

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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City of Phoenix unveils new transit center

By Kathryn M. Miller

On Friday, Nov. 17, the current Phoenix mayor and city council members were joined by three former mayors, a handful of former council members and other city leaders to honor a former District 1 city councilwoman and mayor, the late Thelda Williams. The event was held at a new transit center named in her honor and located at the former Metrocenter Mall. The city and Valley Metro announced the intention to name the center in honor of Williams in May 2023.

Williams, who passed away Tuesday, Nov. 14, was a passionate transportation advocate and public servant. She served on the Phoenix City Council for more than three decades, from 1989-96 and 2008-21, and is the only person to have been named interim mayor three different times. She also served as vice mayor, chair of the City Council Transportation Infrastructure and Planning subcommittee, and chair of the Valley Metro Rail board.

In a released statement, the city of Phoenix said, "One of her greatest initiatives was to ensure residents across the Valley have access to safe, affordable, and reliable transportation options. The transit center is a tribute to her and her tireless work for public transportation and a better quality of life for all Phoenix residents."

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If a growing group of residents have their way, the reverse lanes on 7th Avenue (pictured) and 7th Street will end permanently. The reverse lanes run on 7th Avenue from Northern Avenue to McDowell Road and on 7th Street from Dunlap Avenue to McDowell Road (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

Reverse lanes: Should they stay or go?

By Kathryn M. Miller

A petition is making the rounds through North Central's neighborhoods with a singular goal: get rid of the rush hour reverse lanes on 7th Avenue and 7th Street, also known as the 7s. But not all residents are on board and the city of Phoenix may need some convincing.

The reverse lanes (called "suicide lanes" by many residents) run on 7th Avenue from Northern Avenue to McDowell Road (about 6 miles) and on 7th Street

from Dunlap Avenue to McDowell Road (about 7 miles).

The traffic issues impacting the drivers and pedestrians on the 7s are not new — from forcing risky left turns in a lane of traffic and conflicts at intersections when drivers try to make left turns at the wrong time of day to wrong-way encounters and drivers who simply use the center lane to exceed the speed limit to get around traffic during rush hour — nor are collisions.

How it started

"The reverse lanes have been in place on 7th Avenue and 7th Street since 1979 and 1982, respectively," Gregg Bach, a spokesperson for the Street Transportation Department (Streets), said in an emailed statement. "They were created to address traffic concerns as Phoenix was growing its downtown core. In 1979, the Mayor and City Council challenged staff to come up with transportation system management solutions to the growing traffic congestion problems caused largely by the lack of a regional freeway system. Reverse lanes were proposed as a cost effective solution to address the traffic issues, especially since widening 7th Street and 7th Avenue was not practical."

A lot has changed in the Valley since that time, including the opening of SR51, which moves traffic

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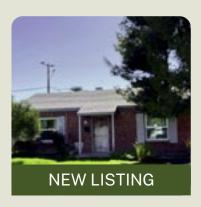
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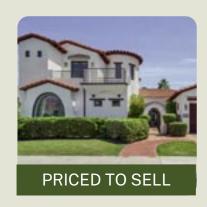
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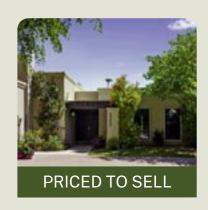
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From the Editor

Hello, North Central Neighbors! December has arrived and with it the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, and given the addition of our newest residents and winter visitors, it

is getting hectic out on the roads.

With traffic in mind, our cover stories focus on two aspects of transportation. There is a new petition



circulating to retire the reverse lanes on 7th Avenue and 7th Street (the 7s), and it seems to be gaining traction. Also on the cover, we paid a visit to the new transit center at the former Metrocenter Mall as the city dedicated it in honor of the late Thelda Williams.

It is the season for festive celebration and you will find plenty of ways to get out with family and friends, join your neighbors and shop local in our Community section.

For this month's Café Chat, Marjorie Rice dropped by Dos Chris' Bakery & Charcuterie Co. at 16th Street and Bethany to chat with the two Chris' and share a little sparkle.

As always, you can catch up on other community, business, dining and school news, and explore our round-up of things to do in the Valley this month and beyond. And please continue to reach out with comments and suggestions.

Finally, as we close out 2023, we want to thank you for your continued support and readership. We hope that you enjoy our December issue, and wish you all a safe and joyous holiday season and fabulous New Year.

Until next year, all our best!

Kathryn M. Miller

Editor, *North Central News*kathryn@northcentralnews.net

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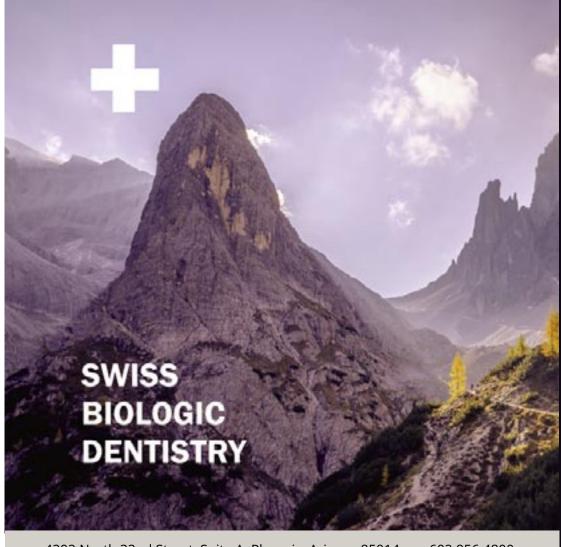
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Holiday help available for families in need

By Kathryn M. Miller

While the swirl of holiday activity can be exciting for many families, for others it is a time of anxiety — wondering where their next meal may come from or how they will stay warm this winter, and gifts for families may seem out of reach. That is where NourishPHX steps up.

The nonprofit serves vulnerable individuals and families throughout the Valley by offering resources to satisfy immediate needs and to provide pathways to self-sufficiency. And the need has never been greater, says Beth Fiorenza, executive director.

"We have been serving record numbers due to inflation, on any weekday, we are serving 180-220 families," said Fiorenza.

"With the costs of everything increasing (food, clothing and housing), we are seeing many new clients who have not had to visit before. Through Sept. (Oct. 1, 2022- to Sept. 30, 2023) more than 55 percent of those visiting us have been brand new



Valley families will benefit from donations to the NourishPHX Holiday Toy Shoppe, which will be collected through Dec. 15 (submitted photo).

clients. In the past year, we have had a 40 percent increase in visits compared to last year."

While the organization collects toys and clothing for families in need all year long, they are currently looking for donations for their NourishPHX Holiday Toy Shoppe, which continues through Dec. 15. They will host a holiday party with all of their families to come and pick up the gifts. Santa will stop at their office on this day to grant wishes from all the children. They also provide hot chocolate, cookies and apple cider to celebrate the season.

Residents who would like to help out their community are encouraged to volunteer at NourishPHX, or to donate to the holiday drive.

"We always need volunteers and donations! Anyone can register on our website to volunteer," said Fiorenza, "and we are promoting the Season of Kindness right now and asking people to donate warm weather clothing – all types and sizes."

Holiday food items are also being collected to help Valley families and can be dropped off between 7:30 a.m. and noon, Monday through Friday. Requested items include canned gravy, stuffing, mac and cheese, canned fruit and vegetables, cranberry sauce, canned yams, bread mixes, soups with protein, beans and rice, dessert mixes and more. Seasonal clothing is also needed, with children's and adult men's sizes in greatest need, as well as warm blankets, pillows and other bedding.

NourishPHX is located at 501 S. 9th Avenue in downtown Phoenix. For additional information, call 602-254-7450 or visit www.nourishphx.org.



north central news

The voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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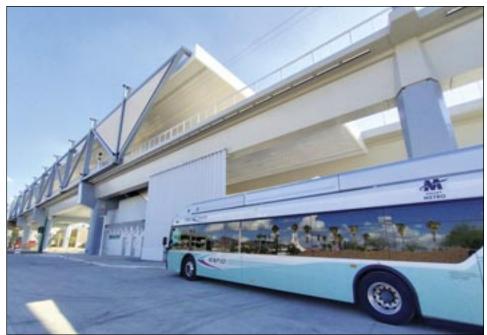
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COMMUNITY



The new Thelda Williams Transit Center will connect residents to both light rail and bus service when it opens in 2024, (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

TRANSIT continued from page 1

The Thelda Williams Transit Center is part of the Northwest Light Rail Extension Phase II (NWEII) project, which runs 1.6 miles, from the light rail station at Dunlap and 19th avenues to Metrocenter's elevated station, just northwest of Dunlap and the I-17.

The elevated station is the first of its kind in the Valley and made more remarkable by the addition of multiple pieces of public art that are incorporated into the center and reflective of the area's history.

The center will be a major transit hub, where residents can connect with both light rail and bus service. It is also adjacent to a new mixed-use development, spearheaded by Concord Wilshire, that will include more than 2,600 multifamily units, 150,000 square feet of commercial with essential and service retail and 4,100 surface and garage-deck parking spaces.

Light rail testing is anticipated to begin in early 2024 along the Phase II stretch of the Valley Metro line. Learn more at www.valleymetro.org/project/northwest-extension-phase-ii.

REVERSE continued from page 1

south from the northeast part of Phoenix. The original leg opened July 31, 1990, and the last segment, connecting the freeway north to Loop 101 opened to traffic May 31, 2003.

Another change: Valley Metro Light Rail. The initial 20-mile rail line opened Dec. 27, 2008. Two extensions began service by spring 2016 — in particular, the Northwest Extension Phase I, which extended light rail north along 19th Avenue to Dunlap Avenue. Phase II of that extension is slated to open in 2024 and will add 1.6 miles from the light rail station at Dunlap and 19th avenues to Metrocenter's new elevated transit station northwest of Dunlap and the I-17.

Also in the works in Phoenix is the 35th Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Corridor, which will connect to the Metrocenter transit station, run south down 35th Avenue, then east to the Downtown Central Station.

All three of these transportation improvements serve the purpose of moving residents north and south and connecting to downtown Phoenix and points beyond. Given that, the time would seem ripe to retire the reverse lanes on the 7s. Not so fast, says Streets.

In December 2021, the Phoenix Street Transportation Department finalized a planning and traffic operations study of the reverse traffic lanes on 7th Avenue and 7th Street, and made some recommendations.

Bach's statement continued, "The study concluded that eliminating the reversible lanes, partially or completely, will create operational delays, increase travel times by more than 40 percent in some segments, and worsen levels of service at signalized intersections that can increase the potential for crashes associated with traffic congestion.

"The study recommends retaining the reversible lanes and to consider improvement strategies such as removal

please see REVERSE on page 8



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LET'S CONNECT IN 2024

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Inventory still remains low, and contrary to popular belief, it really doesn't favor a buyer or a seller. Instead, more importantly - it is the listing price. As a home sits for longer periods of time, it can work against your home's value or the perception of its value. We are seeing homes stay on the market anywhere from 60-75 days. Luxury homes, however, have maintained a strong demand in North Central, with one caveat – in order to receive top-asking-price, homes need to be remodeled and/or in semimint condition. Compared to other communities in Maricopa County and in our state, North Central Phoenix still remains one of the hottest markets for new and resale homes.

The draw continues to be the education opportunities in the North Central area. This includes middle and high schools and the universities. And, as noted in the past, new home construction, plus the proximity to Valley hospitals for medical professionals, our ever-dynamic mid-town and downtown areas, and, of course, the unique and upscale shopping and locally-owned

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agents in Arizona and 28,000 COMPASS agents nationwide, offering creative services to secure our buyers' and sellers' needs, such as private listings and premarketing tools, just to name a couple of benefits. We also want to thank the amazing sponsors who stepped up to assist with our gala and make us better at what we do: WFG National Title Insurance Company® (Eric Arlt, Jason Privette, Crystle Mulzet, Holly Wilson, Morgan Wallin), VIP Mortgage Inc (Eric Kilstrom), Total Inspections (Jacob Babin), SUPER Home Warranty (Marissa Guy, Shelby Mallory), and Get Your Move On, LLC -Delicate Moving & Storage (Wendy Cracchiolo).

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Bobby Lieb

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REVERSE continued from page 6

and replacement of static signs, intersection improvements, dynamic lane control and corridor restriping."

We asked if, given the changes in transportation and even the changes in workplace dynamics since the pandemic, whether the city would consider a new study.

