. To learn more, visit [www.phoenix.gov/nsd/loveyourblock](http://www.phoenix.gov/nsd/loveyourblock).

As to why beautification efforts such as murals are important to neighborhoods, Neighborhood Specialist Krista Roy, who serves the Sunnyslope area, introduced Jorge Velasquez, with the city's Graffiti Busters team.

"We really wanted Graffiti Busters to be a part of this mural unveiling," Roy told the audience. "We really want to try to tie in the fact that murals actually do reduce graffiti."

Faria added, "It's a blessing to be able to make artwork for the community. I see it as a resurgence of this space. I'm so happy that we have the energy and a community that is ready to put the energy into making the space better."

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## COMMUNITY

### HOMELESS continued from page 1

County Continuum of Care Committee, which works at a system-wide level across the county to end homelessness. “The rates of those experiencing homelessness are higher than they’ve been in anybody’s working memory.”

Even more dire, Crews notes, is the rise in deaths. In January 2023, 90 individuals died while experiencing homelessness. As of March 1, the number was 180. In 2020 and 2021, there were 557 and 551 individuals who died; that number nearly doubled in 2022.

“We are on pace to have another year with over 1,000 individuals dying while experiencing homelessness,” Crews added. “And that doesn’t include the spike that we’ll see when we get to the heat-related deaths in the summer.”

### The crisis is in our own backyard.

It is not just downtown Phoenix that is experiencing the impact of homelessness. At 10th Avenue and Hatcher Road in Sunnyslope, 100–200 individuals will gather for meals twice a day at the St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room (SVdP), which opened in 1996.

Some stay and utilize services such as showers and a clothing closet, or talk to staff about connecting to resources such as housing, jobs, identification, health care and more. Some take respite during the day at the dining room, but often spill out onto the surrounding streets. As more services move into the area, residents and businesses are concerned that their neighborhood is turning into another downtown.

Businesses are faced with frequent clean-ups — everything from garbage and discarded belongings to human waste — and residents are faced with campsites that pop up along sidewalks and an eroding sense of safety.

“It is something that affects our businesses and employees every day,” said Nadine Alauria of 3A Automotive & Diesel, a family business that has been on Hatcher Road since 1989. “I feel SVdP has completely outgrown their location and is not a good neighbor with their current model. She added, “It is a disservice to the single women and single mothers who cannot even safely walk down 10th Avenue to the dining hall. Those are the people who are looking for help and willing to accept it.”

Caroline Lobo has lived in the area for over 20 years and co-chairs the HUB (Hatcher Urban Businesses) along with Alauria. She agrees that the

current SVdP model needs an overhaul.

“I appreciate what these guys are doing,” she said. “But at the same time, I think they have to be cognizant... when the numbers rise, you have to be cognizant that you’re affecting the fabric of your communities.”

She also wants residents to look at the bigger picture and work on revitalizing the Hatcher corridor as a whole. Walking down Hatcher Road, she points to areas that would benefit from a treescape or a community mural, and businesses that are in need of a facelift.

“You have to pay attention to your streets,” Lobo said. “You have to pay attention to your neighborhoods, your community. Because the bottom line is, you become what you see.”

Through the Hatcher Road Safety Plan, she said that funding provides weekly street clean-up by the City of Phoenix, which takes some of the burden off of businesses, but, “We need our business owners also to say, ‘OK, let’s jump in,’ and there are quite a few that have jumped in, but we need many more to join hands with us to make these changes,” Lobo said.

In the meantime, dining room supervisor Melinda Anderson hears and understands the concerns of neighbors. “We’re working on it. We’re working on ‘don’t have all your stuff piled up.’ But if [residents] can just be more understanding... Families don’t want to leave Sunnyslope. If this place was to just close down, I can see a lot of bad happening around here. People won’t have a place to go eat, to hang out, but they’re going to still be there.”

And they will have lost that entryway to housing and other services that the dining room provides.

Whether the community can find a way to coexist in a way that is beneficial for all remains to be seen, but Lobo is hopeful, “This used to be a vibrant, thriving community and it has all the bones and the potential to get it there back again,” she added.

### There is hope to be found.

Ariel White never imagined that she would end up homeless. Her life took a dark turn in 2002, when, after losing her husband to brain cancer, she also lost the business they had built together.

“Three weeks after he passed, the Rodeo-Chediski Fire hit,” White recalled. “I had buyers for the business and, of course, with the economy devastated, they backed out. So, I had to

*please see HOMELESS on page 8*

# LAUNCH POWERED BY COMPASS

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## Big city with a small-town feel

When my brother Michael and I first came to visit my dad, Herb in Phoenix in 1965, there were few restaurants, as Phoenix was still quite young. We knew this because Dad was single, didn't cook and lived in Executive Towers at 207 West Clarendon Ave., just a few blocks away from Park Central Mall. The mall was the first major retail shopping center established in the state of Arizona. Sidenote - my brother Michael is currently involved as an investor in the revitalization of Park Central Mall.

We spent a great deal of time in and around the area and one of our favorite places to eat was Miracle Mile Deli, which was located at the south end of the shopping center. True story: Our father would park his car in front of Miracle Mile, he may have called in his order and they would have it ready for him. Other times, we would sit on the delightful patio, with the koi fish pond, and enjoy a hot pastrami sandwich.

Phoenix is frequently referred to as a "Big City with Small-Town Feel." Our city will continue to grow; however, there are still legendary generational connections and relationships with people, families and businesses that keep our small-town feeling. Our family has been fortunate to still maintain these familiarities. Miracle Mile Deli and the Grodzinsky/Garcia family are one of those relations we have had for over five decades. Herb, my father, and Miracle Mile Deli founder Jack Grodzinsky knew each other very well. I was lucky enough to be a part of a few conversations between these two Phoenix legends. I learned a few things about business ethics and running a local establishment during those long lunches.

Recently, I had the opportunity to re-establish my connection with the Miracle Mile family as I was chosen to represent Desi and Josh Garcia (third-generation Miracle Mile operator) and their family in the sale of their home in North Central. Josh is the grandson of Jack Grodzinsky. Let me go back - yes, we have eaten at Miracle Mile and yes, Josh has catered

more than a few events for us. This was my opportunity to "cater" to them. I was honored to present them with a contract for the Garcia home within 60 days and we found them a new home within 10 days after an accepted offer for their current home. During our reconnect, Josh and I discovered that we have much in common as we are both from families who were pioneer entrepreneurs in the Valley and both worked for our family's business. He is still representing Miracle Mile Deli on 16th Street, a little south of Campbell, where I can still get a hot pastrami sandwich. The restaurant still maintains its family friendly atmosphere and delicious food.

This incredible community has allowed me to connect and reconnect with great families who put their trust in me. I truly cherish every opportunity to work with clients, both old and new, and thank you all for allowing me to share in your real estate journey.

As most of you know, my journey has taken me to another brokerage, Launch Powered By Compass. And I am thrilled and honored to say that we have an expanding network of a prestigious group of real estate agents who have chosen to make the move as well. We are scheduled to open an office in Central Phoenix in June. Check out our full-page ad in this issue to learn more about Launch's move to our Central Phoenix neighborhood.

Happy Mother's Day!

*Bobby Lieb*

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## How to manage cash vs. borrowing when interest rates rise

We all use credit in our daily lives, whether it's to help optimize cash flow, create tax efficiencies, or make purchases. A rising-interest-rate environment could be a good time to take a closer look at liquidity strategies and other forms of borrowing.

### Using cash versus borrowing

It could make sense to pay cash instead of borrowing in some instances. Let's say you have a fair amount of cash and are not planning to invest it in the market. That could be a good solution for buying a car or a house, paying for a child's education, or expanding a business.

Amid higher interest rates, paying cash could be a better option than securing a long-term loan to buy a costly item.

"Increased rates may also impact purchasing power for bigger-ticket items (such as homes, boats, and airplanes) traditionally financed over longer periods," says Brian Singsank, senior lead wealth custom lending specialist, Wells Fargo Wealth & Investment Management. "It's important to evaluate your balance sheet and wealth plan to make sure they are aligned to help meet upcoming liquidity needs."

Also, if you have an existing variable-rate loan, such as an adjustable-rate mortgage or line of credit, that rate could go up, resulting in higher interest costs.

"If it's still a long-term funding need, when interest rates are rising could be the time to evaluate," Singsank says.

Whatever you decide, timing can be critical. Your investment planners can help you decide on what is best for your current situation.

### Discuss credit and liquidity needs with your advisors

"Be proactive when interest rates change," says Singsank. "Consider reviewing your wealth plan and related credit and liquidity needs with your banker, advisor, your CPA, and even an estate-planning specialist."

Singsank recommends starting those conversations by sharing your answers to these basic questions:

1. How much in assets would you be willing to liquidate and why?
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4. Based on your balance-sheet leverage, what is your exposure to rising interest rates?
5. Are you comfortable with the amount you're paying or may have to pay to service your variable interest payments in a rising-rate environment?
6. As part of working toward your financial goals, do you anticipate upcoming borrowing or liquidity needs?

"Once you've answered these questions," says Singsank, "you should better understand whether you need to make changes to your wealth plan, including liquidity and other borrowing strategies, to help meet your financial goals."

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## COMMUNITY

### PARK continued from page 1

The funding for the project comes from the Phoenix Parks and Preserve Initiative — a percent sales tax that funds park development or renovation projects.

"Forty percent of the funds collected for that are devoted to preserve acquisition and then renovation and remodeling," Rogers elaborated. "We spent several years fixing up South Mountain Park, we're right in the middle of finishing up Dreamy Draw Park, which is another area within Phoenix Mountains Preserve. Prior to that, we did a Piestewa Peak area renovation."

To create the redevelopment plan for North Mountain, an initial survey was open to the public Nov. 24, 2022, through Jan. 1 of this year to develop a master plan for potential future park amenities and improvements.

Two design concepts were created from the initial survey, Desert Terraces and Journey's End. The designs address a variety of aspects: from refurbishing existing ramadas and building new ones, to creating a "play node" for young visitors, habitat restoration, new trail signage, new restrooms and accessible features.

At an April 5 open house event at North Mountain Visitor Center, residents had the opportunity to review the designs, speak to staff and ask questions, and a survey was made available to the public, which closed April 21.

Parks will now take that additional feedback into review and prepare the final master plan, which will be presented at a second open house event in June of this year. The plan will then be presented to the Parks board for adoption. Taking into consideration the time from approval to design and construction, a ballpark estimate would put completion some time in summer or fall of 2025.

Rogers added that, for those 4,000 monthly hikers, the North Mountain Visitor Center, which is just north of the North Mountain Park renovation site, will stay open during renovations and Parks will provide access to the trails all around North Mountain Park.

"One thing I always like to tell people about this project in particular, is if you don't know what our renovations have been like recently, I would highly recommend that they go check out the Piestewa Peak renovations. I think most people will really be blown away."

Rogers shares the same enthusiasm for the North Mountain project.

"I'm excited about it and I hope that anybody who utilizes North Mountain Park right now will also be excited about what the future brings. It is really going to make North Mountain Park a jewel."

Learn more about Phoenix parks and trails at [www.phoenix.gov/parks](http://www.phoenix.gov/parks).

### HOMELESS continued from page 6

leave everything and come down here."

She put herself through college, earned a master's in accounting and found work with the state. Then, she started fainting and could no longer work.

"I had no income, student loan bills and health issues on top of that," she said.

She had an apartment for a while, then bounced around, staying with friends or church members. She even tried renting a room on Craigslist, which she described as a "total nightmare" that she was trying to get out of when misfortune struck again.

"I was two days from being out on the street, and I got a call that my son had committed suicide."

The next six months were spent grieving and again bouncing from couch to couch, and experiencing discrimination from those who knew nothing about her struggles.

"People perceive homeless people to have absolutely no value," she said, recalling that because of her medical condition, she couldn't drive and had to pull a cart to carry out daily tasks. "You are going to face those things if you don't have permanent residence."

"My faith kept me going. You've got to surround yourself with something positive and not let their opinions put you down. You can't fall into that, otherwise, you're not going to make it."

After 18 months of homelessness, she finally got the call changed everything. The Foundation for Senior Living (FSL) Acacia Heights residence at 7th Avenue and Pierson had an opening. The 78-unit low-income housing residence is dedicated to those 55 and older. It opened in 2021, and has given White and many others much more than just housing.

"Life. Hope. Purpose. I'm a person again," she said. "I have keys to my apartment. I have dignity. I'm a lot more than somebody without a home."