"The department is not considering doing a new study," Bach responded, "but is considering how the recommendations made in the study that was finalized two years ago can be integrated into the city's ongoing capital improvement plan." A timeline for when any changes would be made has not been identified.

How it's going

The petition, which hit Change.org Nov. 1 with a goal of 1,500 signatures, was addressed to Phoenix decision makers, specifically the Phoenix mayor, eight City Council members, Phoenix City Manager and the interim Streets director (a new director, Joe Brown, came on board Nov. 20 after the October retirement from the city of Kini Knudson).

The crux of the petition is that the lanes are too dangerous, hurt connectivity and have negatively impacted neighborhoods and businesses, reading in part, "Killing the reverse rush hour lanes will help businesses along 7th Street and 7th Avenue (many of which are very hard, if not impossible to access during key portions of the day) will make it a more enjoyable experience to drive, walk, and bike on the 7's, and will make our communities safer. We ask that you immediately end the rush hour reverse lanes for these reasons, and keep the middle lane as a turn lane only throughout all times of the day."

The petition was closing in on 2,200 signatures by mid-November, but not everyone is convinced that getting rid of the lanes is prudent, and point to 2021 study's findings.

"As much as some people don't like the reverse lanes, they really do move large volumes of traffic," said Mary Crozier, president of the North Central Phoenix Homeowners Association. But that doesn't mean the lanes are perfect, and Crozier agrees that they can be dangerous. She added, "We could do just a few things and make these reverse lanes safer, better equipped for businesses and for drivers and pedestrians, and it wouldn't take an awful lot. I don't know why the city has dragged their feet on that, but something as simple as putting a digital sign with a big red 'x' and a big green check — that's a universal language for all drivers that says drive in this lane and not that lane."

One concern that Crozier and others have expressed is that eliminating the reverse lanes will create more congestion — something that the 2021 study suggests — which may move traffic off of the 7s and into neighborhoods, which has its own dangers.

"The study is flawed," says Ed Hermes, who helped write the petition and is the president of the Carnation Association of Neighbors, which is bounded by 7th Avenue's Melrose District. "It doesn't look at the impact on communities, it didn't look at the impact on businesses. So, the study was

just flawed from the get-go.

"It looked at getting people through our community and not really being in our community and enjoying our community," Hermes added. "That was the mindset of the council when they passed it. They didn't care about our communities. They just wanted to get people through them. And we're not just a place to rush through. Here in Midtown and Uptown Phoenix, we're a destination. But we really can't see our potential fulfilled, especially in the Melrose District, until we get rid of these reverse lanes."

Hermes adds, "It's a really cool area with small businesses. We don't have chain restaurants and things like that in the Melrose area. These are genuinely small businesses and to a person, these business owners we talked to say that the reverse lanes are hurting their business. You only hear those stories enough before you say, 'We need to do something about it'."

The next steps for the group behind the petition are to continue to build community support. They are garnering resolutions that support the petition from other area neighborhood associations in and around the 7s, and continuing to get businesses to join the movement. They are also considering raising funds for their own study that will look deeper into how the reverse lanes impact the surrounding community. From there, they hope to present their case to the City Council.

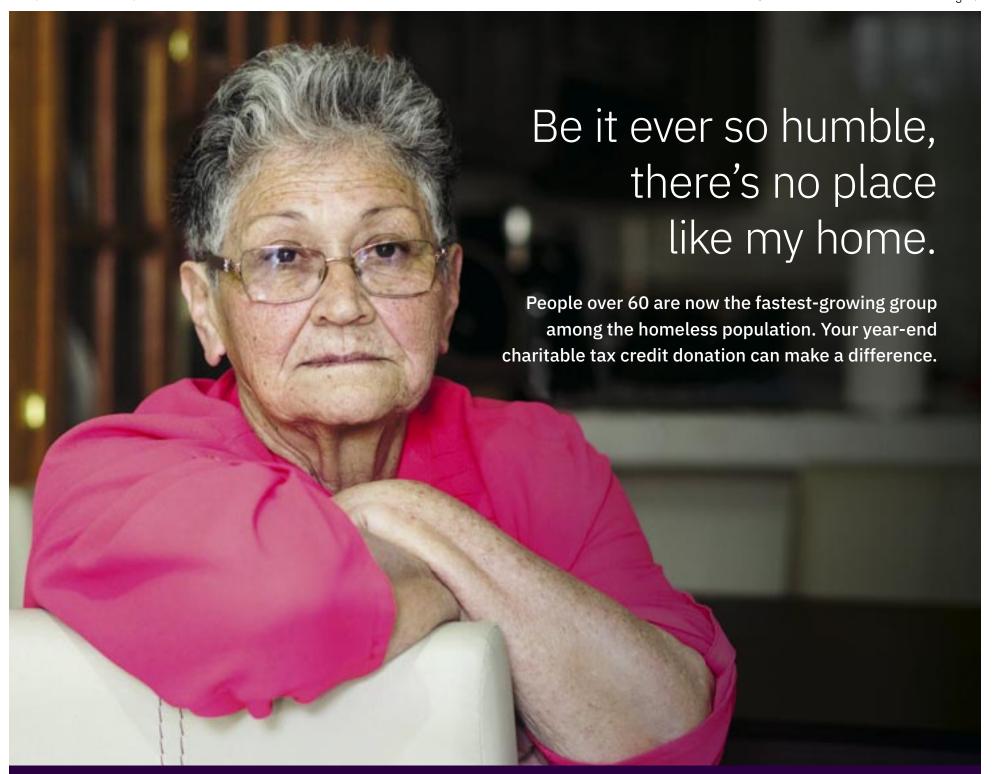
About that 2021 study

Beyond the criticism that the study focuses too much on travel time rather than other negative impacts on neighborhoods and businesses is the fact that three of the five cities cited in the study have since retired or are reviewing their own reverse lanes, citing hazardous conditions for drivers and pedestrians, as well as the desire for more walkable, bikeable and accessible areas. Those cities are Washington D.C., Charlotte, NC and Louisville, KY.

In D.C., the Connecticut Avenue Multimodal Safety Improvement Project, initiated in Dec. 2019, concluded with three goals in place: Reduce fatalities and serious injuries across all modes; Consider a Protected Bicycle Facility/Additional Mobility Options for the corridor; and Assess the feasibility of removing reversible lane operations along Connecticut

please see REVERSE on page 10





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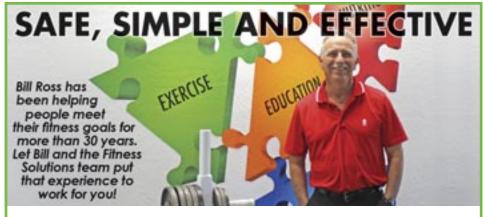
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There is hope yet ...

By Bill Ross

Did you know that less than half the people who start a fitness journey ever reach their goals? It's probably more like a 10-percent success rate. It's funny how no one ever talks about that.

Have you spent 3 or more hours a week exercising and dieting only to get minimum or temporary results? How many different fad diets have you tried only to find yourself on a yo-yo roller coaster? You probably thought that there was something wrong with you. So, somewhere along the line, you were told that you had a slow metabolism. Next thing you know you're shopping for the next great metabolism booster. Most people don't understand how the body works and what metabolism really means, so they become easy prey for the supplement vendors - promising instant results.

So, if you're one of those people who have tried and failed and gotten frustrated and thought exercise doesn't work for you, or you think it's because you have a slow metabolism and poor genetics ... trust me, there's still hope for you.

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COMMUNITY

City announces conservation incentive

The Phoenix Water Services Department is introducing new financial incentives for residents in order to promote sustainable water use and conservation. These incentives are aimed at encouraging the adoption of high-efficiency appliances and fixtures, saving water, and reducing household expenses.

Residents can begin the application process by visiting the Water Conservation Incentives webpage.

Key highlights include a \$75 rebate for the purchase and installation of a new EPA WaterSense-labeled toilet of 1.28 Gallons Per Flush (GPF) or less and a \$75 incentive for the purchase and installation of an EPA WaterSense-labeled smart irrigation controller. The department says that both these devices can lead to an estimated saving of approximately 10,000 gallons of water per year for each household.

The program is open to single-family residential households or renters who are city of Phoenix water utility customers. Renters must include a letter of approval from their landlord. Interested participants can apply for the incentives in the "Submit Documents - City Services Bill" section of myPHX311. Visit www.phoenix.gov and click on the "myPHX311" link at top.) Detailed instructions and requirements for each incentive are available on the platform, ensuring a smooth application process.

The city emphasizes that these incentives are not just about saving water; they are about ensuring the city's future sustainability, "With the challenges posed by population growth and changing climate patterns, every gallon saved contributes to the city's resilience," the department said in a released statement.

For information, visit www.phoenix.gov/waterservices/water-conservation-incentives.

Arizona offers tax rebate

In late October, the State of Arizona announced the deployment of the Arizona Families Tax Rebate, which Governor Katie Hobbs says will put money back in the pockets of nearly 750,000 Arizona families.

Through the rebate program, eligible families will have an opportunity to receive up to \$750 in tax rebates. The state also launched a website where

Arizonans can check their rebate status. For information and to find out if you qualify, visit https://familyrebate.aztaxes.gov.

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Avenue NW. The reversible lane operations were subsequently discontinued in summer 2022 and the speed limit was also reduced.

In Charlotte, a mile-long portion of reversible lane system on their 7th Street was under review in October 2022. A 90-day study was conducted and the reverse lanes were closed to study the impact with a goal of finding a solution to traffic troubles in the area. The reverse lanes on Tyvola Road, which according to the Phoenix study were designed to bring traffic to and from the Charlotte Coliseum, no longer exist. The Coliseum was demolished in 2007, and while Google Street view showed some static signs still in place in June 2012, there was no remnant by May 2014 in the area near the former Coliseum entrance.

In Louisville, after the efforts of the nonprofit Friends of Bardstown Road, working in conjunction with two city council members and other stakeholders, The Bardstown Road Safety Study was released in December 2018 and resulted in the removal of overhead reversible lane assignment lights and signs and added designated turn lanes at signalized intersections, as well as the addition of curb extensions and crosswalks to address safety concerns, among other changes. According to an opinion piece by the Friends published in the Courier Journal, "The redesign will make the street safer, more accessible and more beautiful. The redesign will remake the road into a street for people," and create "a road that is calmer, safer," and "make an already inviting place more so."

And that is what many Phoenix residents, in the Melrose District in particular, are asking for with the current petition: safer, calmer, walkable streets that place focus on the community rather than the commute.

To read the city's report and learn more about the history of reverse lanes, visit www.phoenix.gov/streets/projects/7th-street-and-7th-avenue-reverselanes. To read the petition to end the rush hour reverse lanes on the 7s and learn more about the residents organizing the push, visit www.endreverselanes.com.

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COMMUNITY



Boy Scouts Troop 41 will once again host their Christmas tree lot on the northeast corner of 11th Street and Northern Avenue this year (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

Scouts host Christmas tree lot

A holiday tradition that spans seven decades in Phoenix returns to North Central this year to help boys in the community enjoy some extraordinary experiences.

Troop 41 of the Boy Scouts of America Grand Canyon Council will hold its 74th annual Christmas Tree Lot again this year at 1104 E. Northern Ave. The lot opened Nov. 24 and will be open 5-9 p.m. on weekdays and from 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends.

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

The lot will be staffed by more than 30 scouts in Troop 41, ranging from ages 11-17, who live in the North Central Phoenix area. Parents and scouts will contribute more than 2,000 volunteer hours this season to operate the tree lot, and many of the Scouts who participate receive a Salesmanship/Entrepreneurship badge as a result.

The Scouts hope to raise more than \$20,000 from the lot this season to fund their trips. The Scouts encourage early purchases due to the shortage of trees nationwide.

For more information visit www.bsatroop41az.org.

Melrose spreads holiday cheer

The Melrose District invites neighbors and those in the surrounding area to enjoy some family-friendly holiday cheer this month.

Scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 9, at 6 p.m., and hosted by the Melrose Community Alliance, Melrose will once again host a tree lighting ceremony at The Lyceum, a pocket park located on the northwest corner of 7th and Montecito avenues. The festive celebration will follow the Merriment in Melrose craft fair, which aims to support the Osborn School District music programs.

The Melrose District Tree Lighting Event has become a beloved tradition, bringing together the community to kick off the holiday season with joy and unity. Organizers say that this year's event promises to be more enchanting than ever.

The evening will be filled with the warmth of the holiday spirit. Attendees can look forward to the grand tree lighting, live entertainment that will include musical performances that capture the essence of the season, and the opportunity to shop for unique holiday gifts and support the Osborn School District music programs with purchases from the craft fair.

Prior to the tree lighting, Merriment in Melrose will take to the streets, on the east side of 7th Avenue at Glenrosa Avenue and 6th Drive, from 2-6 p.m. Produced by the Melrose Merchants Association and the Alliance, Merriment is a free community event and will include two stages with live music, an arts and crafts market with over 75 local artisans and vendors, a visit from Santa, kids activities, food trucks and more.

"We invite all members of the community, near and far, to join us for this special event," the Melrose Community Alliance said. "Our annual Tree Lighting Event is a reflection of our commitment to spreading holiday gaiety and supporting local residents and merchants alike."

For more information, www.melrosecommunityalliance.com or www.melrosemerchantsassociation.com.

Phoenix Housing Market Snapshot as of 11/2/23

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

\$635,521

\$319.44





↑5.1% from last month ↑13.5% from last year

↑3.9% from last month **↑9.2% from last year**

Mortgage rates are currently high, while buyer demand remains low. This has resulted in an increase in available inventory for sale. The growing inventory is contributing to a more balanced market. The Federal Open Market Committee opted to keep rates steady in their latest meeting and indicated a potential continuation of this trend in the foreseeable future.



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HAPPY HOUR HERSCH

I was fortunate enough to experience U2 at the opening night of Sphere, an amazing new 18,600-seat venue in Las Vegas.

It was a very last-minute decision and the stars thankfully aligned to make it happen. Sphere is unlike any venue I have seen before. It is deceptively large. You know it's massive, but since it is situated near all the other gargantuan buildings on the strip, it does not appear that way.

Then, once inside, you feel like you're in the Thunderdome. The sound and the visuals exceeded even my highest expectations - a sensory overload in the greatest sense.

U2 was the perfect choice to showcase the power of this arena. I was especially grateful they played their album, Achtung Baby, in full. With its propulsive songs, their expert musicianship, creative energy, and emotional expression filled the arena with love and light. I only hope I can experience it again. Rock on!

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The pageantry of the Fiesta Bowl Parade will once again grace the streets of North Central this December (photo courtesy of Vrbo Fiesta Bowl Parade presented by Lerner & Rowe)

Annual parade returns to North Central

A statewide crown jewel since its first production in the early 1970s, the Vrbo Fiesta Bowl Parade presented by Lerner & Rowe will honor the Fiesta Bowl Organization's five-decade history with a traditional two-mile march through Central Phoenix this month.

Honoring this year's theme of "Spirit of Competition," the two-mile route in Central Phoenix will be led by former Arizona State University and NFL quarterback Jake Plummer and former Moon Valley High School, University of Arizona and NBA standout Richard Jefferson, who will be honored as grand marshals.

Scheduled to kick off at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, the parade will travel from Central and Montebello avenues south to Camelback Road, east to 7th Street and finishing at Minnezona Avenue. The parade will feature larger-than-life balloons, elaborate floats, marching bands, antique cars, equestrian units, charitable groups, local celebrities and more. More than 3,000 men, women, children and animals participate annually.

Admission is free to the public, but premium and reserved grandstand seating is available for \$30. For more information, visit www.fiestabowl.org/parade.

Christown hosts December events

Christown Spectrum invites the community to visit the center for a month full of family-friendly holiday activities.

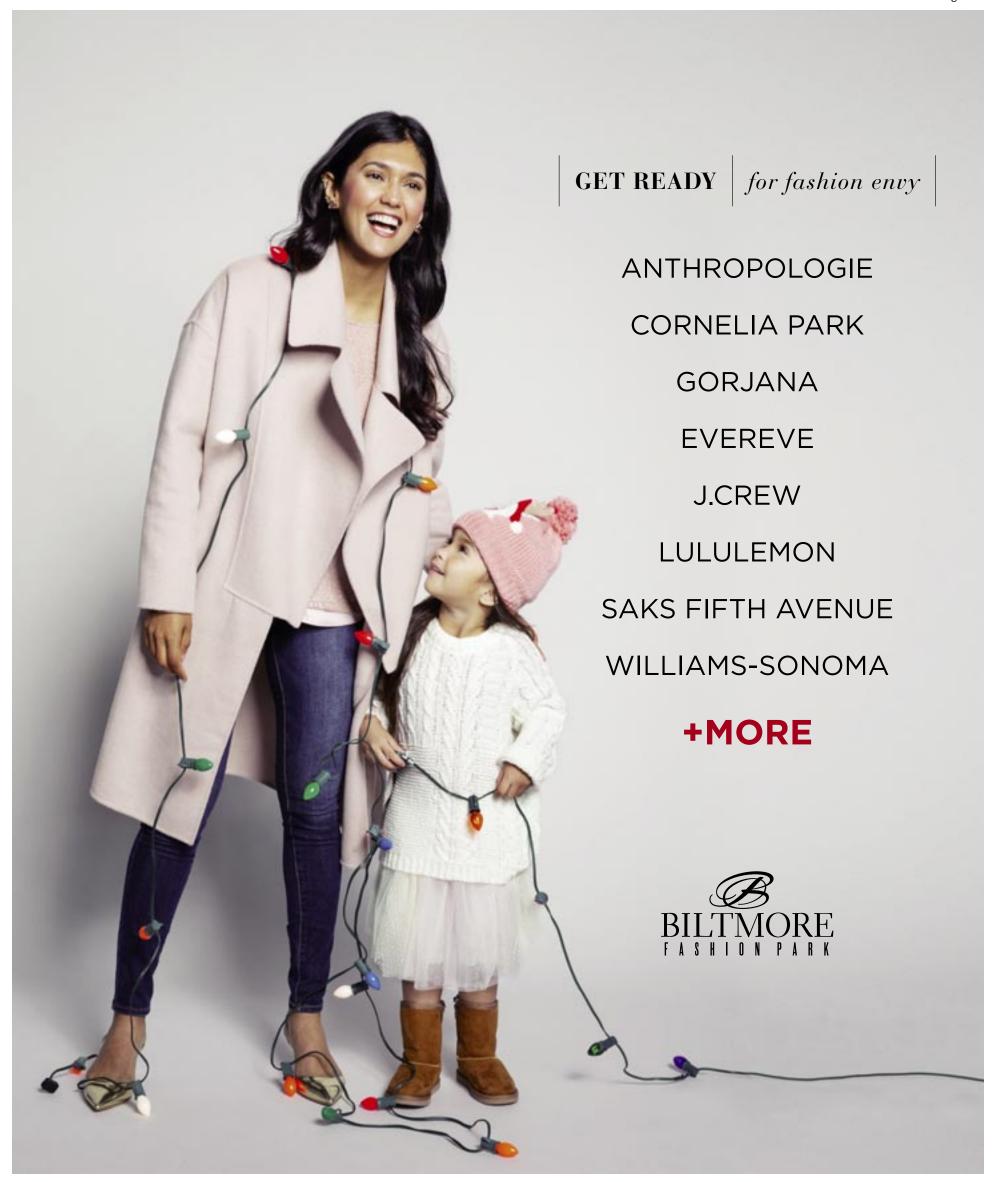
In December, check out the Christown Cringle and Mrs. Claus' Kitchen experience from noon to 3 p.m. on three weekends, Dec. 2-3, Dec. 9-10 and Dec. 16-17. These whimsical and charming events will include an interactive Mrs. Claus' Kitchen, a Be Merry Elves Storytime, a holiday craft, playful photo backdrops, live music and appearances by beloved holiday characters, including Mrs. Claus, Peppermint Patty, the Friendly Grinch, a festive stilt walker, Frosty, Elf on the Shelf, Elsa and a Christmas Mouse; holiday character visits take place on varying dates.

The first 75 children who bring a canned good to each Saturday Christown Cringle event will receive a \$5 gift card to Harkins Theatres (while supplies last); canned goods will benefit the Phoenix St. Mary's Food Bank. And on each of the Christown Cringle Sundays (Dec. 3, 10 and 17), from noon to 3 p.m., the center will also host Mariachi Sundays with live music, Santa's arrival and photos

One of the highlights of every holiday season is children sharing their wish lists and taking keepsake photos with Santa. At Christown Spectrum, the merriment began when Santa arrived on Black Friday, and continues through Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. To see Santa's hours or register for a photo session, visit www.thesantapeople.com/christownspectrumsantaclaus.

The holiday events and experiences are free and open to the public, other than Santa photos, no pre-registration is required.

To learn more, visit https://christownspectrum.shopkimco.com/events.











Slopers will once again close off Hatcher Road for their annual Slope Holiday Market and Parade (photo courtesy of the HUB).

Celebrate the holidays in the 'Slope

Sunnyslope businesses and neighbors are gearing up for their second annual Slope Holiday Market and Parade.

Taking place Saturday, Dec. 9, this one-of-a-kind holiday event will celebrate the season with 15 floats, including Phoenix Police Department, Maricopa County, City of Phoenix Neighborhood Services Department, Sunnyslope schools and neighborhood associations. Organizers say that the parade will be a dazzling evening for Slopers.

In addition to the parade, revelers (21 and over) can enjoy local brews from O.H.S.O and North Mountain Brewing Company and shop for gifts from local vendors. Families will also have the opportunity to take photos with the Slope Santa or stop by to see the Slope Crystal Princess and Slope Elf, who were nominated by the community. Other activities include an Ugly Sweater Contest, live music, a donation drive for toys and gifts for families in need, and community cheer for all.

Prior to the event, Honor Health will host a Hatcher Corridor Community Cleanup event Saturday, Dec. 2, beginning at Hatcher Road and 3rd Street, from 9 a.m. to noon. Residents are invited to help the community gear up for the holidays by lending their time at this neighborhood event.

Hosted by the HUB (Hatcher Urban Businesses), the Slope Holiday Market and Parade begins at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and takes place along Hatcher Road from Central Avenue to 7th Avenue. For questions about the donation drive, to become a vendor or discuss other ways to get involved, send an email to hubholidaymarket@gmail.com.

For additional information, visit www.sunnyslopehub.com.

Learn about Valley fever

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) is encouraging residents to take steps to stay safe from Valley fever. It is especially important in Arizona, where the fungus that causes the lung infection grows naturally in the soil during late fall and winter months.

Two-thirds of all Valley fever cases in the nation are reported in Arizona and the number of cases in the state has been noticeably increasing since 2016. In 2022, more than 9,500 Arizonans contracted Valley fever and 75 died from the disease.

The months of November to January have historically had a higher number of cases. When wind, gardening, farming, yard work, or construction disturbs the soil the fungus lives in, the fungus can become airborne and enter people's (and animals') lungs, making them ill. Some people are particularly vulnerable to severe illness from Valley fever. Older adults, people with weakened immune systems, people with diabetes, and pregnant people should especially take measures to protect themselves.

ADHS says that there are a few ways that residents can protect themselves: avoid blowing dust; stay inside during a dust storm; wet the ground when doing any gardening or construction work; wear an N95 respirator if you expect to be exposed to blowing dust; and wash your hands thoroughly after working in the soil.

For more information, visit www.azdhs.gov/index.php and search "Valley Fever" in the A-Z Index.





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Visit with Santa at Uptown Plaza

Area families are invited to celebrate the holiday season at a special December event hosted by Uptown Plaza Saturday, Dec. 16, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. families can stop by for photos with Santa and to make holiday crafts. During the event, the Dickens Carolers will be spreading holiday cheer as well.

Uptown Plaza is located on the northeast corner of Central Avenue and Camelback Road. For more information, visit www.uptownplazaphx.com.

Church hosts holiday events

Desert Christian Fellowship will host a seniors' potluck, Thursday, Dec. 7, from noon to 2 p.m. The event will include the annual White Elephant gift exchange. Older residents are invited to bring friends and favorite food to share.

The church will also host its Second Annual Christmas Village, Saturday, Dec. 16, from 4 to 7 p.m. The celebratory event will include food, a train, lots of lights, bakery sweets and free hot chocolate, as well as a concert presented by Arizona Girls Choir and plenty of other family fun.