**please see HOMELESS on page 10**



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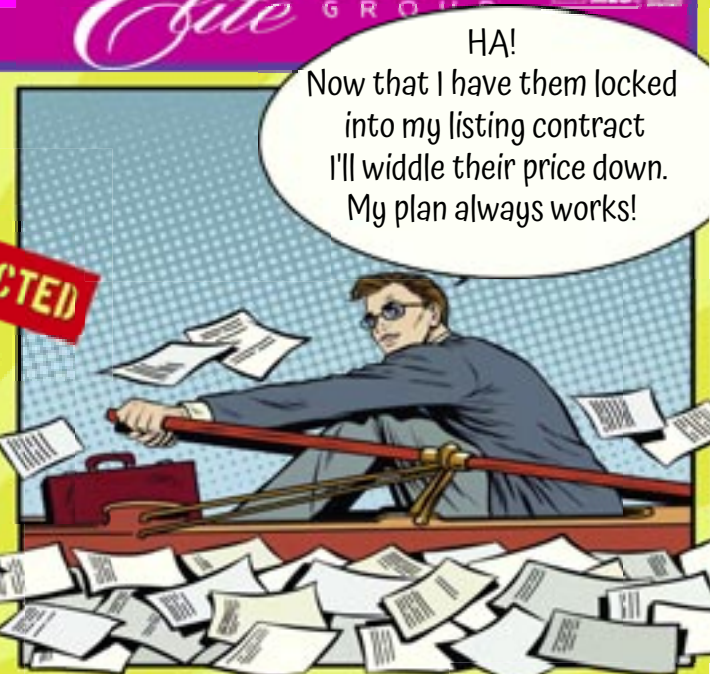
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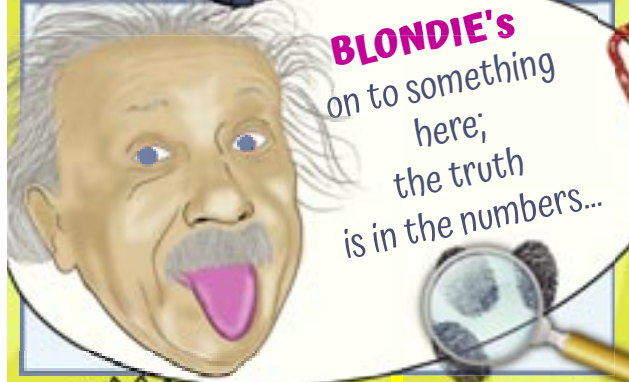
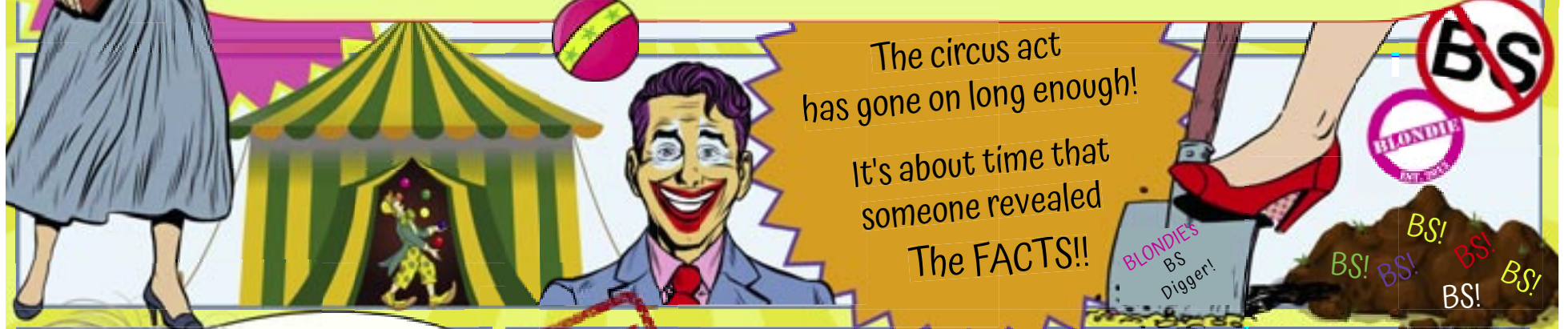
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## COMMUNITY

**HOMELESS** continued from page 8

### More affordable housing is coming.

Most organizations cite a lack of affordable housing as one key factor in the rising numbers of those experiencing homelessness.

Steve Capobres, vice president of Business Development for Catholic Charities and the executive director for Housing for Hope Inc. says that we are in new territory when it comes to the skyrocketing cost of housing.

"Working on this issue now for 30 years, I've never seen it rise to the level it's risen today. Usually, you see ebbs and flows in the market. But there hasn't been any slowdown yet of pricing, even with inflation."

Housing for Hope has two residences under construction in the North Central area, but building takes time and Capobres says that his organization can only win one Low Income Housing Tax credit, which helps fund projects, per year.

By August 2023, the first phase of Mesquite Terrace, near the northeast corner of 19th Avenue and Camelback Road, is anticipated to be completed. The second and third phases should come online by September and October this year, bringing a total of 297 one-, two- and three-bedroom affordable housing units to the area.

A short few miles away, ground has broken at Acacia Heights Phase II and III, which will provide another 134 units of family housing, and is expected to be completed in fall 2024 and fall 2025.

Affordable housing developments also face discrimination from neighborhoods, Capobres says. Everything is income-qualified and renters typically have to make between 30 to 60 percent of median income. But he is quick to point out that it is working families who live in their residences.

"These are good properties helping people that are working, who just need more affordable rent. A lot of folks live there for a long time. Over 85 percent of people that rent from us, after the first year, they stay there."

### We can do better.

Most organizations are saying that turning the tide of the homelessness crisis is going to take hard work, and it is going to take a collaborative effort.

Since her own experience with homelessness, White has become an advocate. "I've actually thought about going down and speaking to the City

Council," she said. "Regardless of what they think about the homeless people, it's our responsibility to help these people wherever they're at. There are other people like me who just have nowhere else to go. Give them a step up, put them in some kind of housing. But start looking at the whole picture."

Tami Bohannon, president and CEO of FSL, adds that the number of seniors that are falling into homelessness is alarming and on the rise. She, too, believes in collaboration.

"I am a big believer that to end homelessness, a community-wide coordinated approach to delivering services, housing and programs is needed," Bohannon said. Adding that educating the general public on the issue and breaking down the stigmas around homelessness is key.

"We all need to come together to discuss collaborative solutions, advocate for them and then get them implemented."

From a housing perspective, Capobres would like to see things change at the state level.

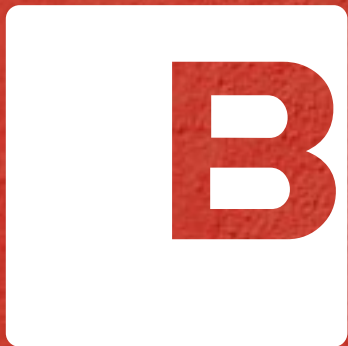
"I do think between a combination of increasing the Low Income Housing Tax credit program and increasing the amount of money the state has available to help supplement these credits, we could easily double or triple production with just the players we have currently."

In addition to looking at rent control, which is currently illegal in Arizona, Crews believes that we need more housing, better behavioral health services, and communities need to understand that this isn't going to be comfortable

"It's uncomfortable for us to see that level of human trauma," he said. "You're supposed to be able to work a full-time job and afford a place to live, and we're increasingly not in that space. It's not going to be comfortable, but neither is existing in homelessness."

"We talk about being the most prosperous nation in the world. But how can we be the most prosperous nation in the world when we've got folks living in tents in large numbers and we're just OK with that?" Crews asked. "We can't be OK with it. We can do better."

*Those who need help accessing food, housing, rental or utility assistance, and other resources can start at [www.211arizona.org](http://www.211arizona.org) (or dial 2-1-1), as can those who want to lend a hand by volunteering their time.*



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COMMUNITY

### Trails to close during high temps

With the arrival of the summer months, the city is reminding residents to be safe on Phoenix trails and be aware of seasonal closures.

On days when the National Weather Service issues an Excessive Heat Warning, Camelback Mountain's Echo and Cholla Trails and all trails associated with Piestewa Peak Trailhead in the Phoenix Mountains Preserve will close from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To accommodate hikers, extended summer hours are in effect annually from June through September at North Mountain Park and Piestewa Peak Trailhead in the Phoenix Mountains Preserve, and Pima Canyon Trailhead in South Mountain Park/Preserve. To provide an extra two hours of availability and promote hiking after 7 p.m., parking lot entrances are open until 9 p.m. at those locations. Year-round at those three trailheads, parking lots open at 5 a.m., and trails are open until 11 p.m. All other trails within the Phoenix parks system will remain open.



Gates will be closed at Piestewa Peak and other popular trails during extremely hot days this summer (photo courtesy of City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department).

In addition, for the safety of pets, dogs are prohibited on any City of Phoenix trail when the temperature is 100 degrees or warmer. The Arizona Humane Society advises that temperatures in the 90s are also unsafe for pets to be outdoors.

Learn more about Phoenix parks and trails at [www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails](http://www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails).

families across the Valley.

More than 420 people filled the ballroom at the JW Marriott Camelback Inn on March 11 to bid on paintings and sculptures, fine jewelry, high-end dining, rare wines, exclusive trips and a wine-pairing experience for 12 featuring the culinary talents of Chef Mark Tarbell.

Monies raised at the gala allow Hospice of the Valley to serve more families, both at its new Dementia Care and Education Campus and its in-home Supportive Care for Dementia program that provides education and resources at no charge.

Founded in 1977, Hospice of the Valley is the leading provider of hospice care in Arizona and offers a full spectrum of services for those with chronic illnesses, including all stages of dementia. Last year, the agency cared for 23,000 patients and their families and provided \$12 million in charity care — serving everyone in need, regardless of insurance or financial status.

Learn more at [www.dementiacampus.org](http://www.dementiacampus.org).

### Hospice of the Valley raises record amount

The generosity of the community was on display at Hospice of the Valley's (HOV) annual art auction: aaha! art. food. wine. The nonprofit raised a record \$650,000 to support innovative dementia care programs for

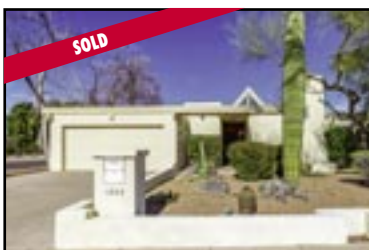
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COMMUNITY



To better reflect the connection to its ancestral communities, the Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park will now be known as the "S'edav Va'aki Museum (photo courtesy of City of Phoenix Park and Recreation).

**Name change  
for heritage site**

During a City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation board meeting held Thursday, March 23, the board voted to change the name of Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park to "S'edav Va'aki Museum" (suh-UH-dahf VAH-ah-kee). The board also approved the use of the marketing tagline, "Gateway to Phoenix Heritage."

"This is an important step for our city," said Kelly Dalton, chair of the Parks and Recreation board. "This new name reflects our commitment to honoring those who have shaped our culture and history."

The name S'edav Va'aki (Salt River Pima – Maricopa Indian Community spelling) or Central Vahki (English spelling) is an O'Odham name that reflects the connection the site has with the local O'Odham and Piipaash communities. S'edav Va'aki refers to the large platform mound (Va'aki) that is preserved at the site, and the central location of this ancestral village within the Salt River Valley and to the extensive canal system created by these exceptional engineers before Euro-Americans moved into the region.

"Words and titles matter. This name change will help to have a greater and more direct impact on how this significant ancestral site is interpreted," said Shane Anton, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community tribal historic preservation officer.

The previous name, Pueblo Grande, is defined in the Spanish language and denotes the site as a "pueblo," which is not how the O'Odham would describe their villages or habitation sites.

In fall 2023, the new S'edav Va'aki Museum will unveil its new logo during a "reopening" event. Learn more at [www.phoenix.gov/parks](http://www.phoenix.gov/parks).

**More than \$1 million  
in grants awarded**

The Board of Visitors (BOV) funded 26 grants totaling \$1,012,000 at its annual Grants Celebration event. The Phoenix-area nonprofit organizations that were selected support the BOV mission to serve the healthcare needs of women, children and the elderly.

"Our grant recipients improve the lives of the most vulnerable in our community," said Molly Bland, chairman of the Board of Visitors. "Our generous supporters and dedicated BOV members allow us to continue our 115-year legacy of philanthropy."

The 2023 grant recipients are About Care, Arizona Autism United, Boys and Girls Clubs of the Valley, Boys and Girls Hope Arizona, Cancer Support Center Arizona, Central Arizona Shelter Services, Child Crisis Arizona, Circle the City, Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health, Esperança, Feeding Matters, Horses Help, Kid in the Corner, Mission of Mercy, Phoenix Rescue Mission, Raising Special Kids, Ronald McDonald House Charities, St Joseph's Foundation, Saving Amy, Southwest Human Development, The Board of Visitors Ryan House, The Joy Bus, The Society of St. Vincent De Paul, UPWARD for Children and Families, Valleywise Health Foundation and Care Card recipient, and Foundation for Blind Children.

The organization is accepting grant applications for 2024. For more information, visit [www.boardofvisitors.org](http://www.boardofvisitors.org).

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**COMMUNITY**

**Kiwanis to host golf tournament**

The Valley of the Sun Camelback Kiwanis Club will host the 28th Annual Sunstroke Charity Golf Tournament Saturday, June 3. The scramble format tournament begins at 7 a.m. at the McDowell Mountain Golf Club, located at 10690 E. Sheena Dr., Scottsdale.

Funds raised at the event will support underprivileged youth in the Valley in the form of school programs and post-secondary scholarships. The club also focuses on helping needy families elevate their lives.

For more information or to register as a player or sponsor of the event, visit [www.kiwanisvosck.org](http://www.kiwanisvosck.org).

**Innovation 27 to open in 2024**

The City of Phoenix announced in March a projected timeline for a new workforce training facility known as Innovation 27.

In hopes of partnering with community members to revitalize the area, along with the redevelopment of Metrocenter and nearby health care facilities, the City of Phoenix purchased the former Kmart building located at the northwest corner of I-17 and Northern Avenue. Plans are underway for renovations of the site to transform it into a state-of-the-art workforce training and education facility, appropriately named the Innovation 27 Workforce Training and Education Collaborative.

The city, along with education partners Arizona State University (ASU), Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD), and Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC), intend to provide advanced education opportunities and workforce development to support this area of Phoenix in both its workforce and businesses. The former Kmart building has been vacant for the past five years and is one of the last remaining large infill sites located along a major freeway in Phoenix that is available for redevelopment.

In 2022, the Phoenix City Council approved the 27th Avenue Corridor Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan, which directly focuses on the community. The city says that Innovation 27 is an essential part of the solution to help combat those safety and economic issues. Area residents

currently experience barriers to education opportunities, food deserts, and access to transportation to other training facilities in the Valley.

Training opportunities anticipated for this site are expected to prepare individuals for careers in the semiconductor, public safety, bioscience, information technology, food innovation and healthcare fields. Programs and classes in the buildings are estimated to begin in the fall of 2024.

**Butterfly gardening class offered**

Residents are invited to learn about butterfly gardening at a May 20 class being offered at Dig It Gardens.

This class will cover plant selection, simple design ideas, best maintenance practices that will include watering, fertilization and pruning. Organizers say that the class is "guaranteed to get your outdoor space buzzing."

Dig It Gardens is located at 3015 N. 16th St. The class will run from 10-11 a.m., Saturday, May 20. The cost of admission is \$10.

For additional information, call 602-812-7476 or visit [www.digphx.com/workshops-events](http://www.digphx.com/workshops-events).

**Keep neighborhoods free of graffiti**

Residents who see graffiti in their neighborhood can report it and, in most cases, the City of Phoenix will remove it for free.

The city says that in 2022, the Neighborhood Services Department (NSD) Graffiti Busters used nearly 12,000 gallons of paint to clean up approximately 50,000 sites of graffiti around Phoenix. The Graffiti Busters work seven days a week, tracking down graffiti and responding to reports from residents. Crews can cover or remove up to 200 sites of graffiti every day, at no cost to residents or businesses.

If you see graffiti in your neighborhood there are three ways to report it and have it removed: visit [www.phoenix.gov/myphx311](http://www.phoenix.gov/myphx311); call 602-534-4444; or send an email to [blight@phoenix.gov](mailto:blight@phoenix.gov).

Residents also can help wipe out graffiti. The city will provide color-matched paint and supplies to help erase vandalism in your area.

Learn more at [www.phoenix.gov/graffiti](http://www.phoenix.gov/graffiti).





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## COMMUNITY

## Pet of the Month

### Meet Bourbon Barrel Henry

Bourbon Barrel Henry is a 99-pound bundle of joy. This big boy is a goofy dog who bounces around with endless energy. His friends at the shelter love his playful personality and cannot get enough of him. He is a great companion for anyone looking for a furry friend to brighten their days.

What is even cooler about Bourbon Barrel Henry is that he is potty trained, meaning he is a well-behaved dog who knows how to do his business outside. He also walks well on a leash, but do not let his size fool you — this big love bug enjoys cuddling on laps as he does not always realize his own size. Bourbon is simply a gentle giant who wants to be close to his humans. The wrinkly-faced pup was seized by Mesa Animal Control in March due to his owner being hospitalized. He was brought to Arizona Humane Society (AHS) to receive the care and attention he needed.

Bourbon Barrel Henry is a super playful boy who loves to have fun and is



Bourbon Barrel Henry is a playful, gentle giant who loves to cuddle with his humans (photo courtesy of Arizona Humane Society).

always up for a game of fetch or a run in the park. He may do best with dogs who have the same play style as he does. He is a friendly dog who loves to socialize, and he is sure to make friends wherever he goes.

In order to help him find the perfect family, the adoption fee for Bourbon Barrel Henry (pet number A719088) is waived. Interested adopters can meet him at the Arizona Humane Society's South Mountain location. His waived adoption fee includes his neuter surgery, current vaccinations, a microchip and a free fol-

low-up wellness exam with a VCA Animal Hospital.

Visit [www.azhumane.org/adopt](http://www.azhumane.org/adopt) to choose one of three convenient ways to adopt.

## Ambulance funded in Bill Austin's memory

The Arizona Humane Society (AHS) will help thousands of additional sick, injured and abused Valley pets each year thanks to its new "Austin" Emergency Animal Medical Technician (EAMT) pet ambulance, made possible by a \$100,000 donation in honor of local media personality, Bill Austin. In memory of the 13th anniversary of his passing, the Bill Austin Fund executors, Dr. Ingrid Haas and Charlie Van Dyke, made this donation to AHS through Spirit & Word Ministries, Inc.

Last year, more than 7,400 sick and injured animals were brought in through AHS' EAMT program, while AHS animal cruelty investigators performed more than 8,100 investigations. Thanks to the new Austin pet ambulance, AHS will have the ability to help

more than approximately 4,300 additional sick, injured and abused pets in our community each year.

A Valley fixture in local TV and radio, Bill Austin was a weather forecaster before co-hosting the "Beth and Bill Morning Show" for 20 years prior to his passing in June of 2010.

To report a sick, injured or abused pet, call the AHS Field Dispatch Team at 602-997-7585, ext. 2073.

## Help keep pets safe this summer

While summer may officially begin in June, Phoenix temperatures had already reached the high 90s by mid-April — just a sampling of the months ahead, and a good time to remember a few important tips to help keep pets safe over the summer months.

First, keep pets indoors if you can. If not be sure that shade in a ventilated area is available. Also, never chain them up; if they get tangled up, it will be difficult for them to access shade or water.

Keep pets hydrated with access to cool water at all times, whether indoors or out. Do not exercise pets during afternoon heat; hot pavement will burn a dog's paws. Also, do not exercise pets strenuously, and never leave a pet in a parked car; on a hot summer day a car's interior temperature can reach 200 degrees in just minutes.

Heat exhaustion in pets will often present itself with loud, rapid panting; rapid pulse; glazed eyes; excessive salivation; elevated body temperature; excessive whining/agitation; staring and/or vomiting, the Humane Society says. Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke, which is manifested by failure of the body, which can result in disorientation, seizure, coma and sadly, death.

If a pet exhibits signs of heat exhaustion, immediately call your veterinarian while attempting to cool it down. Do so by placing the pet in a shaded area, applying small amounts of cool water to its body; especially head, feet and groin and giving them very small amounts of water to drink.

The Arizona Humane Society reminds residents who witness a pet in distress inside a vehicle and the owner does not return promptly, they can notify nearby businesses to page the owner. If that fails, they can contact the AHS Emergency Field Dispatch at 602-997-7585, ext. 2073, then stay with the car.



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## Are you prepared for the summer heat?

Booties, a full water bowl, and access to AC are all must haves for a safe and enjoyable season!

SW Corner of 7th St. and Glendale Ave. | 539 E. Glendale Ave., #1, Phoenix, AZ 85020  
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# HAPPY HOUR WITH HERSCH

As I write this, **we are roughly 1 month away from the Kentucky Derby.** I love the “Run for the Roses” and all its pomp and circumstance! I especially enjoy studying all the various factors to try to figure out the winning combination. Last year, I was not even close to sniffing the board, though with an 80-1 shot winning the crown, that would be expected. **Below are the 4 horses I will be focusing on,** unless something significant happens in the next 30 days – which in horse racing is very likely to occur.

- 1 **Derma Sotogake** – Crushed the UAE Derby, which historically has not be an indicator of success. But this Japan-based horse seems to be the one who will break the trend. Japanese horses have been on a global hot streak.
- 2 **Forte** – Will be the deserving favorite and probably at a very low price. Nothing wrong with this horse, except the expected price, and we know trainer Todd Pletcher will have him ready.
- 3 **Geaux Rocket Ride** – This lightly raced colt has tons of speed and will be priced attractively. Should get a good trip if he can stay the distance.
- 4 **Practical Move** – Has been the most consistent horse on the Southern California circuit, which should make him worth considering.

This will be the last year of uber-trainer Bob Baffert’s suspension, which should bring some normalcy back to the event next year.

## \$100 TRIVIA CONTEST

**Who is my favorite filly of all time?**

Hint: She ran in the late 90’s.

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Winner for Last Month – TBD | Last Month’s Answer – Forgot About Dre

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# Phoenix Housing Market Snapshot as of 4/6/23

\* Source of data: ARMLS & The Cromford Report for single-family dwellings.

## Single Family Homes

**\$559,440**

Average Monthly Sold Price



↑4.3% from last month  
↓3.4% from last year

**\$293.56**

Average Monthly Sold \$/SF



↑2.3% from last month  
↓4.1% from last year

The average \$/SF is now back to where it was in late September. Although the dip between November and January was a bit scary, the recovery in price has been equally strong since then.

Volume is well below normal, with sellers and buyers lacking enthusiasm, but prices are buoyant and in even better shape than expected. With the Cromford® Market Index still moving higher, we expect prices to rise in the next few months.

## Mike’s Recent Buyer Purchases

- 2626 E. Arizona Biltmore Cir - \$799,800 - 2,341 SF
- 5815 N. 13th St - \$505,000 - 1,518 SF
- 2042 N. 29th St - \$250,000 - 972 SF

Contact Mike to discuss your specific real estate needs!

I am thrilled to announce that I have recently made a professional switch to Launch Real Estate, which has joined forces with Compass, a national real estate brokerage that empowers agents to better serve their clients. With my deep commitment to our community, knowledge of the local market, and collaborative approach, combined with Launch powered by Compass’ scale and agent network, I am now better equipped than ever before to provide top-notch service to my clients. I am excited to leverage the resources and expertise of Launch powered by Compass to help my clients achieve their real estate goals.



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**TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS**



Movie-goers and nostalgic neighbors will have the opportunity to say farewell to Metrocenter Mall and the Harkins Theatres Metro location this month (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

## Demolition, farewell set for Metrocenter

By Kathryn M. Miller

In April, the Metro District Community Collaboration announced that William Olson, senior executive vice-president for Concord Wilshire Companies, has been named project leader for the Metrocenter redevelopment.

The organization also stated that interior pre-demolition work on the mall, which is located near the northwest corner of Dunlap Avenue and the I-17, will begin in May, with the exterior demolition work set to begin in midsummer.

In related news, in her April 14 newsletter, District 1 Councilwoman Ann O’Brian announced that she met with the CEO of Harkins Theatres in April and will partner with the company to bid farewell to the mall in the “most excellent” style. Before demolition begins on the iconic mall, Harkins Metrocenter will host a screening of “Bill & Ted’s Excellent Adventure” Sunday, May 21.

O’Brien said, “While all the details of the event are still being worked on, I can tell you we will be doing a BIG celebration that will culminate in an outdoor, evening showing of the movie projected right onto the exterior wall of the Metrocenter mall. I will have more details for you shortly about where you can register for tickets and what you can expect for the event, but for now, mark your calendars!”

Residents can find updates from

District 1 at [www.phoenix.gov/district1](http://www.phoenix.gov/district1) and follow the Metro District Community Collaboration’s efforts at [www.metrodistrictcollaboration.com](http://www.metrodistrictcollaboration.com).

The event will also be a last hurrah for the Harkins theater, which plans to close its doors permanently this summer. Original redevelopment plans called for maintaining the theater in some form.

Harkins spokesperson Meghan Bowman confirmed rumors that had been swirling about the closure, saying, “The mall is now scheduled for demolition and, as a result, we will be closing the curtain at our beloved Metrocenter theatre this summer.

“We are grateful for the support of our loyal guests and thankful for our incredible team who have provided the Ultimate Moviegoing experience over the years. We look forward to seeing all of our guests at our many other theatres throughout the Valley, including our Christown and Norterra theatres which are just a short drive away.”

A final closure date for the Harkins has not yet been set, but Olson said that bringing back a new version of the theater will be considered.

“We have not yet engaged with prospective tenants for the retail portion of the project as we are currently focused on overall project design and development planning.” Olson said.

“Although Harkins will be closing the current cinema at the end of May, we look forward to speaking with them and other tenants as the project begins to move forward.”



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**TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS**

**Business Briefs**

**Firm celebrates 20 years of business**

Molera Alvarez, a minority-owned government and public affairs firm, will celebrate 20 years of business in Arizona this month.

Founders Jaime A. Molera and Ruben E. Alvarez, and the Molera Alvarez team, have a long history of implementing their public affairs expertise. Founded in May 2003, the team has over a century of government affairs experience.

The firm cites many accomplishments over the past two decades, including leading the way to expand Arizona’s Medicaid population, allowing the state to draw down more than \$1.2 billion in new federal funding, as well as overseeing the legislative effort to help secure funding to expand the University of Arizona’s College of Medicine in Phoenix. The firm has also served as the international trade representative for the City of Phoenix, and the City of Wichita, Kansas.

Molera Alvarez is located at 5343



Founders Ruben Alvarez (left) and Jaime Molera paused for a photo at their firm’s 20th Anniversary celebration event (submitted photo).

N. 16th St., Suite 240. Learn more at [www.ma-firm.com](http://www.ma-firm.com).

**Chamber announces award finalists**

The Greater Phoenix Chamber has selected 30 local companies as finalists for its 36th Annual IMPACT Awards. The award honors the accomplishments of small and mid-to-large sized Valley

businesses and their positive influence on the community and economy.

Through a competitive selection process, the Chamber has named three small business finalists and three mid-to-large business finalists within the following categories: Community Champion, Economic Driver, Industry Innovator, Exceptional Workplace, and IMPACTful Nonprofit.

At a June 22 event, the organization will celebrate the finalists, share what makes them the best of the best in Valley business and guests will discover which companies will be named 2023 IMPACT Award recipients.