Wrapping up the month is a Christmas Eve celebration, Sunday, Dec. 24, at 6 p.m., featuring candle-light Christmas carol sing-along, with snacks after the event.

Desert Christian Fellowship is located at 1445 W. Northern Ave. For



Families can enjoy photos with Santa, carolers, crafts and more at Uptown Plaza this month (submitted photo).

additional information, call 602-861-4008 or visit www.desertchristianfellowship.com.

Rise hosts holiday market

Rise Uptown Hotel is hosting its annual Holiday Makers Market Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Residents can check everyone off their list and shop for some handmade holiday goodies from local makers. Sip mimosas and Bloody Mary's from Lylo, and snag permanent jewelry from LINK X LOU (appointments available at https://linktr.ee/linkxlou.phoenix). Participating local vendors include Milky Candle Company, Form Floral, Jade & Clover, Mollz to the Wallz,

Voyager Bake Shop, Modern Moon and Cisco Studio.

In addition, residents can enjoy a free yoga class on the lawn at 9 a.m. with desert mvmt (https://desertmvmt.com).

Learn more at www.riseuptownhotel.com/events/holiday-makers-market.

Celebrate the season at farmers market

The Uptown Farmers Market celebrated nine years at its Nov. 4 market, and this month, it is celebrating the holidays with three special markets.

Generally open every Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the winter months, the market will close Saturday,

Dec. 2, and Dec. 16 for the APS Electric Light Parade and the Fiesta Bowl Parade. North Phoenix Baptist Church, which is located at 5757 N. Central Ave., serves as both a host to the market and a staging area for special events like the annual parades.

Shoppers will still have plenty of Saturday opportunities to peruse local goods for the holidays, however, with three special markets this month: a Holiday Market, Dec. 9, a Christmas Eve Market, Dec. 23 and a New Year's Eve Market, Dec. 30.

Find additional information and a list of current vendors at www.uptown-marketaz.com.

Voters support GO Bond

In November, voters approved four measures that will fund infrastructure and rehabilitation needs of both aging city facilities and areas of rapid growth, with new and enhanced parks, libraries, fire and police stations, affordable housing, street improvements and more.

The 2023 General Obligation (GO) Bond Program includes more than \$500 million. The city says that approved projects will be prioritized and allocated over the five-year period of 2024-25 to 2028-29 and included in the Preliminary Capital Improvement Program (CIP) scheduled to be presented to City Council on March 19, 2024.

Learn more about the GO Bond program at www.phoenix.gov/bond.





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Friday, December 1, 10 am

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WINTER WALK

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Saturday, December 16, 5-7 pm

BEATITUDES CAMPUS CENTRAL PARK MALL 1610 WEST GLENDALE AVENUE, PHOENIX



DON'T MISS-TLETOE THE FUN! **RSVP BY DECEMBER 13**

Beatitudes Campus is a not-for-profit life plan community founded by the Church of the Beatitudes.



Pet of the Month Dynamic duo sticks together

At nine-years-old, Loki and Beowulf are littermates who have spent their entire lives together. A few months ago, their worlds were turned upside down when their family unfortunately had to make the decision to surrender them to the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) after they could no longer care for them.

Once in the care of AHS, the brothers underwent medical care for tummy issues in the shelter's trauma hospital. While under treatment, Behavior Team members assessed the handsome pair to determine if they would do best in a home together or ok to be separated. As one can imagine, Loki and Beowulf are extremely bonded and would do best in a home together where they can spend their golden years with not just each other but a family who will give them lots of love and care.

As loving as they are gorgeous, the smiley pups are extremely friendly, loving and absolutely adore attention.



Loki and Beowulf are nine-year-old husky siblings who are looking to spend their golden years not just with each other but with a loving family (photo courtesy of Arizona Humane Society).

These two wouldn't be true huskies without also being great singers who love to talk to their people in between getting pets while the center of attention. Having lived with young children and other pups before, Loki and Beowulf say the more the merrier. Those interested in meeting this dynamic duo (pet numbers 751959 and 751960) are encouraged to visit www.azhumane.org/adopt to learn more.

If this pair has already been adopt-

ed, take a moment to meet some of the other dogs, cats and other companion animals at the shelter. To see all adoptable animals currently available at the Arizona Humane Society, visit www.azhumane.org/adopt.

Broker hosts adoption event

In November, the Phoenix-Paradise Valley office of Coldwell Banker Realty hosted a successful Homes for Dogs Adoption event in conjunction with Coldwell Banker Realty's national Homes for Dogs Project. The event was held in partnership with Phoenix Animal Care Coalition 911 (https://pacc911.org) at their offices, located at 3113 E. Lincoln Dr. in Phoenix. A total of 10 dogs and two cats were adopted at the event.

"We were so happy to see so many people attend our Homes for Dogs adoption event," said Ali Ozer, branch manager. "Our community came out to support these great dog organizations and adopt some beautiful pups."

Coldwell Banker Realty's annual

Homes for Dogs Project benefits the tail-wagging communities across the nation and the animal shelters that support them. For the Homes for Dogs Project, Coldwell Banker Realty offices collect toys, pet food and monetary donations to help out the staff and volunteers of shelters. Select offices also partner with local shelters and organizations to host pet adoption events.

Help keep pets off the streets

Whether a stray dog is found in your neighborhood or you want to take preventive measures to ensure your pet returns home, there are services available throughout the Valley.

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control's primary mission is to serve the lost and homeless pets of Maricopa County. The County says that nearly 13,000 animals have arrived at its shelters so far this year; the majority of those dogs were stray.

Microchipping pets is one of the easiest ways to prevent shelter over-crowding, which is why the County will be offering free microchips at both of its shelter locations through Dec. 29 in hopes of keeping more dogs with their owners. This is especially important leading into the holidays, when fireworks may startle pets, causing them to bolt and potentially become lost.

The East and West shelters are available for this service Monday through Friday between noon and 4 p.m. To schedule an appointment, visit www.maricopa.gov/5908/pet-care.

In addition, the Arizona Humane Society accepts stray animals who are sick, injured or abused. Contact them directly at 602-997-7585, Ext. 3800. Residents can also bring sick or injured stray animals to the Arizona Humane Society Sunnyslope Campus at 9226 N. 13th Ave. Phoenix, between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For more information, visit www.azhumane.org/report-aninjured-stray.

In recent years many pet owners have experienced their own difficulties and don't know where to turn for help with their pets. Whether seeking resources to help care for a pet, a temporary foster home, or a permanent home for a pet, Pet Housing Help AZ may be able to help. Those looking for additional information and resources can visit https://pethousinghelpaz.org/i-need-help.



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Invest more confidently in volatile markets

When financial markets fluctuate, perhaps in reaction to world events, inflation, or a change in interest rates, even the calmest investors can start to question their financial strategies.

But volatile markets can present opportunities to review and reaffirm investment strategies, says Tracie McMillion, head of global asset allocation strategy for Wells Fargo Investment Institute.

"Financial markets are frequently volatile — that's their nature," she says. "Even so, during periods of uncertainty, investors may start to question their investment decisions. Having a plan in place can provide the guard rails to help steer through and beyond the volatility."

In addition to reaffirming and focusing on your plan, here are some strategies you can use to help weather economically turbulent times.

Match your investments to your time horizon

The simplest way to feel more comfortable about your investments is to align them with your financial calendar, no matter what happens in the financial world this month or year.

For example, do you need some of your money fairly soon or want it close at hand in case of an emergency? If so, McMillion says you should consider investments such as cash holdings and short-term bonds that shouldn't lose much, if any, value over the short term.

On the other hand, if you won't need some of your investment money until you retire multiple years in the future, equities or longer-term bonds are worth a closer look. Those investments carry more risks but also offer potentially better returns.

Know what to expect from your investments

Some investors lose confidence because they don't fully understand how their investments work. In that case, McMillion says, some knowledge of typical asset behavior is a good thing:

Consider reading up on different types of investments and asking questions of your financial advisor. Once you know how your investments are more likely to perform in certain financial markets, you can help ensure that your investment strategy is in line with your tolerance for risk.

Tune out the noise

By "noise," McMillion means the constant barrage of financial reports and other news events from the 24/7 news media. "Investors usually don't need to react to the everyday financial news, no matter how topsy-turvy things may seem," she says. Keep your long-term goal in mind.

Regularly revisit your plan

There's no such thing as a completely set-it-and-forget-it investment strategy, McMillion says. It's always smart to check in regularly with your investment advisor.

"Your life circumstances may change, or your financial goals could shift," she says. "You'll feel much more confident that your investments are doing their job if you review them regularly with your advisor."

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



Pictured, left to right, are the 2023 Greater Phoenix Chamber 2023 ATHENA award recipients: Jeri Royce, Melody Lewis and Naquana Borrero (submitted photo).

Chamber announces ATHENA recipients

At its 36th annual awards event held Nov. 15, the Greater Phoenix Chamber announced the 2023 ATHENA private sector, public sector and young professional award recipients.

Melody Lewis, owner and founder, Indigenous Community Collaborative, received the award in the private sector; Jeri Royce, president and CEO, Advance Community, earned the award in the public sector; and Naquana Borrero, CFRE; director of Development and Communications Jazz in Arizona/The Nash and owner, Bella Vita Consulting Group, took home the Young Professional Award.

"These influential women are dedicated to building a brighter future and ensuring our community remains strong," said Todd Sanders, president and CEO of the Greater Phoenix Chamber. They embody the best of the Arizona business community, and we look forward to seeing how they will carry the legacy of ATHENA through their work."

The award is an internationally prized honor through ATHENA International that recognizes women for achievements in leadership, community service, and mentoring.

"The biggest thing for me is representation. I am the first Native American from my community to win this award," said Lewis. "To be here to represent my people and Indigenous people overall. This award means to me, 'Hey she did it, I can do it too.' So,

representation is the most meaningful and impactful to me right now."

Borrero echoed Lewis' sentiments.

"I am feeling grateful, overwhelmed, and excited. This platform will help not only me but a lot of other organizations that I represent. I am excited for all of us to have this platform. I am also very excited to be the first black woman to win this award in this category, and that's something that means a lot to me."

Learn more at www.phoenixchamber.com.

Business Briefs

Brothers open new staffing firm

Local brothers Carlos and Luis Araujo have officially opened the doors to Spherion Staffing and Recruiting franchise in Phoenix. Their goal: to help connect local job seekers with career opportunities in manufacturing, light industrial, technical and professional services industries.

Located at 301 E. Bethany Home Road, Suite C-180, the new office officially opened Oct. 23 to help match local job seekers in the Phoenix and South-Central Arizona areas with meaningful employment opportunities.

Combined, the brothers have more than 46 years of leadership experience, with backgrounds in management and assisting fellow veterans with career development. Together they hope to assist Spanish speaking job seekers and veterans build careers in the Phoenix area.

For additional information, visit www.spherion.com/phoenix.



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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



The Buzze outlet share app connects neighbors to host charging stations (submitted photo).

Company launches EV outlet share app

Local Arizona startup Buzze officially launched its electric vehicle (EV) charging tech mobile app Nov. 8 at a host residence in North Central Phoenix. The company is working to build a peer-to-peer shared network of home electric charging stations across the state and beyond.

The company's approach is to have EV owners who already have level 2 chargers installed in their homes serve as "hosts" for their neighbors who have an EV but no place to charge it. By building a community of "drivers helping drivers," the company hopes to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles and contribute to a cleaner and sustainable future.

For those who rent their home, the high installation costs of level 2 home chargers mean they will not be able to access fast home charging. The same is true for most of those who live in apartments. Buzze solves the problem of these charging challenged by providing neighborhood charging at homes right in their neighborhood. At the same time, those who sign up to be hosts can generate extra income of up to \$400 per month by hosting EV charging at their home – helping make installing level 2 chargers much more affordable.

The company says that it has national ambitions to encourage individuals to switch to electric vehicles and promote sustainable transportation options. Aaron Lieberman, a former Arizona State Representative, is the founder and CEO of Buzze. The company's initial geographic focus is the Greater Phoenix Area, and it already has more than 60 hosts across the

Valley, from New River to Casa Grande and everywhere in between.

The app shows EV drivers a map of nearby level 2 charging hosts to select from and helps them schedule their next charging appointment. At the time of the appointment, the driver will arrive at the host's home to charge their vehicle. The app is then able to meter the charge through the car's telematics, and then settle the payment. The company then charges the driver, and compensates the host for the energy used, allowing them to earn additional income – even if they're not at home.

To learn more, visit www.buzze.biz.

Digitize helps preserve memories

Since 2015, Celeste Soong-Tang has been helping Valley residents digitize, organize and preserve their cherished memories. But the journey began in 1998, when she started a business helping people preserve their printed photos and stories.

"Then digital cameras came around in the 1990s," Soong-Tang recalled "and I, like many others, took even more photos than before in hopes of capturing the best snapshot. But the problem became an overabundance of photos stored on camera memory cards, computers, flash drives, cell phones, and external hard drives that can get lost, broken, corrupted, or crash, resulting in lost photos."

That was when she started looking for a better solution to store photos and videos. She found a trusted company that would guarantee security, permanence and privacy and a great organization feature, and in 2015 her scrapbooking business transformed into a digital photo,

please see DIGITIZE on page 26

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

DIGITZE continued from page 24

video, and memory keeping business.

"I have met people with precious family photos dating back decades and even as far back as 1870 and prior. Some photos are so faded that you can no longer recognize the faces, while others are ripped, torn, or deteriorated," the entrepreneur said. "They are typically in boxes or bins, hidden in closets, or worse, attics or garages. They treasure these images from the past, but it is an overwhelming project, and they don't [know] what to do or how to begin. That's where I come in. I help people by determining what their goals are for preserving their photos, videos, and family stories and we come up with a plan that is manageable."

Soong-Tang says that digitizing photographs is the best way to preserve them, and they are shared easily with loved ones — much more so than a physical photo or VHS tape. Her company, Digitize, is offering a limited-time coupon for 40 percent off of digitization orders, which will be available through the end of December. She will also offer a complimentary 30-minute consulta-

tion to discuss a digitization project.

For more information, call 602-799-9621 or visit www.foreverceleste.com.

Outfitter opens second location

Just Roughin' It Adventure Company recently opened a second location at 10880 N. 32nd St., Suite 17. Their first location opened September 2017 in Scottsdale.

The mission at Just Roughin' It is to ensure that anyone who wants to get out and enjoy everything Mother Nature has to offer can do so safely and with confidence. The retailer sells top national brands such as Kuhl, Cotopaxi, Osprey, Salomon, La Sportiva and Outdoor Research, plus as many local and cottage brands as possible. They vet their selections with the Arizona hiker in mind.

The outfitter is a family business owned by Debbie (an Arizona native) and Ray Hendricks, a New York transplant. They have won the *Phoenix Magazine* Best of Valley Reader's Poll for Best Outdoor Outfitter five years in a row, 2019 to 2023.

For store hours and more information, visit www.justroughinit.com.

Japanese concept store now open

Cutie, a Japanese concept store, is now open near 19th Avenue and Camelback Road. The store offers a full line of Daiso products and more. Daiso is often called "the Japanese dollar store," but with cute "kawaii" designs and unique character.

Daiso's product-line includes everything from stationery to cosmetics to home goods. Get a taste of Japanese culture with the store's origami paper, calligraphy tools, obento products, tabi socks, and more.

Cutie Phoenix is located at 1615 W. Camelback Road, Suite 109. For more information, call 602-464-4713 or visit https://cutie-phoenix.square.site.

Chamber hosts holiday mixer

Members of the business community are invited to join members of the Greater Phoenix Chamber and Valley Young Professionals for a holiday mixer Monday, Dec. 4. Everyone is welcome for a festive evening full of tidings and good cheer.

The annual Holiday Celebration & Mixer will be hosted by Thirsty Lion at Desert Ridge Marketplace from 4:30-7 p.m. The evening will feature a no-host bar, complimentary appetizers, the chance to connect with new friends, and the chance to win a door prize.

The Chamber's Valley Young Professionals will support UMOM New Day Centers by collecting donations during the event. UMOM provides shelter, supportive services, and affordable housing that builds programs around a simple formula: jobs + housing = ending homelessness. From emergency shelter to affordable housing, UMOM offers a full slate of vital services.

The nonprofit has a range of needed items, including shampoo and conditioner, furniture, body wash, toilet paper, and paper towels. Find donation details at www.umom.org/donate-items.

The cost of the holiday mixer is \$25 for non-members; free for members. Thirsty Lion – Desert Ridge Marketplace is located at 21001 N. Tatum Blvd., Unit 6. To register for the event, visit www.phoenixchamber.com and click on the "Events" link. For additional information, call 602-495-2195.

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613 E Vista	4ve	Just Listed	2987SF	4BR/3BA\$	1,295,000
4681 N 84th	Way	In Escrow	2501SF	4BR/2.5BA\$	919,000
77 E Missour	ri Ave #52	Just Listed	3575SF	3BR/2.5BA\$	899,999
719 E Circle	Rd	In Escrow	2715SF	4BR/3BA\$	899,000
77 E Missour	ri Ave #67	New Price	3184SF	4BR/3BA\$	799,500
902 E Kaler	Dr		1/2 acre	LOT\$	750,000
694 W Colte	er St	New Price	1883SF	4BR/2.5BA\$	650,000
240 W Misso	ouri Ave #25	New Price	2167SF	2BR/2.5BA\$	675,000
5720 N 64th	Dr		1561SF	4BR/2BA\$	399,900
4727 E Lafa	yette Blvd #128.	New Price	720SF	1BR/1BA\$	325,000
3848 N 3rd	Ave #2053	New Price	989SF	2BR/2BA\$	285,000

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6534 N 27th St	\$2,410,000
6811 N Central Ave*	\$2,400,000
510 E Ocotillo Rd	\$2,130,000
35 E Myrtle Ave	\$2,125,000
25 E Myrtle Ave	\$1,935,000
304 W Orangewood Ave*	\$1,800,000
11608 E Onyx Ave	\$1,750,000
5737 N 2nd Ave	\$1,750,000
4902 E Piccadilly Rd*	\$1,700,000
6518 N 25th Way*	\$1,683,000
345 E Pomona Rd	\$1,500,000
334 W State Ave	\$1,375,000
910 E Kaler Dr	\$1,260,455
512 E Adair Dr*	\$1,235,000
50 E Lamar Rd	\$1,200,000
510 W McLellan Blvd	\$1,175,000

7101 N 3rd Ave\$	1,157,500
1324 E Lupine Ave*\$	1,075,000
5130 N 6th St\$	1,065,000
18244 W Meadowbrook Ave\$	1,025,000
5645 N 7th Ave\$	1,000,000
322 W Stella Ln\$	895,000
7814 N 4th Pl\$	875,000
3103 E Hazelwood St\$	830,000
2524 E Beryl Ave\$	799,000
6811 N 11th Pl\$	785,000
12243 N 58th St\$	750,000
21206 N 62nd Ave\$	725,000
23 E Laurie Ln\$	715,000
2227 E Palmaire Ave\$	700,000
3011 N 166th Pl\$	685,000
122 E San Miguel Ave\$	675,000
5576 N 12th St #1\$	675,000
5804 N 14th Ave\$	650,000
15027 E Desert Willow Dr\$	645,000
14210 N 9th St*\$	629,900

\$1	,157,500	715 W Culver St	\$ 625,000
\$1	,075,000	715 W Culver St	\$ 625,000
\$1	,065,000	1400 E Bethany Home Rd #29	\$ 585,000
\$1	,025,000	17726 W Larkspur Dr	\$ 575,000
\$1	,000,000	7748 N 7th Ave	\$ 572,500
\$	895,000	1222 E Wagon Wheel Dr	\$ 515,000
\$	875,000	804 E Corte Oro*	\$ 550,000
\$	830,000	1516 W Glenn Dr	\$ 505,000
\$	799,000	1001 W Solcitio Ln	\$ 400,000
\$	785,000	106 E Echo Ln	\$ 495,000
\$	750,000	3618 E Coronado Rd	\$ 460,000
\$	725,000	18383 W Vista Norte St*	\$ 432,000
\$	715,000	5220 N 16th Ln	\$ 400,000
\$	700,000	16182 W Winslow Dr	\$ 378,000
\$	685,000	10432 N 11th St #2	\$ 359,900
\$	675,000	23836 W Wier Ave*	\$ 339,000
\$	675,000	4239 N 20th St	\$ 280,000
\$	650,000	6541 N 41st Ave	\$ 270,000
\$	645,000	*represented buyer	
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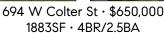


4681 N 84th Way · \$919,000 2501SF · 4BR/2.5BA

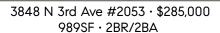


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Students welcome veterans to campus

Brophy's Veterans Heritage Project (VHP) recently welcomed Army Captain Frank Lambert, a 1964 West Point graduate, and Air Force Colonel Richard Toliver, a former fighter pilot, to campus.

Toliver served for 26 years, flying 446 combat missions in Southeast Asia. He earned the Legion of Merit, among other citations, and is a protégé of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. Lambert is a recipient of the Silver Star and other medals. Members of the VHP were grateful for the opportunity to hear about their experiences as men for others defending our country.

This is the third year for Brophy's chapter of the Veterans Heritage Project. The chapter is affiliated with the national Veterans Heritage Project organization (www.veteransheritage.org) and was begun by senior Iain Lanphier and moderator Scott Middlemist. Middlemist handed over his duties to Shelby Stringer after the 2022-23 school year.

VHP president Lanphier said that the organization meets a few times each month but that most of the work is done outside of school. Each member commits to setting up an interview with a veteran, conducting an interview and recording the event, and then writing the veteran's story to be published by the Library of Congress. He says that the mission of VHP is to connect students



Members of the Brophy College Preparatory Veterans Heritage Project recently welcomed Army Captain Frank Lambert and Air Force Colonel Richard Toliver (seated, left to right) to campus to talk about their military experiences (photo by Shelby Stringer).

with living history, preserve the stories of veterans and create future leaders.

Lanphier notes, "This year we would like to do even more as far as hosting speakers and participating in community events."

School Briefs GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Marching band snares Fiesta Bowl honor

The Glendale High School marching band has been chosen by the Fiesta Bowl Committee to perform the National Anthem at the National Guaranteed Rate Bowl on Dec. 26.

The honor came as a surprise for the band when Spirit, the Fiesta Bowl mascot, stopped by campus on Nov. 15 to announce that the band had been chosen.

Coaches selected for Hall of Fame

Sunnyslope High School volleyball coach Amber LeTarte and badminton coach Sarah Schlesinger were surprised by students, coaches, former coaches and colleagues with the announcement that they will be inducted into the Arizona High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame next year.

The coaches were surprised by their teams and Arizona State Hall of Fame Members Bobbi Forner and Dan Mannix. The two coaches have 16 state championships between them and will be inducted into the Hall of Fame during a ceremony this spring.

The Arizona High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame honors high school coaches across the state who are the epitome of their profession. Coaches are nominated each year and honorees are selected on the basis of tenure, merit, and exemplary characteristics.

Athletes sign to play collegiate sports

Sunnyslope High School seniors Jordan McMahon and basketball player Jai Anthony Bearden accepted scholarships and committed as student-athletes to Weber State University and Ball State University, respectively.

McMahon has signed to play softball for Weber State while Anthony will play basketball for Ball State.

Student earns choir's first-chair spot

Sunnyslope High School senior Brianna Stenke scored a perfect, and very rare, score of 100/100 in her All-State Jazz Choir audition. Her performance earned her the position of firstchair soprano in the choir.

The All-State Jazz Choir, a part of the Arizona All-State Jazz/Show Choir Festival, includes two choirs, each made up of 20 high school students



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APPLICATIONS OPEN - DEC. 1

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SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOPS - Nov. 4 & Dec. 5









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Thunderbird's varsity girl's volleyball team ended their season with a Region Championship win (photo courtesy of GUHSD).

selected from around the state. Selection is made through an audition process in September that requires a live singing audition. Selected students learn and memorize the performance songs before attending the two-day festival, where they work with a nationally known jazz clinician.

Thunderbird volleyball wins region

The Thunderbird High School varsity girl's volleyball team finished their season with a record of 17-2, winning the Region Championship for the second year in a row.

Team members racked up some big awards, including Naomi Walsh as Player of the Year and Alison Miller as Defensive Player of the Year. Malia Parris, Hayven Lick, Naomi Walsh and Alison Miller were named First Team All-Region and Cecelia Bouchard and Adele Jennings were named Second Team All-Region.

Coach Carly Price earned Coach of the Year honors.

MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Academy wins PBISAz award

Madison Traditional Academy was recently named a 2022-23 PBISAz award winner. The PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) program is a framework to help teach and reinforce positive student behavior. PBIS helps schools build positive envi-

please see AWARD on page 32







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- Traditional Academy
- Visual & Performing Arts



AWARD continued from page 31

ronments for all and supports students' academic achievement. This award recognizes a school's dedication and commitment to improving student outcomes using consistent PBIS initiatives on campus.

Madison School District has been using PBIS programs district-wide for more than 10 years, and its schools have frequently been PBISAz award winners.

Madison Traditional Academy serves preschool through eighth-grade students and features advanced language arts and accelerated math. For more information about Madison Traditional Academy and enrollment, visit www.madisonaz.org/enrollment.

Enrollment is open for 2024-25

Madison School District open enrollment applications for the 2024-25 school year will be available online beginning Dec. 1. For more information on schools, signature programs and enrollment, visit www.madison-az.org/enrollment.

Students join STEAM challenge

Madison Park Middle School students recently participated in a STEAM challenge project in which they used different materials to design and build a prosthetic leg that can be used to walk a short distance. Students applied their engineering, math and creativity skills along with a variety of materials such as PVC pipes, shoes, foam, and more to build their projects.

Students at Madison Park are encouraged to learn and find creative solutions to real world challenges. As a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) school, students develop a strong educational foundation, which offers an advantage when entering a STEAM high school and preparing for future careers.

OSBORN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Event supports music at Osborn

An annual holiday event scheduled for December will not only offer family-friendly fun but also help support



Park Middle School students used different materials to design and build a prosthetic leg that could be walked a short distance as part of a STEAM challenge project (photo courtesy of Madison School District).

music programs in the Osborn School District.

The eighth annual Merriment in Melrose event will take place Saturday, Dec. 9, from 2-6 p.m. The event will take place in the heart of the Melrose District at Glenrosa Avenue and 6th Drive. The afternoon of fun will include

music on two stages, Santa, kids' activities and over 75 arts and crafts vendors. Vendor fees and raffle money raised will support Osborn music programs and help to purchase new instruments for the district's kindergarten through eighth-grade students.

Learn more at www.melrosecommunityalliance.com or www.osbornnet.org.

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Central High School earns a "B"

The Phoenix Union High School District announced that Central High School has been awarded a well-deserved "B" letter grade by the Arizona Department of Education. The school said that the achievement is a testament to the unwavering dedication and exceptional work of its students and staff.

Principal Jacob Lambert expressed his pride in the school's achievement, stating, "It's a reflection of all the really great offerings that Central has. From our teachers to our programs, it shows



that we are setting our kids up to be successful. With this achievement, the incredible work of our staff and students are both recognized."

The "B" letter grade acknowledges the outstanding academic achievement of Central High School in recent years, and the Arizona Department of Education recognizes the school's commitment to providing quality education and nurturing a supportive learning environment.

The district added, "As we celebrate this achievement, we invite families in the Phoenix area to consider Central High School for the 2024-25 school year. Our doors are open to students who are eager to be part of an educational community that strives for excellence, and we welcome all students to join us on this incredible journey."

EXPO 2023 draws crowd

More than 1,500 people stopped by PXU's EXPO 2023 on Nov. 4 at Phoenix College. All 24 district high schools manned booths to showcase their programs and activities.



Central High School students manned a booth and had some fun sharing information about their school at the Phoenix Union High School District's EXPO 2023 in November on the Phoenix College campus (photo courtesy of PXU).

Prospective students had the opportunity to learn about the wide range of choices the district offers and to apply to attend a PXU school.

In addition to offering information about the schools, the event includes performances and the chance to win prizes. District students were involved in the event, running booths and participating in various performances.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent celebrates Moon Mountain

The district congratulated its SUPER Kids and SUPER Staff honorees from Moon Mountain Elementary School.

These excellent students and staff

members were recognized for their achievements and contributions to the WESD family. Superintendent Dr. Paul Stanton celebrated them at their schools in front of their peers and colleagues. Each student received a certificate and an award for a free pizza from Peter Piper Pizza, while each staff member earned a certificate and a \$10 Amazon gift card courtesy of Veregy.

To learn more about the awards, visit www.wesdschools.org/Page/3501.

Time to consider tax credit donations

During this season of giving, residents are asked to consider making a tax credit donation to a WESD school. Donations provide WESD students with the opportunity to succeed in extracurricular activities and funds items such as uniform replacements, equipment, stipends for coaches and sponsors. By making a tax credit donation, residents also receive a dollar-fordollar reduction on state income taxes.

To help enhance the life of a child and make a tax credit donation, visit

please see DONATIONS on page 34

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Sundays, December 3 – 24 9 a.m. – Modern Worship • 11 a.m. – Traditional Worship

And join us for these special events:

Sunday, December 10 – 11 a.m. - First Church Christmas Concert Choir and orchestra presents "Dixit Dominus" by Marianna Martines.

Christmas Eve – Sunday, December 24:

10 a.m. - Worship Service - This celebration includes a Christmas carol sing-a-long and joyful message of anticipation: Walking in the Light of Love.
4 p.m. - Family Service - Let us share the Christmas story with your children at this family-friendly service.
7 p.m. - Traditional Candlelight Service - Filled with your favorite carols, this service is led by our

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SCHOOL DAYS



The Washington Elementary School District celebrated with Royal Palm Middle School after it achieved an "A" from the Arizona Department of Education (photo courtesy of WESD).

DONATIONS continued from page 33

www.wesdschools.org/taxcredit. For more information, call 602-347-2631.

Foundation celebrates min-grant awards

The Washington Education Foundation (WEF) hosted its annual mini-grant celebration in November, celebrating the award of 36 mini-grants in the amount of \$51,000 that funded projects at 20 schools, the New Beginnings Academy and Curriculum and Instruction Department. The event was attended by the awardees, their principals, and several district officials.

The WEF, which is the district's non-profit organization, works to enhance the district's education programs. It is composed of volunteers who actively work to fundraise throughout the year to support the WEF's mini-grant and Helping Hands program, as well as to support other district goals. For more information about the foundation and its work, visit https://www.wesdf.net.

WESD schools earn "A" grade

The 2023 A-F school letter grades were recently released by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) for all public schools statewide. WESD announced that nine schools received an "A," including Desert View Elementary School, Moon Mountain Elementary School, Orangewood School and Royal Palm Middle School.

The purpose of the school letter grade report is to provide information

about student achievement, college and career readiness, student growth, and other key areas of interest to families and the general public. The ADE describes an "A" letter grade as "distinguished performance on the statewide assessment, significant student growth, high four-year graduation rates, students on track to proficiency; overall performance is significantly higher than state average."

Additionally, 18 WESD schools were classified as a "B" and three schools ranked as a "C." Overall, the District received a "B" letter grade.

The district congratulated its schools for their commitment to growth and educational excellence. To view a complete list of the WESD letter grades, visit www.wesdschools.org/2023lettergrades.

PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS

Brophy senior wins film award

Wilson Bryant, a Brophy senior, has taken the top prize for adventure and travel films in this year's All-American High School Film Festival with his entry, "Que Viva El Salvador." The festival is the largest youth film festival in the world. High school filmmakers submit in a number of categories, including adventure/travel, comedy, micro-movies and others.

This year, students submitted 2,500 films for consideration with 700 chosen to be screened at the AMC theater in Times Square. Bryant's film, which is based on his experience on the summer 2023 El Salvador immersion trip spon-

sored by Brophy's Office of Faith and Justice, was one of only five adventure and travel films screened.

Forty of the 700 films that were screened went on to be nominated for prizes by the Teen Indie Awards, with Bryant winning the Teen Indie Award for Best Adventure/Travel Film. Films nominated were from around the world, including the U.S., the United Kingdom, China, Korea and others. Bryant's film can be viewed on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m Cz7abSpkJw).

Xavier community donates half a million cans of food

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

Xavier's National Honor Society (NHS) started its Canned Food Drive to benefit St. Vincent de Paul in the 1990s. The initial goal was 10,000 cans. Each year, Xavier breaks the record for food collected. This year the Xavier community donated 550,740 cans for St. Vincent de Paul. The school raised more than \$54,000 in cash donations alone.

The students were featured on two local television stations for their efforts. NHS president, senior Emily Alaimo, spearheaded the successful program.

School achieves four-star rating

Phoenix Christian Preparatory School announced a significant achievement in early childhood education. Quality First, its accrediting organization, recently notified the school that its Preschool has been elevated in its rating from "2 stars" to "4 stars."

The school said that Quality First is known for its rigorous evaluation process, and achieving a four-star rating is a clear indicator of its commitment to providing the highest standards of early childhood education. This achievement reflects the ongoing efforts and love for children that the team, led by Meghan Boardman, preschool director, demonstrates every day.

The impact of this rating goes beyond just numbers and stars, the



Xavier seniors Emily Alaimo and Kasia Smigielski were involved in the 2023 Canned Food Drive, which garnered more than 500,000 cans (photo by Lisa Zuba).

school said; it signifies the quality of education and care that children receive at Phoenix Christian.

"From the moment you walk through our doors, the warmth and please see RATING on page 36



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RATING continued from page 35

commitment to nurturing young minds is palpable," the school said in a news release, adding, "We extend our heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to our outstanding preschool team, whose hard work and dedication have made this remarkable leap possible. This achievement is a testament to their unwavering commitment to the children and families we serve."

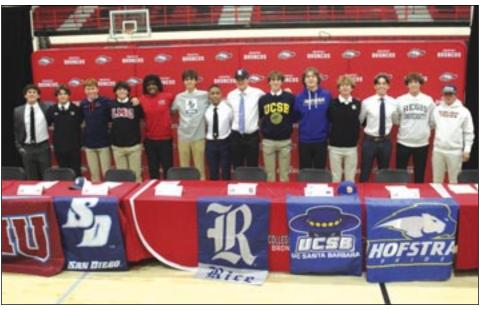
The school says that it remains dedicated to providing exceptional early childhood education and looks forward to continuing to support our community's youngest learners.

For more information, visit www.phoenixchristian.org.

Student-athletes make collegiate commitments

The Brophy College Preparatory athletics department celebrated 14 seniors from the Class of 2024 who made their collegiate commitments to play sports next fall at a ceremony on Nov. 8.

The signees included Carson Borges (baseball, Regis University),



Fourteen Brophy College Preparatory seniors made collegiate commitments Nov. 8 to play sports next fall (photo courtesy of Brophy Athletics).

Noah Burdick (lacrosse, Lindenwood University), Luke Burns (soccer (MLS Next Academy), University of Virginia), Johnny Casale (baseball, Loyola Marymount), Willie Cornejo-Farmer (baseball, Loyola Marymount), Henry Dall (golf, University of San Diego), Deion James (lacrosse, Hampton University), Charlie McGinnis (lacrosse, Hofstra

University), Trey Markham (baseball, Rice University), Jack Meissner (baseball, UC Santa Barbara), Laird Miller (lacrosse, Rollins College), Jack Ohman (baseball, Yale University), George Smith (baseball, Regis University) and Tyler Spielman (golf, Auburn University).

Additional students are expected to sign in the spring of next year.

Brophy sports teams excel in state competition

Brophy College Preparatory had four sports teams compete and place in their respective state championships, in addition to the varsity football team winning the 6A region title.

The Brophy golf team finished second at the Nov. 3 AIA Division I State Championships at Aguila Golf Course in Laveen Village. The team shot a 285 team score in the second round and finished seven strokes back of Hamilton. The Broncos were led by seniors Henry Dall and Tyler Spielman, who recorded top-five finishes.

The swim and dive team finished third overall at the Nov. 4 AIA Division I State Championships at the Skyline Aquatic Center in Mesa. Head coach Daren Brubaker was named the Division I Coach of the Year after leading the Broncos to the top-three finish behind the strength of three top relay finishes and two podium finishes by senior Theodore Neilson in the 200-yard IM and 100-yard breaststroke.

The cross country team finished ninth overall at the Nov. 4 AIA Division I State Championship meet at Cave Creek Golf Course in Phoenix. The Broncos scored 280 points and placed three in the top 40 among their top five.

The Brophy-Xavier mountain biking team finished third at the Nov. 5 Arizona Cycling Association State Championships at Wren Arena in Fort Huachuca. Sophomore Kolbe Morgan was named the Boys JV1 D1 state champ.