To view the 2023 list of finalists, visit [www.phoenixchamber.com/impact2023](http://www.phoenixchamber.com/impact2023). Voting is open through May 31.

**Preventative care practice opens**

Preventive cardiologist Robert Todd Hurst, MD, FACC, FASE, says that he is on a mission to refocus the “medicate and operate” approach for treating chronic illnesses that’s rampant in today’s healthcare system.

Recently launching HealthspanMD in Phoenix’s Biltmore area, Hurst’s model is bringing modern preventive care to the masses — and the practice accepts commercial insurance plans, including Medicare.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that 60 percent of Americans suffer from at least one chronic disease, with heart disease the

*please see PRACTICE on page 22*

An advertisement for The Felice Agency. The background is a dark, starry space scene. In the foreground, three animals are wearing white space suits with helmets: a white cat on the left, a brown and white dog in the center, and a mouse on the right. The text 'creativity that drives results.' is written in large, white, sans-serif font on the left side. Below this, a list of services is provided: 'Small &amp; Medium Sized Businesses', 'Branding', 'Advertising', 'Web Design', 'Exhibit Design', 'Influencer Marketing', 'Podcasting', and 'Video Production'. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for 'THE FELICE AGENCY' with a green exclamation mark and the website 'feliceagency.com'. At the very bottom, a white banner contains the text 'Mention this ad and receive a complimentary consultation' with 'complimentary' in green.

**TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS**

**PRACTICE continued from page 21**

leading cause of death in Arizona. Stroke, diabetes and hypertension are among the other top killers. Which, Hurst says, makes prevention paramount. To combat and even reverse risk factors for cardiometabolic diseases — conditions that affect the heart and blood vessels, such as heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure and diabetes — the physician has combined remote patient monitoring technologies and evidence-based medical treatment with personalized care plans centered around his trademarked health plan.

The practice, located at 2222 E. Highland Ave., Suite 222, accepts commercial insurance, including Medicare, to cover the cost of remote care programs. Call 480-847-2575 or visit [www.healthspanmd.com](http://www.healthspanmd.com) for additional information.

**Hydroponics shop to mark one-year anniversary**

Little Shop of Hydros will celebrate its one-year anniversary Saturday, May 6, and the community is invited to join the



Little Shop of Hydros invites the community to a one-year anniversary celebration Saturday, May 6, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the shop on north 7th Street (submitted photo).

festivities at the shop on north 7th Street.

Owners Jeremy Vasquez and Johnny Fanucchi are deeply rooted in the community.

“I grew up in Sunnyslope, graduated from Sunnyslope High School in the 90s, still reside in Sunnyslope and now co-own two retail stores in Sunnyslope,” said Vasquez.

“I’m all about community and volunteering my gardening services to the local schools and community,” he

added. “I had the privilege of designing the Mountain View Community Garden and assisted with getting the grant money to build it. We are the only community garden within a city park in all of Maricopa County and the project has given the park back to the community. Now when people go to the Mountain View Park, they see kids playing, plants growing and lots of people enjoying our city park.” A far cry from what it was before, he added.

Fanucchi is also passionate about helping others, Vasquez said.

“His passion for helping others was a key factor in us teaming up and creating Little Shop of Hydros and Dynapure CBD. Together we have a vision of helping others live a healthier life by offering premium quality wellness products and educating the community on the proper ways to grow their own food and medicine, as well as provide them with the best quality garden products and customer service.”

To celebrate the anniversary, the community is invited to stop by from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and enjoy a DJ, local vendors, a food vendor and activities for kids. The ownership team also hopes to have their muralist in attendance to do chalk art with the kids. A raffle will be held to give away two full-spectrum LED indoor grow lights (valued at \$1,400), several plant nutrient kits (valued at \$220 each), a CBD basket (valued at \$200) and more prizes being donated by other local vendors. A portion of the proceeds will support local causes.

*please see ANNIVERSARY on page 24*

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**TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS**

**ANNIVERSARY continued from page 22**

Little Shop of Hydros ([www.littleshopofhydros.com](http://www.littleshopofhydros.com), 602-887-9331) and Dynapure CBD ([www.dynapurecbd.com](http://www.dynapurecbd.com), 602-887-9330) are located at 9812 N. 7th St., Suites 8–10.

**Celebrating three years of Sunshine**

The public is invited to celebrate Sunshine Sunflower Studio’s three-year anniversary by attending a bowl-a-thon event. The studio will host Arizona Clay Association’s annual Bowl-A-Thon Saturday, May 20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Event attendees will craft bowls that the studio will fire, glaze and donate to Empty Bowls, which benefits Waste Not AZ. The goal for the event is to make 200 bowls. No experience is needed — there will be professional artists on hand to provide demonstrations and hands-on classes to help guests craft bowls for this charitable event. The pottery wheel is reserved for experienced potters only. The classroom will also be set up for little artists who wish to contribute to the cause.

To sign up for a time slot, visit [www.signupgenius.com/go/904084caaa828a0fe3-dirty#](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/904084caaa828a0fe3-dirty#).

Sunshine Sunflower Studio is located at 700 W. Campbell Ave., Suite 3. For additional information, visit [www.sunshinesunflower.com](http://www.sunshinesunflower.com).

**Encanto Waterfront has been sold**

In April, Northmarq’s Phoenix investment sales team, Trevor Koskovich, Ryan Boyle, Jesse Hudson and Logan Baca, announced that they successfully brokered the \$10,325,000 sale of Encanto Waterfront, a 21-unit build-to-rent community located at 814 E. Roma Ave. in Phoenix.

Northmarq represented the seller, Phoenix-based Metro 21 on Roma, LLC. The buyer was BSK 340, LLC from Los Angeles. The property had just received its certificate of occupancy for the units prior to April 10 closing. At the time of sale, none of the units were leased, according to the sales team spokesperson.

Built in 2023, the pet-friendly community features 21 two-story, luxury single-family rental homes with three bedrooms and two and one-half baths. There are six 1,298-square-foot units

and fifteen 1,378-square-foot units.

The homes all include attached one-car garages and fenced yards with paver walkway/patios. The interiors feature wood-style flooring in all the living areas, plush carpet in bedrooms, stainless steel appliances, walk-in closets and in-unit washer and dryer.

According to the website, unit rates begin at \$2,750 for the Ashland design or \$2,800 for the Woodlea design. Learn more at [www.encantowaterfront.com](http://www.encantowaterfront.com).

**New leadership at Aunt Rita’s**

In mid-April, Aunt Rita’s Foundation announced Stacey Jay Cavaliere as its new executive director, who the organization says will bring “fresh eyes and new perspectives” to the nonprofit and lead the organization into its next chapter.

The foundation, whose mission is to end HIV in Arizona, says that Cavaliere is a dedicated and experienced leader in Arizona’s nonprofit community, with nearly 20 years of experience working in social services and nonprofit. He will serve as the organization’s chief fundraising and administrative officer and lead its development/administrative team.



The foundation stated, “Cavaliere walks proud in his truth as an HIV-positive individual, often serving as a personal resource for others. When he was first diagnosed, Aunt Rita’s Foundation was one of the first agencies he reached out to for resources, which led him to receiving services at several of the partnering agencies.”

Cavaliere added, “My journey has now come full circle and I truly believe the universe is calling me to serve the community in a new capacity. As the incoming executive director of Aunt Rita’s Foundation, I look forward to leading this dedicated team and supporting the partnering agencies during this pivotal time in the Foundation’s history; building upon the Foundation’s rich legacy, and working each day tirelessly, to end HIV in Arizona. Let’s get to work!”

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



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510 E Ocotillo Rd.....	New Price .....	3602SF .....	5BR/5BA .....	\$2,575,000
25 E Myrtle Ave .....	In Escrow .....	5054SF .....	4BR/5BA .....	\$2,095,000
220 W Monterosa St .....	Multi Dwelling .....			\$1,900,000
334 W State Ave .....	Just Listed .....	2716SF .....	4BR/3BA .....	\$1,450,000
910 E Kaler Dr .....	In Escrow .....	4205SF .....	4BR/4.5BA .....	\$1,375,000
5130 N 6th St.....	In Escrow .....	3304SF .....	5BR/4BA .....	\$1,199,000
5645 N 7th Ave .....	New Price .....	2991SF .....	4BR/2BA .....	\$1,100,000
322 W Stella Ln .....	In Escrow .....	2554SF .....	4BR/3BA .....	\$ 895,000
2524 E Beryl Ave .....	Just Listed .....	2634SF .....	4BR/3BA .....	\$ 799,000
6811 N 11th Pl.....	In Escrow .....	2127SF .....	3BR/2BA .....	\$ 795,000
21206 N 62nd Ave.....	In Escrow .....	2982SF .....	4BR/2.5BA .....	\$ 750,000
15027 E Desert Willow Dr .....	Just Listed .....	1908SF .....	3BR/2BA .....	\$ 690,000
1222 E Wagon Wheel Dr .....	In Escrow .....	1540SF .....	3BR/2BA .....	\$ 525,000
10432 N 11th St #2 .....	Just Listed .....	1027SF .....	2BR/1.5BA .....	\$ 369,900
16182 W Winslow Dr .....	In Escrow .....	1588SF .....	3BR/2BA .....	\$ 399,500

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6811 N Central Ave**.....	\$2,400,000
35 E Myrtle Ave .....	\$2,125,000
304 W Orangewood Ave.....	\$1,800,000
6518 N 25th Way* .....	\$1,683,000
510 W McLellan Blvd.....	\$1,175,000
7101 N 3rd Ave .....	\$1,157,500
3011 N 166th Pl.....	\$ 685,000
5576 N 12th St #1 .....	\$ 675,000
1400 E Bethany Home Rd #29...\$	\$ 585,000
17726 W Larkspur Dr .....	\$ 575,000
1516 W Glenn Dr.....	\$ 505,000
1001 W Solcizio Ln.....	\$ 400,000
106 E Echo Ln.....	\$ 495,000
5220 N 16th Ln .....	\$ 400,000
16182 W Winslow Dr.....	\$ 378,000

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7020 N Wilder Rd.....	\$3,400,000
5445 E Lincoln.....	\$2,849,000
4901 E Lafayette Blvd.....	\$2,700,000
800 E Circle Dr.....	\$2,500,000
7020 N 21st St.....	\$2,450,000

1527 W Caribbean Ln.....	\$2,000,000
3120 E Coolidge St.....	\$1,990,000
7011 N Wilder Rd.....	\$1,745,000
1 E Northview Ave .....	\$1,700,000
526 E Tuckey Ln .....	\$1,575,000
3229 E Sells Dr .....	\$1,525,000
205 W Lawrence Rd .....	\$1,362,000
5112 N 34th Pl.....	\$1,300,000
3436 N 38th Pl.....	\$1,299,500
7588 E Via Dona Rd* .....	\$1,275,000
640 E Echo.....	\$1,266,500
18005 N 65th Pl.....	\$1,225,000
10 E Cactus Wren Dr .....	\$1,225,000
2016 E State Ave.....	\$1,200,000
613 E Vista Ave* .....	\$1,200,000
901 W Wagon Wheel Dr .....	\$1,200,000
202 E Kaler Dr .....	\$1,195,000
1545 E Northern Ave .....	\$1,070,000
8989 E Gainey Center Dr #228...\$	\$1,063,325
1025 E Morten Ave* .....	\$1,050,000
8902 E Rusty Spur Pl .....	\$1,050,000
9411 N 13th Way .....	\$1,150,000
7247 N 6th Pl* .....	\$1,040,000
1825 E Cinnabar Ave** .....	\$ 989,000

1146 W Royal Palm Rd* .....	\$ 980,000
1324 E Lupine Ave.....	\$ 975,000
42 E Marlette Ave .....	\$ 970,000
121 E Claremont St* .....	\$ 935,000
132 E Tuckey Ln .....	\$ 925,000
10251 N Central Ave .....	\$ 915,000
7730 N 2nd Ave .....	\$ 900,000
1033 E Kaler Dr .....	\$ 899,000
7904 S 29th Pl .....	\$ 875,786
4128 E Sunnyside Dr .....	\$ 825,000
77 E Missouri Ave #67 .....	\$ 815,000
7536 N 10th St.....	\$ 810,000
800 W Bethany Home Rd .....	\$ 800,000
8058 E Via Del Desierto .....	\$ 775,000
7549 N 16th Dr .....	\$ 740,000
6614 N 19th St.....	\$ 725,000
534 E El Camino Dr.....	\$ 720,300
8123 N 13th Way .....	\$ 699,000
4735 E Sleepy Ranch Rd .....	\$ 690,000
827 W Linger Ln .....	\$ 656,000
2316 E Desert Cove .....	\$ 630,000
1415 E Flower St.....	\$ 616,000
1102 E Vista Ave .....	\$ 606,000
8039 N 10th Ave .....	\$ 600,000