Brophy's football team won its first region title in 15 years with a 14-12 win over Salpointe on Nov. 3 to finish with a 4-0 Central record and an 8-2 overall mark for the season. The Broncos were selected as the No. 1 seed in the AIA 6A Conference playoff bracket and posted a 35-7 win over No. 16 Mesa on Nov. 9 to advance to the AIA 6A Conference quarterfinals. The Broncos will be looking for their first semifinal appearance since 2014.

Special guests visit with All Saints' students

Students at All Saints' Episcopal Day School had the chance to meet two special visitors in November. The school's young students welcomed critically acclaimed author and illustrator

please see GUESTS on page 38

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Christ In Our Neighborhood Bible Study:

Thursdays at 6:00pm and Fridays at 9:00am in the Gift Shop

Advent Concert: December 4th at 7:00pm

Immaculate Conception of Mary: Holy Day of Obligation December 8th with Mass times at 6:30am, 8:30am, Noon, 6:00pm

Parish Mission:

Equipped to Serve - Finding Strength and Joy through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit with Fr. Klockeman December 6th, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Called and Gifted Workshop: Discern your spiritual gifts in this day-long wqorkshop. December 9th, 9:00am-3:30pm Register at staphx.org

SECOND WEEK of ADVENT

Candlelight Masses: 5:00pm Sunday, December 10th

Christ In Our Neighborhood Bible Study: Thursdays at 6:00pm and Fridays at 9:00am in the Gift Shop

Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and Reception: Join us after Mass for light refreshments, crafts and music. December 12th at 6:00pm

THIRD WEEK of ADVENT

Candlelight Masses: 5:00pm Sunday, December 17th

Christ In Our Neighborhood Bible Study:

Penance Service:



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24th, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, Midnight (music starts at 11:30pm)

Monday, December 25th, 9:00am and 11:00am

- *Christmas Vigil Mass times do not fulfill the Sunday obligation.
- *Sunday Mass times do not fulfill the Christmas obligation.

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SCHOOL DAYS



Sixteen Xavier student-athletes signed National Letters of Intent in November, including (Row 1, L–R) Madison Schenk, Lourdes Lauterborn, Mia Accomazzo, Caroline Boeckman, Grace Rubelsky, Kalyn Doss, Kate Hauptman, Isabella Gomez and (Row 2, L–R) Jaden Jevnick, Kate Willmering, Violet Torres, Lauren Putz, Kaelyn Putz, Maureen Ulrich, Dominique Nesland, and Sarah Miller (photo by Abigail de Leon).

GUESTS continued from page 36

Susan Stockdale, who talked about her books "Line Up! Animals in Remarkable Rows" and "Stripes of All Types." This Visiting Author presentation was aimed at inspiring students to make connections with their art, writing and research projects.

All Saints' pre-kindergarten students met with a special guest artist, Miles McDermott, a talented local artist who works in multiple disciplines, including art, furniture, photography, and website design. As the students learned about famous artists and prepared for their annual art show, McDermott discussed with them how artists also design letters. He engaged the students in an activity which they created their own letters that represent unique sounds. The young alphabet experts were thrilled to learn from Miles and enjoyed the creative exercise.

Xavier athletes sign letters of intent

On Nov. 7, 16 Xavier student-athletes signed their National Letters of Intent. The event was the culmination of many years of hard work and commitment to their respective sports. The event was held at Xavier's Virginia G. Piper Performing Arts Center.

Sister Lynn Winsor, BVM, CMAA, vice principal for Activities & Athletic Director, spoke to the young women, their families, and coaches at the occasion.

"We are especially proud of these young women who lived their athletic journey at Xavier. This is a testament to their dedication, the support of their families and the support of the Xavier community. We are appreciative and happy that so many of their family members, coaches, and friends came out to support them today."

Basis Phoenix Central offers holiday open houses

Parents of children in grades kindergarten through grade 5 are invited to attend one of two Basis Phoenix Central's Holiday Movie Night Open Houses in December.

During the event, parents will participate in a school tour, presentation, and Q&A session while children watch a holiday movie with the school's current students. After the tour and presentation, parents are welcome to join their child and watch the movie with current BASIS Phoenix Central families.

A Holiday Movie Night Open House for families of children in kindergarten through grade 2 will be held on Thursday, Dec. 7, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. For families of children in grades 3 through 5, the Holiday Movie Night Open House will be held Thursday, Dec. 14, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Basis Phoenix Central is located at 201 E. Indianola Ave. For more information, visit https://enrollbasis.com/phoenix-central/.





GENERATIONS

Senior Living Interactive presentation explores dementia aspects

Caregivers of those living with dementia are invited to participate in an interactive presentation featuring an 8-minute experience that presses participants to perform everyday tasks as if they were living with cognitive impairment. This simulation will be followed by a general review of the most common types of dementia and how progressive brain changes impact thinking, functioning and behaviors.

The program is being offered by Hospice of the Valley's Dementia Care and Education Campus Saturday, Dec. 9, from 1–4 p.m.

Other programs offered at the Campus include Fitness Fridays, offered Fridays (excluding major holidays) from 10-11 a.m.

Research shows that staying active is one of the most important strategies to keep brains healthy and strong.

Friday exercises are led by the campus occupational therapist, Calli Carlson, OTR/L, CLT, who 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 their persons living with dementia are all welcome to attend this fun and upbeat morning group.

The Dementia Care and Education Campus is located at 3811 N. 44th St., Phoenix. For questions or to register, send an email to events@dementiacampus.org or call 602-767-8300. Walk-ins always welcome. Visit www.dementiacampus.org.

Help for veteran caregivers offered

According to AARP data, Arizonans who provide care for veterans spend on average \$11,500 of their personal income on out-of-pocket costs related

to caregiving each year — 1.5 times higher than what other family caregivers spend (\$7,242). And 43 percent of veteran and military caregivers experienced at least one financial setback such as having to take on more debt or dip into personal savings, according to research from AARP and the National Alliance for Caregiving.

Across the country, more than 6.5 million veteran and military caregivers provide \$14 billion in unpaid labor for America's wounded warriors every year, which is why the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) offers support and resources for caregivers of veterans enrolled in VA health care through the VA Caregiver Support Program.

This program provides caregivers with access to VA health care benefits, caregiver education, financial aid, mental health services and up to 30 days of respite care. But of the 508,958 veterans living in Arizona, only 37 percent have utilized their earned benefits at VA health care, according to the U.S.

Census Bureau. Those wanting to learn more can visit www.caregiver.va.gov/index.asp.

In addition, AARP offers free resources for veteran and military caregivers, including an AARP Financial Workbook for Veteran and Military Family Caregivers; Military Caregiving Guide for Veterans, Service Members and Their Families; and Mental & Emotional Health Support Guide from AARP and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. Learn about these resources and more at www.aarp.org/veterans.

Kids & Families Enrollment open for piano classes

Music Works Community will begin a new 18-week semester of Prelude Piano Classes for Young Musicians the week of Jan. 8. Registration is now open. Also known as The Piano Place, Music Works offers lessons in piano for all ages and levels.

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GENERATIONS

Piano Preschool ShiningStars classes are offered for children ages 3 to 5 to gently prepare little fingers for piano, to sing and move, plus develop hand coordination and rhythm with drumming. LeapFrog piano lessons are offered for kindergarten and first grade students in small group classes.

Music Works Community is located at 302 W. Bethany Home Road. For more information or to register, call 602-796-1592 or visit the "Prelude" page at www.musicworkscommunity.com.

Gym hosts December events

Impact Gymnastics Academy will host two events this winter for Valley families, beginning with a Drop & Shop event Saturday, Dec. 9.

The Drop & Shop, held from 6-9 p.m., will allow parents to run errands while the kids have fun, get plenty of exercise, enjoy pizza and work on crafts. The event is open to children ages 4 and up (must be potty trained). Families must pre-register for the event.

The gym also will host a Winter Camp, which runs Dec. 26-29 and Jan.



Young residents are invited to two special events this winter at Impact Gymnastics Academy (photo by Diamond Collective Photography).

2-5. Camp attendees ages 5 to 14 will rotate through gymnastics rotations, open gym and make a holiday craft. Campers are asked to bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water, and to wear gym-appropriate clothing.

Impact Gymnastics Academy is located at 7812 N. 12th St. For information on pricing for either event, call

602-870-7574. To register for events, visit www.impactgymaz.com.

Forecast calls for snow flurries

Families looking to celebrate the winter season and upcoming Christmas holiday are invited to join the Children's Museum of Phoenix for

Santa & Snow.

Held Dec. 2-3, the event will welcome residents to a magical weekend where youngsters can share their holiday wish with Santa, dance under snow flurries in the atrium and explore the Museum's imaginative exhibits.

Santa visits will be available between 10 a.m. to noon and 12:30 to 2 p.m. Snow flurries will fall every 30 minutes throughout the day. The activities are free with paid Museum admission of \$17 per person.

Children's Museum of Phoenix is located at 215 N. 7th St. For additional information, call 602-253-0501 or visit www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org.

Science center hosts winter camp

Arizona Science center invites young residents ages 6 to 12 to explore all things icy at its Camp Innovation.

The winter break camp will be a limited four-day camp, Snowy Survival, that offers hands-on activities where future scientists will learn how animals

please see CENTER on page 42



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GENERATIONS

CENTER continued from page 41

survive in cold environments, discover how ice can act as an insulator and conduct winter-themed experiments.

The camp will run Dec. 26–29, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$260 for members and \$295 for non-members. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

Arizona Science Center is located at 600 E. Washington St. in downtown Phoenix. For additional information, call 602-716-2000 or visit www.azscience.org/events-programs/camp-innovation.

Library launches 1,000 book program

Studies have shown that families who start reading aloud to their children at birth help strengthen language skills and build vocabulary—two important tools when children begin learning to read in kindergarten.

The Phoenix Public Library is encouraging parents to help build their child's literacy before beginning school with its new program, 1,000 Books

Before Kindergarten. Through the new online program, parents can track progress, earn prizes and receive weekly book recommendations based on a child's age and interests — all while helping instill a love of reading.

To participate register at any Phoenix Public Library location or sign up online, then download the Beanstack Tracker App for easy tracking on your mobile device. Add 1000 Books Before Kindergarten at Phoenix Public Library in Beanstack.

When you reach 500 books, your child will receive a free book. When you complete 1,000 books, your child will receive a free "I Read 1000 Books" t-shirt

To learn more, visit www.phoenix-publiclibrary.org.

North Central mom publishes book

North Central mother and pediatric nurse Rhonda Thompson shares her story of overcoming sexual abuse and giving a voice to special needs children, like her son, in her first book, titled "The Silent Screaming."



Rhonda Thompson's first book tells a personal story as she and her son embark on a journey to heal from abuse and give voice to those with special needs (submitted photo).

The book tells the personal story of Thompson and her son, Joshua, as they embark on a journey of healing and discovery. Readers will learn about many of the challenges of mental illness, as well as how Thompson overcame the obstacles that come with it. She also shares the challenges of raising a special needs son and how to find

strength and hope in times of darkness. The author says that there is hope for those with mental illness and ongoing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In addition, there are ways to give a child a voice, guide them towards independence, and find their identity in the world.

Thompson knows first-hand the trauma abuse and mental illness can have on an individual, as well as a family. Throughout her journey of being Joshua's mom, she has learned how to navigate the difficulties of advocating for her child. Her goal with the book is to make the journey easier for others with what she has learned over the years.

To celebrate the recent launch, Thompson has pledged to donate a portion of the proceeds from the book sales to Raising Special Kids and Phoenix Children's Hospital. "The Silent Screaming" is now available for purchase on Amazon in both print and eBook formats.

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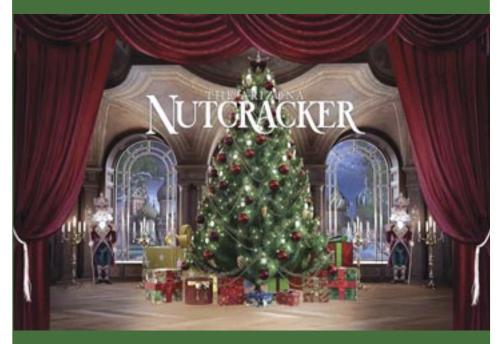
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



BELHAUS recently moved into a new gallery space in Uptown Phoenix (submitted photo).