1105 E Wagon Wheel Dr*.....	\$ 600,000
7321 N 11th Pl.....	\$ 575,000
8124 E Whitton Ave.....	\$ 570,000
1110 E Orangewood Ave .....	\$ 565,000
5302 N La Plaza Cr.....	\$ 565,000
3401 W Taro Ln.....	\$ 550,000
1106 E Wagon Wheel Dr.....	\$ 549,000
6532 N 16th Dr .....	\$ 530,000
77 E Missouri Ave #17 .....	\$ 520,000
1527 E Hudson Dr .....	\$ 519,000
700 W Northern Ave .....	\$ 510,000
804 E Corte Oro Dr.....	\$ 494,000
1124 E Rose Ln #21** .....	\$ 485,000
6357 S Blake St .....	\$ 480,000
1241 E Kaler Dr .....	\$ 475,000
903 W Glendale Ave #3.....	\$ 465,000
2340 E Turney Ave .....	\$ 450,000
8850 S Grandview** .....	\$ 449,000
7526 N 10th Pl.....	\$ 440,000
605 E Royal Palm Square.....	\$ 435,000
6125 N Central Ave #5 .....	\$ 435,000
7321 N 11th Pl.....	\$ 425,000
8125 N Central Ave #18.....	\$ 425,000
914 E Osborn Rd #205 .....	\$ 425,000

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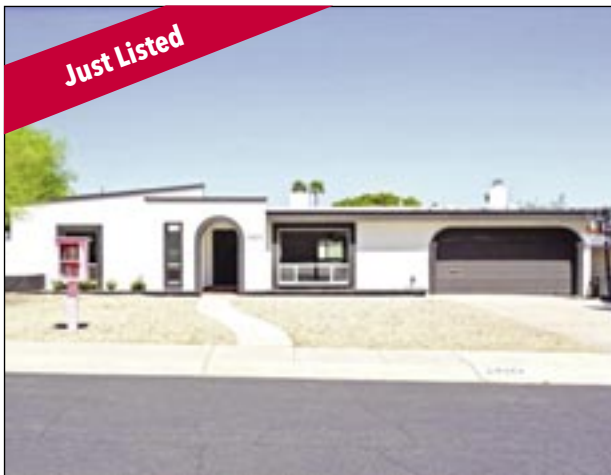
15027 E Desert Willow Dr • \$690,000



5576 N 12th St • \$675,000



6811 N 11th Pl • \$795,000



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SCHOOL DAYS



The first phase of an extensive rebuild project on the Madison Park Middle School campus is anticipated to be completed by the start of the 2023–24 school year (photo courtesy of Madison School District).

### First phase of rebuild nears completion

The campus of Madison Park Middle School, originally constructed in the mid-1950s, is currently undergoing a rebuild. Madison Park is home to Madison School District’s middle school STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) Signature Program.

The new buildings, located on the current site at 16th Street and Campbell Avenue, will feature new classrooms, labs for engineering, design, and science, a new media center and more — all supporting the school’s STEAM focus and providing unique opportunities for students.

Phase One of the project, which includes the classrooms, labs, media center and more, will be open for students for the start of the 2023–24 school year. Phase Two, which includes the gymnasium and other remaining areas of campus, will be ready for the 2024–25 school year. The new cafeteria building, which was completed in 2016, will remain. This new state-of-the-art school is possible thanks to support from voters in the community.

Madison Park Middle School’s STEAM program provides students with a solid foundation with an emphasis on math, art, science and engineering, giving them an advantage when entering a STEAM or STEM high school and preparing them for future careers. In addition to typical academic

subjects, students at Madison Park have access to hands-on special area classes and clubs that provide them with additional opportunities to engage in learning and creative problem-solving.

Madison Park is currently accepting enrollment applications for the 2023–24 school year. More information is available at [www.madisonaz.org/enrollment](http://www.madisonaz.org/enrollment).

### School Briefs

#### GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Save the dates for GUHSD graduations

Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) will celebrate the Class of 2023 with graduation ceremonies held at Desert Diamond Arena, located at 9400 W. Maryland Ave. in Glendale.

Dates and times for North Central area schools include May 22, Thunderbird High School (12:30 p.m.) and Sunnyslope High School (8 p.m.), and May 23, Washington High School (1 p.m.). For a complete list of GUHSD school graduations, visit [www.guhsdaz.org](http://www.guhsdaz.org).

#### District offers summer opportunities

Glendale Union High School District’s signature summer opportunities are free and available once again for eighth-grade students and current GUHSD students. GUHSD’s summer



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**SCHOOL DAYS**

opportunities include Summer School and Summer Academies, which will provide students with opportunities to expand their skills and knowledge and prepare them for the important next step.

**Students enter West-MEC programs**

Thunderbird High School students were accepted into one of West-MEC's 30 career and technical programs. They will begin their program next year while they also attend Thunderbird.

Upon graduation, each of these students will have the opportunity to sit for industry certifications, which will allow them to work in their chosen career path and/or further their education and build upon their knowledge.

**Junior earns KEYS internship**

Sunnyslope High School junior George Diaz earned the University of Arizona KEYS Research Internship.

KEYS interns will contribute to interdisciplinary bioscience research using biotechnology and data analysis techniques while contributing to the development of new scientific knowledge. Interns will also develop science literacy skills and learn how to communicate their research to a varied audience.

**Washington receives AEF A+ banner**

The Arizona Educational Foundation (AEF) presented Washington High School with a banner for their A+ School of Excellence Award. Arizona schools that earn the distinguished award go above and beyond the everyday practices that all schools are expected to implement.

**MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT Students create expressionist art**

Local Arizona artist Julie Tarsha recently visited Madison Rose Lane to host a masterclass for Rose Lane students. Students were able to create their very own masterpiece with instruction from Tarsha in abstract expressionism.

Abstract expressionism focuses on the process of creating rather than a specific plan for a final product. Students used different materials to create the artwork such as foam brushes, flat brushes, toilet paper rolls, drop-



More than a dozen Thunderbird students were accepted into one of West-MEC's career and technical programs and will begin their participation next year (submitted photo).

pers with watered down paint, graphite pencils, spray bottles, and paper. Exploration with materials and tools gives students a great foundation for future creation and helps develop their skills and abilities in the arts.

Madison Rose Lane Elementary School's signature program is visual and performing arts, which allows students to take two different electives, including theater, dance, music, physical education and art. With these programs, stu-

dents have unique opportunities to be able to connect with and learn from professional artists, actors, and dancers.

**Madison District is hiring**

Madison School District is currently hiring staff for both its before and after school programs.

The Madison Adventure Club (MAC) provides safe, high-quality care for students. MAC Club Leaders work

with groups of students to do activities, work on homework, play games, make arts and crafts, supervise play time and more. After school programs can help students continue to learn and grow beyond the end of the school day and develop a stronger connection with their school community.

Both part-time and flexible schedule MAC Club Leader positions are currently available. Additional information can be found at [www.madison-az.org/jobs](http://www.madison-az.org/jobs).

**OSBORN SCHOOL DISTRICT Preschool offers new dual-language program**

The Osborn School District will expand its preschool program beginning fall 2023. Currently, the district serves students in three distinct preschool programs: developmental delay preschool, Montessori Primary Preschool and Dual Language community preschool for 4-year-olds. Next fall, that will be expanding to include 3-year-olds as well.

*please see NEW PROGRAM on page 30*

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SCHOOL DAYS

**NEW PROGRAM** *continued from page 29*

Encanto School, located at 1420 W. Osborn Ave., will open its doors to a new dual-language community preschool for children who turn 3 years old by September 1. Instruction will be done in a 50/50 Spanish/English model, so children will experience learning in both languages each day.

While this is a tuition-based program, financial assistance is available for families who qualify. This full-day program joins the other brand-new dual-language program in the Osborn School District located within the Montessori Learning Program at Montecito Community School.

Osborn has a rich history of success in bilingual education at each of its schools, which helps support a child as they grow to become biliterate, bilingual and multicultural. Interested families can call the Osborn District office at 602-707-2000 for more information or register directly on the Osborn School District website, [www.osborn-net.org](http://www.osborn-net.org), under the “Parents and Community” heading.



Central High senior Victoria Claro (right) poses with another student during the Business and Marketing “promotion day” event (photo courtesy of Phoenix Union High School District).

**PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT CTE helps students discover skills**

Students across the Phoenix Union High School District (PXU) can explore their passions and discover professional skills prior to graduating high

school through Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs.

Victoria Claro, a senior at Central High School excelled in two CTE programs, Sports Medicine, and Business Marketing during her high school experience.

When Claro first entered high school, she described herself as quiet and

reserved. With school being completely virtual her sophomore year, Claro knew she needed to push herself outside of her comfort zone when classes began in-person again the following year.

“It was like starting from scratch,” Claro said. “I hadn’t seen friends in two years.”

During her sophomore year, Claro joined the Sports Medicine program. By junior year, she found herself providing real care to real clients. Despite her success in sports medicine, Claro was still itching to be more involved on campus.

“My counselor pushed me to join the Business Marketing CTE program,” the student added.

In just a year, she became the chief executive officer of the program, overseeing a staff filled with her peers. The business marketing class operates just like a real-world agency. Students must interview for positions, meet with clients, create and achieve business goals, manage processes, and plan, design and execute events.

Christopher Rooney, the business marketing teacher at Central, bragged, “When my students have meetings with

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Plans include renovating the kitchen and moving it to the front of the home, filling in some levels, moving a stairwell, and creating three master suites, with one upstairs, and of course, the new interior design. The re-design is budgeted at \$100 a sq/ft with a targeted ARV of over \$11,000,000.

**SCHOOL DAYS**

staff, they are always taken back by how professional and adult-like they are.”

Claro said the most rewarding part of her position as CEO is planning and executing Central’s annual Culture Day, an outdoor festival that involves several different initiatives, clubs, and student organizations. The event is student executed and supported by Central’s own student creations including graphic design, culinary and dance performances.

“Everyone in Phoenix Union should have an opportunity to come to Central and see what marketing can do for a community,” said Claro, who plans to attend Northern Arizona University next fall, double majoring in Pre-Med and Business Management.

**PXU superintendent to step down**

In a March 30 letter to the community, Phoenix Union High School District (PXU) Superintendent Chad Gestson, Ed.D., announced that he would be stepping down from the role he has served in for the past eight years, effective June 30.



Sunnyslope School teacher Patricia Wharton’s Ballet Folklorico dancers performed for the community at Slope Fest (submitted photo).

Gestson stated, “I have spent 22 years working ‘in’ the system. It is now time for me to step ‘out’ of the system in order to work more effectively, aggressively, and unapologetically ‘on’ the system, locally and nationally.”

He will serve as the founding executive director of the new Arizona Institute for Education and the Economy, which will launch at Northern Arizona University and be

located in the Phoenix Metro area.

Gestson, who spent 14 years in PXU, first as principal of Camelback High School, then as the district’s director of School Leadership said in a released statement, “Bittersweet. I can’t think of a better way to describe my emotions. PXU is my family. I love this place. I love our people. I have deep, life-long relationships here.”

In April, PXU’s governing board

began the selection process for an interim superintendent and anticipates announcing their selection at its regular meeting May 4. After contract negotiations, the board’s goal is to approve the contract June 1, with a start date of June 2, allowing for a one-month overlap with Gestson.

**WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT District participates in Slope Fest 2023**

The WESD joined the East Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association & Block Watch (ESNABW) at Slope Fest 2023 in April, engaging with students, families, neighbors, community partners and resources, as well as elected officials at the event.

Each of the schools located in the Sunnyslope community, including Desert View Elementary, Mountain View School and Sunnyslope School, were also present to share information about their schools. There was also a performance from Sunnyslope School teacher Patricia Wharton and her Ballet Folklorico dancers.



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## SCHOOL DAYS

## Employees receive 'Lamp' award

Once each year, the Washington Elementary School District (WESD) recognizes the unique, exemplary contributions of special members of the WESD family by honoring them with the Lamp of Learning Award. This award provides the district with the opportunity to thank staff and community and members for their support. It is the highest recognition given in the WESD.

This year, the district congratulated Darcy Estrada, Royal Palm Middle School; Marlee Korishev, Orangewood School; Megan Nash, Desert View Elementary School; Emily Paterson, Orangewood School; Jeni Vargas, Sunnyslope School; and Dr. Steven West, Mountain View School. They were just six of 19 individuals who were honored.

## Get ready for kindergarten

Future kindergartners and families are invited to check out the free, four-week, half-day kindergarten readiness



Xavier seniors Macy Abraham, Gosie Alilonu and Aubrey Clark present at Arizona State University's Luminosity Lab's first Illuminate competition (photo by Leon Tynes, Jr.).

program offered this summer, from May 30 to June 22. Geared toward children who are starting kindergarten in the fall, the program is available at 27 locations in the district and includes breakfast and lunch.

Participating children will learn kindergarten routines, practice kindergarten readiness skills, make friends and more. To participate, children must be registered in the district's

kindergarten program for the 2023–24 school year. Families can enroll at the WESD Welcome and Registration Center, located at 3200 W. Cholla Ave., or online at [www.wesdschools.org/registration](http://www.wesdschools.org/registration).

For questions and more information regarding the Jumpstart Kindergarten Readiness Program, call 602-347-2641 or email [wesdkinderjumpstart@wesdschools.org](mailto:wesdkinderjumpstart@wesdschools.org).

## PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS Computer science team wins

Arizona State University's Luminosity Lab hosted its first Illuminate competition for high school students this year. Xavier College Preparatory sent three teams to compete in the Innovation Challenge.

The challenge prompt focused on Zero Hunger. In the first round, the teams researched the problem, brainstormed a solution and then submitted a proposal. The proposal was reviewed by a panel of five judges, including ASU faculty, industry experts and ASU students. The teams then presented their pitch to the panel of judges. Grading criteria included innovation, feasibility and presentation.

Xavier's students focused on the important questions of: How can food be better distributed in your community? Who is in need of food who doesn't have it? In what ways can food waste be decreased?

Xavier seniors Macy Abraham, Gosie Alilonu and Aubrey Clark, the Hungry Hunters team, won first place in the competition. Junior Maryel Rivera Ramos, senior Xochitl Felix, senior Jaya Vijungco and junior Tatum Zerbib represented Power Against Hunger and earned a third-place win.

## Brophy hosts Invitational, takes first place

Brophy College Preparatory hosted the 12th Annual Devon Allen AMDG Invitational for track and field March 17. The event featured 31 teams and was sponsored by Brophy alum Devon Allen '13, who is the Arizona 110M HH state record holder and a USA Olympian.

The Brophy track and field team took first place, scoring 7,353 points to edge Hamilton High School and Sandra Day O'Connor High School. Brophy senior Brennen McHenry recorded a personal best of 24-4.5 to win the long jump, setting new school, facility and AMDG Invitational records with the mark.

The meet featured a unique scoring format with each school competing for points in 10 track and field events including the 100m, 110/100m hurdles, 400m, 800m, 1600m, long jump, high jump, pole vault, shot put and discus throw. Brophy scored more than 700 points in nine of the 10 events.



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**SCHOOL DAYS**

**Xavier president honored by Pope Francis**

Pope Francis has awarded Sister Joan Fitzgerald, BVM, president of Xavier College Preparatory, the *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* (“For Church and Pope”), one of the highest honors the pope can award to laity and religious leaders.

Fitzgerald was presented with the medal at an all-school mass celebrated by Bishop John P. Dolan of the Diocese of Phoenix, who petitioned the pope to grant the medal last year. Nearly 1,200 students, faculty and staff gave Fitzgerald a standing ovation.

The medal was given to Fitzgerald “in recognition for her faithful service to the Church in Catholic education, which she has carried out with distinction for more than 63 years, of which 60 years have been served in the Diocese of Phoenix,” said Dr. Maria Chavira, chancellor and vice moderator of the curia.



Xavier junior Jayne Jones holds the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice recognition, which was presented Sr. Joan Fitzgerald, BVM, the school’s president (photo by Lisa Zuba).

Generations Endowment Fund, which ensures financial aid availability for future generations, an important part of Brophy’s Jesuit mission.

**Charter school unveils new middle-school space**

Phoenix Modern, a charter school in Midtown Phoenix, will unveil its newly designed middle school learning studios and collaborative spaces this summer.

The school says that these fresh, modern spaces will allow learners more opportunities to direct their own learning, engage in hands-on, real-world projects, and build a strong, tight-knit community.

Enrollment in the school is free and open now on a first come, first serve basis for learners in kindergarten through eighth grade. The school is located at 200 E. Mitchell Dr. To learn more, call 480-779-3117 or visit [www.phoenixmodern.org](http://www.phoenixmodern.org).

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Melina Cabrera

Ciara Celaya

Yoalli Chavez Lopez

Pierce Combs

Alex Crook

Jacob DeFonce

Alexis DeGuzman



Leejen Denetsosie Gomez

Yareli Diaz Cancinos

Breanna Drauden

Vincent Failla

Thomas Fickera

Carmelo Frontera

Brooke Fulkerson

Joshua Garcia



Gabriela Gomez Juarez

Jaden Hamilton

Gavin Harris

Aaron Hedgpeth

Sophia Hernandez Jimenez

Angela Higuera-Mardueno

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Angelina Morales



Esai Morales



Lauren Munkel



Katya  
Nava Lemus



Kenya  
Nava Lemus



Lake Nelson



Steven Noble



Miguel Orozco



Connor Owens



Diana Pacheco



Carolyn Pasquinelli



Jovann Pena



Tyler Petrie



Allysa-Joy Pinley



Madison Price



Christopher Putney



Christian  
Rael-McComish



Kelly  
Ramos Sandoval



Amelia Reyes



Jeshelle Reyes



Hector Reynoso



Riley Rink



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Luis Rodriguez  
Sanchez



Charisma Rodriguez



Vincent Santa Cruz



Magdalena Sarabia



Braeden Scott



Nicholas Smithson



Emily Solano



Jamie Solis



Zane Steindler



Joy Tavilla



Liam Thompson



Morgan Thompson



Jareth Ulmer



Ishwari Upadhyaya



Adler Williams



Conlan Williams



Gennaro Williams



Manuel Wilson



Julia Win



**GENERATIONS**

**Senior Living  
Abrazo joins  
heart valve study**

More than two million patients live with moderate aortic stenosis in the U.S. And now, the first randomized clinical study evaluating the Evolut™ transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) platform in patients with moderate, symptomatic aortic stenosis will come to Phoenix.

Aortic stenosis occurs when the heart's aortic valve narrows due to calcium buildup. It is a progressive disease, meaning it gets worse over time, and can be debilitating, costly and deadly. Abrazo Arizona Heart Hospital is one of the select sites worldwide to participate in the EXPAND II Pivotal Trial. The Evolut TAVR platform currently is approved for the treatment of symptomatic severe aortic stenosis patients across all risk categories (extreme, high, intermediate, and low) in the U.S.

Abrazo says that TAVR is a mini-

mally invasive procedure to reopen the diseased aortic valve by inserting a prosthetic valve. The trial will enroll up to 650 patients globally to study the safety and efficacy of the procedure in patients with moderate, symptomatic aortic stenosis. The data from the study may be used to support future regulatory submissions to expand the current indications for the Evolut TAVR platform.

For more information on the study design, visit [www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov) (NCT05149755).

**New support group  
for LGBTQ caregivers**

A new virtual support group for members of the LGBTQ+ community who are taking on the role of family caregivers is now being offered by Duet: Partners In Health & Aging

Community members can expect a safe space to express themselves while finding emotional support, helpful resources, and tips for navigating the journey. The group will be led by

George Burson, a family caregiver who leads Duet's in-person LGBTQ+ group.

To register and receive the Zoom link for the virtual LGBTQ+ support group, contact George Burson, [burson@duetaz.org](mailto:burson@duetaz.org), or 602-274-5022, ext. 139. Learn more about services for family caregivers at [www.duetaz.org/family-caregivers](http://www.duetaz.org/family-caregivers).

**Campus offers new  
fitness program**

To assist older adults who need to up their activity level, the Dementia Care and Education Campus staff launched a new Fitness Friday program in April.

Each Friday, residents can participate in exercises led by the campus occupational therapist. Calli Carlson, OTR/L, CLT, works with clients of all ability levels. She focuses on movements that help improve mood and well-being, increase strength to reduce risk of falls, and enhance self-confidence through activity mastery. Caregivers,

family members and those living with dementia are all welcome to attend this fun and upbeat morning group.

Classes are held from 10–11 a.m. Fridays, excluding major holidays, at the Dementia Care and Education Campus, 3811 N. 44th St., Phoenix. For questions or to register, email [events@dementiacampus.org](mailto:events@dementiacampus.org) or call 602-767-8300. Walk-ins are welcome. Learn more at [www.dementiacampus.org](http://www.dementiacampus.org).

**New classes offered  
at Sunnyslope**

Older adults living in Phoenix are invited to join the Sunnyslope Senior Center for a handful of new classes and celebratory events this month.

New classes offered at the center include, Beginner Ballet, Mondays at 1 p.m.; Beginner Belly Dancing, Thursdays at 1 p.m.; Beginner Ukulele, Tuesdays 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.; and Beginner German, Tuesdays 9 to 10 a.m. Continuing classes are the ever-popular Geri fit program, offered



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GENERATIONS

Mondays at 10 a.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., as well as Spanish, French, Tai Chi and other classes.

Special celebrations coming in May include a Mothers Tea Party event, May 10. A Father’s Day Horse Race event will be held June 7, and field trips to art museums, lunch time at Herberger Theatre Center and lunchtime with friends will round out the months.

Sunnyslope Senior Center is located at 802 E. Vogel Ave., Phoenix. Contact the center at 602-262-7572. For more information on events or to find out what is happening at other area senior centers, visit [www.phoenix.gov/humanservices](http://www.phoenix.gov/humanservices) and click on the “Senior Services” link.

## Kids & Families

### City summer programs abound

Phoenix residents looking for summer programs for school-aged children may want to check out the all-day summer camps offered through the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department.



Registration for summer swim lessons will open May 4 at noon (photo courtesy of the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department).

Multiple locations in Phoenix will offer this fun, affordable and convenient summer program. The city also offers classes, sports leagues and clinics for the entire family — throughout the summer months and year-round.

In addition, families who are looking to cool off can take advantage of the city’s aquatics programs. Pools that are open for the entire season include Coronado, Cortez, Deer Valley, El

Prado, Encanto, Maryvale, Paradise Valley, Pecos, Roosevelt, Starlight, Sunnyslope and Washington pools. These pools will be open May 27–29, June 3–July 30 (closed Fridays). Other pools will be open selectively in June and July. Registration for swim lessons is scheduled for May 4 at noon.

To register for summer programs, visit [www.phoenix.gov/parks](http://www.phoenix.gov/parks) and look for the registration link, or visit

[www.phoenix.gov/parks/pools](http://www.phoenix.gov/parks/pools) to learn more about aquatics offerings.

### Impact offers summer camps

Impact Gymnastics Academy will offer a summer camp program for young residents ages 4 to 14. Camp attendees will rotate through gymnastics rotations, open gym, Ninja Zone, plus do crafts and enjoy meeting special guests.

Campers are asked to bring lunch, snacks and plenty of water, as well as wear gym appropriate clothing. The cost for a full day, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., is \$340 a week. Half-day pricing and before or after care are also available.

The first camp, Hawaiian luau, will be held May 30–June 2. The week-long camps, with a variety of fun themes, will run through Aug. 4.

The academy’s distinct programs include tumbling, recreational and competitive gymnastics, creative winter, spring and summer camps, birthday parties and customized programs directed at students with special needs, homeschool gymnastics programs, and

*please see CAMPS on page 40*



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GENERATIONS

**CAMPS continued from page 39**

sports agility curriculums.

Owned by Valley businesswomen and moms Maria Lawrence and Samantha Baltierrez, Impact's athletic philosophy is to provide the highest level of coaching and support to its athletes.

For more information, call 602-870-7574 or visit the website parent portal to register: [www.impactgymaz.com](http://www.impactgymaz.com).

**Museum offers summer activities**

The Children's Museum of Phoenix has a full summer of fun planned for area children who would like to experience a week or more of museum exploration, hands-on activities, games, and plenty of friend-making.

The summer camp program will offer a full 10 weeks of programs, May 29 to Aug. 4 (excluding weekend), that will explore five different themes: Dino Discovery, World of Magic and Fantasy, Weather Watchers, Summertime Sleuths and Superhero Adventures. The programs feature hands-on learning, games and activities designed to cultivate the



Children ages 5 to 8 will enjoy hand-on activities and friend-making opportunities during the Children's Museum of Phoenix summer camp program (submitted photo).

minds and muscles of children ages 5-8. Each unique camp week also includes plenty of free play within all three floors of the Museum's imaginative exhibits.

Children's Museum of Phoenix is located at 215 N. 7th St. For more information, call 602-253-0501 or visit [www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org](http://www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org).

**MADD reminds families to talk**

Mothers Against Drunk Driving® (MADD) launched the 12th Annual PowerTalk21® campaign at the beginning of April to remind parents that they

have the power to protect their teens from the risks and consequences of underage drinking and other drug use.

Timed to coincide with planning for prom and graduation activities, this year's theme, "Lifesaving Conversations Start With You!" highlights the critical role parents have in influencing their teens to not consume alcohol before age 21 and to never get into a car with a driver who is impaired.

A recent survey found that parents may be devaluing their role in preventing underage drinking. Of the teens surveyed, 3 in 5 credit a parent with being most important in their decision-making. Parents by contrast put themselves as second, after their teens' friends, as most impactful.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), underage drinking is responsible for more than 4,300 deaths each year and can lead to early addiction and many other dangerous outcomes.

Parents can download free Power of Parents handbooks for parents of middle and high school students at [www.madd.org/powerofparents](http://www.madd.org/powerofparents).

**Explore the arts this summer**

Phoenix Center for the Arts offers classes in art, music, theatre, writing and dance for young people ages 6 to 18. Teens who are interested in getting more involved in the local arts community can also join the Teen Artist Guild (also known as TAG) for a small semi-annual fee and attend unique "Meet the Artist" events, enter art in TAG art shows, and participate in TAG open studios and events.

This month, Youth Creative Movement, Yoga and Ballet classes will be offered May 6-27. Beginning in June, musically inclined students can join a Youth Piano or Youth Voice class and those interested in theater can check out Next Level Theater classes at both the Downtown and Thunderbird campuses.

Phoenix Center for the Arts is located at 1202 N. 3rd St., Phoenix. Call 602-254-3100 for information. You can find a list of classes currently open for registration, for both youth and adults, at [www.phoenixcenterforthearts.org](http://www.phoenixcenterforthearts.org).



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**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**



Members of the Ballet Theatre of Phoenix studio will present two performances at its Spring Recital (submitted photo).

**Performance celebrates spring**

Ballet Theatre of Phoenix shines the light on spring with a selection of choreography from beloved pieces of classical ballet and imaginative scenes. All members of the Ballet Theatre of Phoenix studio will perform two performances at its Spring Recital, May 28

The Spring Recital features the 2nd Act of “Giselle,” one of the most beloved scenes in ballet, famous for its floating white spirits (Willis) performing with elegant precision. The recital also will feature a piece entitled “La Mer” portrayed by the youngest members of Ballet Theatre of Phoenix, who will conjure images of an underwater world filled with creatures of the sea. Rounding out the performance is Lander’s charming “Etudes” as dancers appear in a classroom and evolve into ever more challenging movement to delight the audience.

Performances will be held May 28 at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. at Arcadia High School Theater, 4703 E. Indian School Road. Tickets are \$30 and are available at [www.ballettheatreofphx.org](http://www.ballettheatreofphx.org). For more information, call 602-957-3364.

**Boys Choir presents ‘Playlist’**

The Phoenix Boys Choir (PBC) will close out its season in May with a Pops concert Series, “PBC Playlist — 75 Years of Song.” Featuring PBC secular hits over the group’s history, the concerts pay homage to the legacies of former artistic directors Dr. Harvey K. Smith and Maestro Georg Stangelberger, as well as

reflecting the musical influences of current artistic director Herbert Washington, a PBC alumnus.

The performance will include an arrangement by Roger Emerson of Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah,” plus premiere arrangements of “Carry On Wayward Son” and “(Get Your Kicks on) Route 66.” Audience members will also hear timeless classics with a Broadway flare, and the world premiere performances of “The Journey,” by Michigan’s Jeffrey Cobb, and “The Spirit of Adventure,” by longtime Phoenix resident and composer Ryan Gunderson. These pieces were written specifically for PBC and its New Works Rising competition and were selected as the first and second prize winners from more than 90 entries.

“PBC Playlist” will present two performances. In Phoenix, catch it at Orpheum Theatre Phoenix Sunday, May 14, at 1 p.m. For Tickets and additional information, call 602-264-5328 or visit [www.boyschoir.org](http://www.boyschoir.org).

**Exhibit showcases Mexican art**

Phoenix Art Museum (PhxArt) announces the opening of “Mission and Legacy,” an exhibition that celebrates the enduring impact of Friends of Mexican Art (FOMA), a Valley-based non-profit organization dedicated to building appreciation for Mexican art and strengthening cultural ties between the Greater Phoenix Metro community and Mexico.

Over its nearly 60-year history, FOMA gifted works by 20th and 21st

*please see MEXICAN ART on page 42*

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### Location & Meeting

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

### Tour Boundaries

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

### Join Us!

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

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

**<https://northcentraltour.com/>**

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



"Desert Dancer" is an example of artwork by Southwest contemporary artist Julie Tarsha, whose work is currently on display in an Arizona-themed exhibit at Madison Center for the Arts (photo courtesy of the artist).

### MEXCAN ART continued from page 41

century Mexican artists José Clemente Orozco, Enrique Chagoya, Carlos Mérida, Rufino Tamayo, Francisco Zúñiga, Alfredo Ramos Martínez and others to the PhxArt collection. The works formed the foundation of the Museum's Latin American collection, which was formally established in 1992 and at the time represented only the second collection in the country dedicated to Latin American art.

Upon the achievement of its mission, FOMA sunset as an organization in 2022. "Mission and Legacy" honors FOMA's impact and presents many of these outstanding works to the public. The show is on view now through Dec. 31 in the James K. Ballinger Gallery at Phoenix Art Museum.

For additional information, visit [www.phxart.org](http://www.phxart.org), or call 602-257-1880.

### Arizona-themed art show continues

The Madison Center for the Arts' current exhibition, "Hidden Colors of the Arizona Desert" by Julie Tarsha, will be on display at The Gallery at The Madison through June 12.

A Southwest contemporary artist, Tarsha was raised in southern California but discovered her love for the desert in her grandparent's Tucson backyard. After retiring from nursing in 2014, she happily returned to her

love of art full-time and practices daily in her home studio. Her work can be seen in exhibitions across the Valley, as well as in corporate and private collections throughout the country.

The Gallery will be open Wednesdays through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by appointment and is free to the public. The Madison Center for the Arts is located at 5601 N. 16th St. For more information, visit [www.themadison.org](http://www.themadison.org).

### Exhibit explores the Holocaust

The Arizona Jewish Historical Society launched a new original exhibit depicting the stories of survivors in late 2022 at the Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center.

Through the exhibit, "Stories of Survival: Journey Through the Holocaust," residents can explore compelling stories of survival, immersive holographic and virtual reality technologies, historical objects, artifacts and artwork by Robert Sutz. The exhibit also includes the Anne Frank Virtual Reality Experience.

Cutler-Plotkin Jewish Heritage Center is located at 122 E. Culver St., Phoenix. Admission to the exhibit is \$5 for adults; it is open Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., through Dec. 30. For additional information, call 602-241-7870 or visit [www.azjhs.org](http://www.azjhs.org).

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

# On the Town

This month, explore homegrown theater, Mother's Day offerings, live local and national music acts, dance and theater, and new art exhibits, as well as roars, pours, dogs and butterflies (oh, my!). See you on the town in May!

## Acoustic Open Stage

Thursdays in May  
Fiddler's Dream Coffeehouse  
www.fiddlersdream.org; 602-997-9795



## Dog Days in the Garden

Saturdays in May  
Desert Botanical Garden  
www.dbg.org; 480-941-1225

## Phoenix College Big Band & Combos

May 3  
The Nash  
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

## Roars & Pours Happy Hour

May 4  
Phoenix Zoo  
www.phoenixzoo.org; 602-286-3800

## 'All Balanchine'

May 4-7  
Ballet Arizona at Symphony Hall  
www.balletaz.org; 602-381-1096



## Lurrie Bell w/ Jason Ricci

May 5  
The Rhythm Room  
www.rhythmroom.com; 602-612-4981

## First Friday Live: Hip Hop You Don't Stop

May 5  
Herberger Theater Center  
www.herbergertheater.org;  
602-252-8497

## Mariachi Sol De México de José Hernández

May 5  
Madison Center for the Arts  
www.themadison.org; 602-664-7777



## Save Ferris

May 5  
The Rebel Lounge  
www.therebellounge.com;  
602-296-7013

## The National Parks

May 6  
Crescent Ballroom  
www.crescentphx.com; 602-716-2222

## 'Música sin Fronteras'

May 7  
MusicaNova/Central Methodist Church  
www.musicanovaaz.org; 480-750-9466



## Pixies

May 8  
The Van Buren  
www.thevanburenphx.com;  
480-659-1641

## Delphine Cortez & Joel Robin

May 11  
The Nash  
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

## 'Private Lives'

May 11-28  
Arizona Theatre Company  
www.arizonatheatre.org; 602-256-6995

## Sundressed

May 12  
The Rebel Lounge  
www.therebellounge.com; 602-296-7013



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May 14, 2023  
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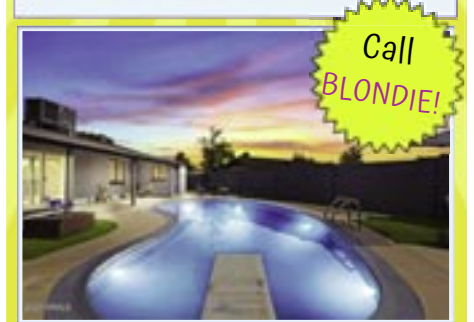
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

**Grand Finale**

May 12–13  
The Phoenix Symphony  
www.phoenixsymphony.org;  
602-495-1999

**Skating Polly**

May 13  
Valley Bar  
www.valleybarphx.com;  
602-716-2222

**'A Chorus Line'**

Thru May 14  
The Phoenix Theatre Company  
www.phoenixtheatre.com;  
602-254-2151



**Majestic Mariposas**

Thru May 14  
Desert Botanical Garden  
www.dbg.org; 480-941-1225

**Annie Moscow**

**'Land of Dreams'**  
CD release concert  
May 14  
The Nash  
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

**Mother's Day  
in the Garden**

May 14  
Desert Botanical Garden  
www.dbg.org; 480-941-1225

**'A Soldier's Play'**

May 16–21  
ASU Gammage  
www.asugammage.com;  
480-965-3434

**'The Rite of Spring'**

Ballet Arizona at Desert Botanical  
Garden  
May 16–June 3  
www.balletaz.org; 602-381-1096



**First Aid Kit w/  
Hurray for the Riff Raff**

May 17  
The Van Buren  
www.thevanburenphx.com;  
480-659-1641

**Golden Dawn Arkestra w/  
Phoenix Afrobeat Orchestra**

May 18  
Last Exit Live  
www.lastexitlive.com; 602.271.7000

**Hayley Kiyoko**

May 18  
The Van Buren  
www.thevanburenphx.com;  
480-659-1641

**Rick Berthod**

May 20  
The Rhythm Room  
www.rhythmroom.com;  
602-612-4981



**Jeff Libman Quintet**

May 20  
The Nash  
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

**'The Hula-Hoopin' Queen'**

Thru May 21  
Childsplay  
www.childsplayaz.org; 480-921-5700

**National Theatre Live:**

**'The Seagull'**

May 21  
Phoenix Art Museum  
www.phxart.org; 602-257-1880



**Danielle Ponder**

May 21  
Valley Bar  
www.valleybarphx.com; 602-716-2222

**'The Monster of  
Tempe Town Lake'**

May 24–28  
Ronin Theatre Company at Irish  
Cultural Center  
www.azirish.org/ronin-theatre



**Lizzo**

May 24  
Footprint Center  
www.footprintcenter.com; 602-379-2000

**Chico Chism  
Memorial Birthday Party**

May 26  
The Rhythm Room  
www.rhythmroom.com; 602-612-4981

**Hot Dogs & Jazz**

May 27  
The Nash  
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

**Phoenix Fan Fusion**

June 2-4  
Phoenix Convention Center  
www.phoenixfanfusion.com

**'Born to be Brave'**

June 3–4  
Phoenix Gay Men's Chorus  
www.phxgmc.org; 844-688-4272

All event dates are current at time of publication. Check with individual venues for up-to-date show information. Find events throughout the month at [www.northcentralnews.net/events](http://www.northcentralnews.net/events).

**For your local advertising needs, call  
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Session 1: June 19 - 23, 2023  
Session 2: June 26 - June 30, 2023  
8am-12pm | 8am-4pm  
(Community Camp/2nd-5th grade/boys & girls)

To learn more and to register, visit [www.boyschoir.org/summercamp](http://www.boyschoir.org/summercamp)



**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

# Café Chat

**Cuisine, culture, community blend at Someburros**

By Marjorie Rice

When Amy Vasquez sums up her family’s half-century of growth and success serving customers at their Poncho’s and Someburros restaurants, it all comes down to the Three Cs: Cuisine, Culture and Community.

Cuisine — classic Sonoran favorites — forms the foundation. The extended family has been serving up grandmother Isabel Vasquez’s recipes since 1972. (Don’t miss the pollo fundido.)

Culture — respect and care for familia, which includes the founding family, employees and customers, along with warm hospitality, permeates every aspect of the company, Vasquez said.

Community — a tradition of service to their internal community of employees as well as the extended communities they serve has long been a focus of her family business, she added.



Amy Vasquez, one of the family owners of Someburros, shows off a Rod Burro in the restaurant’s North Central location on 7th Street near Missouri (photo by Darryl Webb, special for North Central News).

It began in 1972, when Poncho’s opened for business in the family home on Central Avenue and Baseline Road.

“My Nana Isabel and great-aunt Collin were fantastic cooks,” Vasquez said. “Their family is from Magdalena, Sonora, and their recipes are very

authentic Sonoran-style. Every day, Nana Isabel would make tacos and red and green chile beef and a little pot of beans, and my dad and my uncle would have friends over.

“It was her dream to open a restaurant.” Vasquez’s father, George, was a base-

ball player signed to play in the minor leagues for the Brewers and the Astros.

“He used a portion of his signing bonus to help his mom and dad (Isabel and her husband Eusevio “Poncho” Vasquez) open up Poncho’s Mexican Food,” Vasquez said.

George’s brother Ralph Vasquez also was part of the founding group.

The word spread, and the lines got longer every day. Pretty soon the family moved out of the house and turned the whole place into a take-out and dine-in restaurant.

The original restaurant still serves a faithful clientele that has included then-President Bill Clinton. (He famously wolfed down an entire appetizer platter one notable day.)

Fast-forward to 1986, when Vasquez, her brother Tim and sister Jennilyn were in school, active in Little League, Pop Warner, cheer and Girl Scouts. Like many other families, they spent a lot of time on the road, with

*please see FAMILY on page 46*

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**FAMILY continued from page 45**

stops for fast food meals.

“My mom and dad said why not open a place where we could sell quality Mexican food but quickly,” she said. They created Someburros on Mill Avenue and Baseline in Tempe.

“Our concept was fast casual,” Vasquez added. “A meal on the go, with fresh ingredients and good recipes.”

The name is a play on a blend of sombreros and burros — the food and the animal. A cartoon burro, “Nacho,” is the mascot.

To draw in customers, Amy, Tim and Jennilyn stood on the corner of Mill and Baseline — Tim dressed up like a burro, and the girls in sombreros, ponchos and embroidered tops and skirts – waving to customers.

“It was fun, but it could get a little toasty out there sometimes,” she recalled.

Today there are 13 Someburros locations, including the original, and they’re set to open three more this year, including one in Peoria. Customers can order quick pick-up or choose to dine in.

“It didn’t happen quickly,” Vasquez said. “It was about 16 years after that first location until we opened the second Someburros, in Gilbert.”

The young siblings worked part-time in the restaurant, and after graduating from college, began full-time work in earnest.

“We started working in the kitchen from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day,” Vasquez said. “We had to learn every aspect of the business, while really being connected with the employees and gaining their respect. I’m so grateful that we were given that opportunity.”

“Our employees are like family to us,” she added. “There’s a mutual respect, and that’s why we’ve been able to hold on to people for as long as we have.”

Today, the company has close to 500 employees. Tim serves as president. Jennilyn has stepped back from active management to focus on her young family.

“For 17 years, I’ve worked in every position, including general manager and catering,” Vasquez said. “I went to Poncho’s to do their remodel (when the dining room was closed during COVID)

and helping them with their operations.”

Now she focuses on those other “Cs” — customer experience, company culture and community relations.

“Those are the parts that are the most near and dear to my heart,” she said.

“I’m really proud of the life and environment our company has provided for our employees. One of our employees started with us in 1986. Her two kids have been managers. Many of our employees have kids who work here as well.”

Another thing that makes Vasquez proud is community service.

“That is something my parents instilled in us at an early age,” she said. “It’s being involved, not just in terms of finances, but being a contributor by supporting organizations and schools, being a good neighbor, being good to people around you.”

“My whole family is grateful that we’ve had the opportunity and ability to give back to the community and be a place where people can go do and make these memories with their families.”

“I’m so happy we could provide that over the last 50 years.”

Someburros has 13 Valley locations, including the North Central Phoenix restaurant, 5115 N. 7th St. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. For more information, including catering services, call 602-584-8226 or visit [www.someburros.com](http://www.someburros.com).

**Dining Briefs**  
**Iconic Italian restaurant closes after 46 years**

It is the end of an era for the Maggiore family, as the iconic Tomaso’s prepares to close — but not without a chance for friends and patrons to say a final farewell.

Tomaso’s Italian Restaurant, founded by restaurateur Tomaso Maggiore, has been an institution since 1977. Chef Maggiore opened his first Arizona restaurant with wife Patricia to bring expertly crafted and artfully presented traditional Italian cuisine in a fine dining experience to Phoenix’s Camelback Corridor.

Maggiore had a remarkable culinary career and life. He founded more than 35 Valley restaurants throughout the decades, including Tomaso’s, Tommy V’s, Tomaso’s Italian Kitchen and more. His successors, including his son Joey Maggiore and daughter-in-law Cristina Maggiore (concept creators and husband-and-wife duo behind Hash Kitchen, The Sicilian Butcher, The Sicilian Baker and The Mexicano), and daughter Melissa Maggiore-Meyer (owner of The Italian Daughter) are committed to carry on his legacy.

To thank longtime friends, patrons, and supporters of the restaurant, the family invites the community to visit during its last season. Patrons can enjoy a special Mother’s Day menu, May 12–14 (11 a.m. to 9 p.m.), and go back in time during “Tomaso’s Throwback Week,” May 15–20, when the restaurant will bring back the original menu items and prices from 1977. Throwback menu items will include \$7.95 Baked Stuffed Clams, \$14.95 Chicken Parmigiana, \$11.95 Linguini with clam sauce and \$12.75 Lasagna.

While May 20 will be the final day of service at Tomaso’s, fans will soon be able to experience a new restaurant concept dedicated to the restaurateur’s legacy. The Maggiore Group will debut Il Massetos, which means “Tomaso” in the Sicilian language, in 2024.

The new concept will be located on the northwest corner of Camelback

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Road and 32nd Street in the former Bank of America space. The bank vault will be transformed into a piano bar and the restaurant will include two large outdoor dining patios and private dining rooms. The menu will feature restaurant favorites from Tomaso's plus a Chef Joey Maggiore spin on his father's classic Italian dishes.

Tomaso's is located at 3225 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix. For more information, visit [www.tomasos.com](http://www.tomasos.com).

**Enjoy 10 days of dining discovery**

It is that time of year again — when restaurants around the state depart from their regular menu offerings and invite diners to explore new flavors as chefs showcase their innovative talents.

The Arizona Restaurant Association's Spring Arizona Restaurant Week (ARW) is a 10-day period of culinary discovery during which diners can explore the cuisine of a multitude of restaurants. The 2023 event runs Friday, May 19, through Sunday, May 28, at participating restaurants around Arizona.

"For more than 15 years, we have



Valley restaurants participating in this year's Spring Restaurant Week include The Gladly, where the menu includes Faroe Islands Salmon with mashed potatoes and Brussels sprouts (photo courtesy of Arizona Restaurant Association).

been bringing Arizona Restaurant Week to culinary enthusiasts around the state. With each event, it becomes more and more evident that the dining community is truly supportive of our industry," said Arizona Restaurant Association president and CEO Steve Chucru in a

released statement. "Arizona Restaurant Week serves as an opportunity for diners to explore new restaurants and discover the expansive culinary range of chefs at their favorite haunts. We encourage diners to explore something new and maybe discover a new favorite."

During Arizona Restaurant Week, participating restaurants offer specific ARW menus that serve as a departure from their usual menus. Through this unique opportunity, guests can enjoy a three-course, prix-fixe menu for \$33, \$44 or \$55 per person. These menus often highlight limited-availability or hyper-seasonal ingredients that guests might not see on the participating restaurants' regular menus.

More than 130 restaurants around the state participate in Arizona Restaurant Week, giving diners a multitude of choices when it comes to cuisine, price point and range of experience — from "mom and pop" hidden gems to exclusive five-star establishments. A few of the North Central area restaurants that have already signed up to participate in the 2023 Spring Arizona Restaurant Week are Mora Italian, The Gladly, The Market by Jennifer's and University Club of Phoenix. A dozen or so others around the Valley also announced their participation earlier this year.

A complete list of participating *please see DISCOVERY on page 48*



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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**DISCOVERY continued from page 47**

restaurants and their ARW menus will be posted online May 1 at [www.arizonarestaurantweek.com](http://www.arizonarestaurantweek.com). As new participants join, the list will be updated, and diners are encouraged to check back often to get the most up-to-date information.

### Doughbird to open second Phoenix location

Sam Fox is ready to roll out a second Phoenix location of Doughbird in fall 2023, but this time with an expanded menu and an even bigger and better bar program.

After the first Doughbird launched in Arcadia in 2016, a second opened in Nashville and a third is set to open in Tucson in May. The newest location will be moving into The Colony on 7th Street, right next door to its sister restaurant, Culinary Dropout.

“To be able to bring Doughbird to the Valley again, seven years after the original debuted, is so special to the entire team and me,” said Fox, founder of Fox Restaurant Concepts. “We’re excited to continue growing our Arizona footprint and bring more amazing pizza, chicken, and great drinks to the neighborhood.”

Doughbird’s menu is dedicated to fun and ever-changing flavor combinations with Detroit-style and specialty hand-stretched pizzas and all kinds of mouth-watering chicken. Everything on the menu can be accompanied by an extensive list of house-made sauces.

The restaurant says that the centerpiece bar will be ideal for catching a game or grabbing a refreshing happy hour drink. The beverage menu will feature inventive yet approachable craft cocktails that’ll leave you wanting to sip on the patio all day long.

The new North Central Phoenix location will be open for dine-in, take-out, and curbside pick-up seven days a week.

Learn more at [www.eatdoughbird.com](http://www.eatdoughbird.com)

### Hula’s launches new tropical tipples

Just in time for patio season, Hula’s Modern Tiki is serving up all-new tropical delights for both brunch and dessert at all three Valley locations.

Every Saturday and Sunday morning, HULA’S weekend brunch will now boast a fresh new selection of tropical



The new North Central Doughbird will offer hand-stretched pizza, mouth-watering chicken and more (submitted photo).

tipples, such as the sparkling Polynesia 75 (gin, sparkling wine, passionfruit, lemon juice, tiki bitters) or a citrusy Breakfast Mai Tai made with banana and a dusting of cinnamon, a fun twist on its signature Mai Tai.

In addition, served daily for lunch and dinner (except during weekend brunch), diners can cap off their meal with a decadent dessert martini, featuring classic tropical treats such as Coconut Cream and Key Lime Pie, and Chocolate Brownie.

In North Central, visit Hula’s Uptown Phoenix at 5114 N. 7th St.

For more information, call 602-265-8454 or visit [www.hulamodern.tiki.com](http://www.hulamodern.tiki.com).

### Raise a glass at Wrigley

Tickets are on sale now for four days of wine, food, education and fun on the beautiful grounds of Wrigley Mansion.

During its Festivin event, May 18–21, Wrigley Mansion will offer exclusive dinners, classes, demonstrations, a Grand Tasting, and a Sparkling Sunday brunch, with a portion of the proceeds benefitting Almost There: A Mom and Pup Rescue ([www.almostthererescue.org](http://www.almostthererescue.org)).

Kicking off the series on May 18, events will include the LOUIS XIII Dinner, 6 p.m., at Christopher’s at Wrigley Mansion, the Dom Perignon Dinner, 5:30-9 p.m., at Geordie’s Chefs Table, and the Grace Under Pressure Dinner, 6-9 p.m. on Geordie’s Verandas.

Other events include the Throwback Dinner 1940s-1990s, May

19, 5:30-9 p.m. at Geordie’s; Blind Tasting Master Class, May 20, 11:30 a.m. to noon, in the Living Room; the Grand Wine Tasting, May 20, 5–8 p.m., in the Garden Room and Terrace; and the Very Sparkly Sunday Brunch, May 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Garden Room and Terrace.

For additional information and tickets, visit [www.wrigleymansion.com/wine-festival](http://www.wrigleymansion.com/wine-festival).

### Cool down at this sweet spot

Persepshen serves up its local, organic food, with everything made in house and from scratch, on a regular basis. But as the temperatures heat up, residents looking for a sweet cool down may want to stop by for some hand-spun gelato.

Diners can check their online menu of flavors, which rotate with the season. Currently, such delights as Caramel Bourbon, Caramel Brownie and Strawberry Butter Cookie (\$12/pint) are on the menu.

Persepshen is located at 4700 N Central Ave., Phoenix. For more information, visit [www.persepshenarizona.com](http://www.persepshenarizona.com).

### Pizza place offers seasonal deal

Local family-owned franchise Streets of New York is celebrating the 2023 MLB season with a special deal. Throughout the season, any time the Arizona Diamondbacks play, guests can receive \$5 off their order with promo code DBACKSPEC. A minimum \$25 purchase is required.

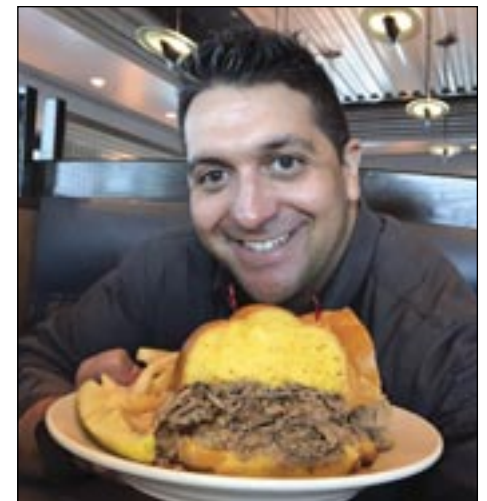
The restaurant, which opened in 1976, has 16 locations across Arizona, serving everything from baked chicken wings and other appetizers, toasted sub sandwiches and pasta to create-your-own and its signature New York-style pizzas. They even offer gluten-free options and pizza by the slice.

In North Central, visit the restaurant at 214 E. Camelback Rd., or 5031 N. 44th St. For additional information, visit [www.streetsofnewyork.com](http://www.streetsofnewyork.com).

### Valley restaurant celebrates ‘74’

For more than seven decades the family-friendly Miracle Mile Deli has been owned and operated by the Grodzinsky/Garcia family.

The restaurant was founded by Brooklyn, New York, native, Jack Grodzinsky in 1949. Owned and operated by Jill and George Garcia, Grodzinsky’s daughter and son-in-law, the deli is currently managed by Josh Garcia, Grodzinsky’s grandson.



Miracle Mile Deli’s manager, Josh Garcia, shows off one of the restaurant’s signature sandwiches (submitted photo).

Customers have become accustomed to Miracle Mile’s signature New York-style favorite sandwiches such as “The Straw,” “The New Yorker” and “The Triple Decker.” The restaurant also offers a massive menu of salads, comfort food, burgers and beer on tap.

On Wednesday, May 10, the restaurant will celebrate 74 years in business with a \$19.49 special. Patrons can enjoy a pastrami, brisket or corned beef sandwich with a draft beer or slice of pie for \$19.49. The restaurant will also give away a \$100 gift card every hour from noon to 7 p.m.

Miracle Mile Deli is located at 4433 N. 16th St. For additional information, visit [www.miraclemiledeli.com](http://www.miraclemiledeli.com).



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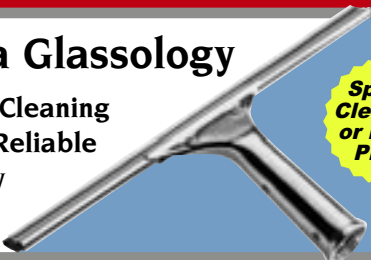
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Equal Housing Opportunity. All loans subject to underwriting approval. Certain restrictions apply. Call for details. All borrowers must meet minimum credit score, loan-to-value, debt-to-income, and other requirements to qualify for any mortgage program. CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC NMLS3029 ([www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org](http://www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org)).