New gallery opens in Uptown

Phoenix artist Gino Belassen hosted a grand opening reception of his allnew BELHAUS Uptown gallery Saturday, Oct 7. The new space, located at 5538 N. 7th St., Suite 120, opened with "Bad Optics," which ran through Oct. 28. In December, Belassen, the gallery co-owner, will host his own solo show, "Essentials."

Prior to opening BELHAUS Uptown, Belassen helped to revitalize Downtown's Grand Avenue art district, opening the original BELHAUS gallery/caffè in 2018 inside the historic Bragg Pie Factory that now houses a restaurant, Bacanora, and several additional art studios and collectives. The Grand Avenue space will return to a studio only space that will be open by appointment.

Belassen is known for his collaboration with Postino WineCafe, designing custom Rosé wine labels based on his "Essentials" lists, a.k.a. abstract to-do lists such as "Heartburn" and "Swordfight!" His works have been exhibited at international art fairs in London and Melbourne, as well as at the Guggenheim Gallery and Elizabeth Gordon Gallery in California.

An opening reception for "Essentials" is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 1 at 6 p.m. The show will run through Saturday, Jan. 2. The gallery is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., but appointments are

recommended. Learn more about the gallery at www.belhaus.co.

In addition, Framed Ewe, the eyeglass boutique that shares the gallery space, will host its annual Jacques Marie Mage trunk show Dec. 2, which is by appointment only. Visit https://framedewe.com/pages/framedewe-phoenix.

Herberger announces call to artists

From a tumble down the rabbit hole to artwork that explores whimsy, the Herberger Theater invites Valley artists to apply for two upcoming exhibits.

Next year, Herberger will host "Curiouser & Curiouser," where not everything is what it seems, and "A (Mad) Tea Party," a whimsical exhibit that blurs the lines between art and reality. Both exhibits will run May 1-29, 2024, but the organization is looking for artists who want to show their work.

Entries can be submitted electronically or mailed. The application deadline is Dec. 31. To apply, visit www. herbergertheater.org/artistic-opportunities.

Midtown Players present holiday event

The Midtown Players, a creative arm of the Midtown Neighborhood Association, invites residents to join them as the present "Holiday

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



The iconic Punchcard Building will play host to "Holiday Extravaganza," presented by Midtown Players Saturday, Dec. 9 (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

Extravaganza," scheduled for Saturday, but the first recording featuring Dec. 9.

Phoenix Chorale's Artistic Director

Hosted at Phoenix Financial Center's Punchcard Building, 3443 N. Central Ave., the event will run from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and include music performances, holiday storytelling, food trucks and a holiday market — even a Santa sighting. Performances will begin at 1:30 p.m.

The event is free to attend, but donations to the nonprofit are welcome. For additional information, visit www.midtownphx.org/midtown-players.

Chorale releases Christmas album

The Phoenix Chorale recently announced the release of "The Christmas Album," which brings together the same engineering team that recorded the group's 2016 Grammy-winning "All Night Vigil."

This is the Chorale's seventh album,

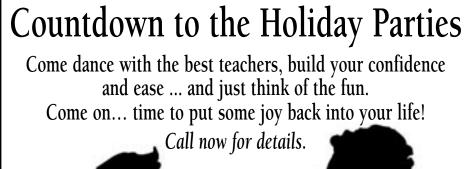
but the first recording featuring Phoenix Chorale's Artistic Director Christopher Gabbitas, and the first partnership with Signum Classics.

The album features a commissioned piece from Cecilia McDowall, "Trinity Triptych," which celebrated the 2021 centenary of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, (Phoenix Chorale's home in Downtown Phoenix,) as well as two pieces from local composers, Tom Peterson's original composition, "A Quiet Chamber," and Kira Zeeman Rugen's arrangement of traditional Irish Wexford Carol, both recorded for the first time.

The album also includes several songs originally arranged for the King's Singers, which have been newly adapted for the Phoenix Chorale by Gabbitas, himself a former King's Singer.

The album is available now. Visit https://lnk.to/phoenixchoralechristmas for all streaming and purchase options.







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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

On the Town

This month, celebrate the season with family-friendly light displays, live local music, dance and theater, check out national touring acts, shop at seasonal markets and so much more. See you on the town in December!

Rhythm & Blues Holiday Party

Dec. 1

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

Jamie Anderson and Deidre McCalla

Dec. 1

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



Las Noches de las Luminarias

Dec. 1-30

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

The Nash Education Concert

Dec. 3 The Nash

www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

'Nutcracker'

Dec. 4

Phoenix Ballet at Orpheum Theatre www.orpheumphx.com/events



Yussef Dayes

Dec. 4 Crescent Ballroom www.crescentphx.com; 602-716-2222

'Les Misérables'

Dec. 5-10

ASU Gammage

www.asugammage.com; 480-965-3434

'The Night Before Christmas'

Dec 6-24

Great Arizona Puppet Theater www.azpuppets.org; 602-262-2050

Blondshell

Dec. 7 Valley Bar

www.valleybarphx.com; 602-716-2222

Hanukkah Celebration & Jewish Trivia

Dec. 7

Crescent Ballroom

www.crescentphx.com; 602-716-2222

Gladys Knight

Dec. 8

Celebrity Theatre

www.celebritytheatre.com; 602-267-

1600

'Black Nativity'

Dec. 8-17

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

'Transcendent Winter'

Dec. 8-17

Phoenix Boys Choir www.boyschoir.org; 602-264-5328

'The Nutcracker'

Dec. 8-24

Ballet Arizona

www.balletaz.org; 602-381-1096

Merriment in Melrose

Dec. 9

Phoenix Melrose District https://melrosemerchantsassociation.co

m

Dustbowl Revival

Dec.

Last Exit Live

www.lastexitlive.com; 602.271.7000

'Scrooge! The Musical'

Dec. 9-30

Arizona Theatre Company www.arizonatheatre.org;

1-833-282-7328

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Gibson, Holt, Nash Jam Session

Dec. 12 The Nash

www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464



Jerusafunk

Dec. 13 The Rebel Lounge www.therebellounge.com; 602-296-7013

Los Yesterdays

Dec. 13 Crescent Ballroom www.crescentphx.com; 602-716-2222

Phoestivus Holiday Craft Market

Dec. 14-15 Downtown Phoenix www.phoestivus.com

TV Girl

Dec. 15 The Van Buren www.thevanburenphx.com; 480-659-1641

The Cinelli Brothers

Dec. 15 The Rhythm Room

www.rhythmroom.com; 602-612-4981

'A Chorale Christmas'

Dec. 15-18 Phoenix Chorale www.phoenixchorale.org; 602-253-2224



Photo by Michael Last

'Twas the Night Before' by Cirque du Soleil

Dec. 15-24 Arizona Financial Theatre www.cirquedusoleil.com/twas-thenight-before

ARIZONA

Dec. 16 The Van Buren www.thevanburenphx.com; 480-659-1641

The Arizona Nutcracker

Dec. 16-17

The Madison Center for the Arts www.themadison.org

'Thanks for the Memories: A Gay Christmas Carol'

Dec. 16-17 Phoenix Gay Men's Chorus www.phxgmc.org; 844-688-4272

'Rudolph the **Red Nosed Reindeer'**

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

'Cooking with the Calamari Sisters'

Dec. 28 - Jan 28 Herberger Theater Center www.herbergertheater.org; 602-252-8497

'Elf The Musical'

Thru Dec. 30 The Phoenix Theatre Company www.phoenixtheatre.com; 602-254-2151

Blues Band Showcase

Dec. 30 The Rhythm Room www.rhythmroom.com; 602-612-4981

Dennis Rowland and Delphine Cortez

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

ZooLights

Thru Jan. 14 Phoenix Zoo www.phoenixzoo.org; 602-286-3800

'Amalia Mesa-Bains: **Archaeology of Memory'**

Through Feb. 25 Phoenix Art Museum www.phxart.org; 602-257-1880

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.



12/3 • 12/10 12/17

For Hours & Pricing





















Christopher Joseph and Christopher Jeremy Barbara, owners of Dos Chris's Bakery & Charcuterie Co., are determined to spread sparkle, delicious food and kindness through their community (photo by Darryl Webb, special for *North Central News*).

Café Chat Spreading kindness with a sparkling touch

By Marjorie Rice

A conversation with the owners of Dos Chris' Bakery & Charcuterie Co. can be a bit confusing. Both the owners are named Christopher. Both have middle initials J. And they're so insynch that they complete each other's sentences.

There's Christopher Jeremy Barbara, a fourth-generation North Phoenician with family roots in the textile business, and his husband, Christopher Joseph Barbara, who grew up in Tucson, where his family owned three restaurants and where, with his mom, he nurtured his love for baking.

Operating from a tiny storefront at the hot culinary intersection of 16th Street and Bethany Home Road, they're determined to spread sparkle, delicious food and kindness through their community.

Before COVID-19, Chris Jeremy worked in the corporate world, and Chris Joseph was a flight attendant. When the pandemic hit, both men found themselves at home with a lot of time on their hands. Like a lot of people, they turned to cooking.

"I grew up in the culinary arts, tasting different flavors and textures," Chris Joseph said. "I love to go into the

cupboards and pick out random ingredients and create a dish."

One creation was a killer chocolate chip cookie, hefty at 5 ounces, with a crispy edge and pillowy center.

"Our mailman, who has become one of our dearest friends, started spreading our cookies around, and our business grew from there," Chris Joseph said. "It was all word of mouth – literally! Social media also really helped get the word out."

The couple first cooked from a small commissary kitchen, selling their bakery and charcuterie items at the Uptown Farmers Market, but summer heat soon drove them to a brick-and-mortar location.

"We got married on 10/10/2020, and we and started our company three months later," Chris Joseph said. "We signed the lease on this storefront a year later."

"It's not by happenstance that this place found us," Chris Jeremy said. "My family has lived in this neighborhood since the 1950s. It's a little bit of destiny that we're here."

Customer favorites from the bakery counter include the Ding Dong chocolate cupcake filled with vanilla cream, topped with chocolate buttercream, dipped in chocolate ganache and decorated with a swirl of vanilla buttercream. Strawberries 'N' Crème features a strawberry cupcake topped with

strawberry buttercream, fresh strawberries and whipped cream.

And then there's the "Dos chReese's Cupcake."

"People come from across the country for that one," Chris Joseph said. It's a peanut butter cupcake filled with peanut butter sauce, topped with whipped peanut butter buttercream, and dipped in chocolate ganache with a peanut butter drizzle on top.

Divine decadence, sprinkled with edible glitter, of course.

That original chocolate chip cookie still is the best-seller. Sea salt oatmeal coconut is another favorite.

Customers also drop by for bruschetta bites and grab-and-go charcuterie boxes.

"The bruschettas are made to order, and people love them," Chris Joseph said. "We call them 'Dos Bites' because each one is two bites."

For catering, they arrange fanciful free-form swirls and geometric patterns of meats, cheeses fruits and vegetables in colorful presentations that look like works of modern art.

"Chris and I get a lot of inspiration



Cupcake flavors at Dos Chris' include (starting top left and moving clockwise) Ding Dong, Gluten-free salted caramel macchiato, Pumpkin chia, Dos chReese's, and (center) Strawberries 'n' crème (photo by Darryl Webb, special for *North Central News*).

from the objects around us," Chris Jeremy said. "We may have a design in mind, but when we get there, we just start, so it fits the vibe of the room."

The pair bring in black butcher paper to cover a client's table or

counter, then arrange meats, cheeses, fruit, vegetables along with crackers, breads, spreads, jam, herbs, mixed nuts, olives and their signature Bruschetta Bites. Combinations include the caprese, with tomato, mozzarella, basil and

balsamic glaze; artichoke spread with fire-roasted tomatoes and manchego cheese; and goat cheese, apricot preserves and pistachios.

The Charsweeterie Catering packages are artful arrays of bakery items including mini cupcakes along with tartlets, cannolis, brownie bites and cookies. Any bare spots are filled in with candies.

The two Chrises do the set-up, then depart. At the end of the event, clients simply pack up any leftovers, then roll up the butcher paper and toss it.

"We used to do the tiers, vases and other serving items, then come back hours later to pick it all up," Chris Jeremy said. "This concept lets us fit in more than one catering in a day.

While their sales have grown, the men are determined to keep their original focus front and center, Chris Joseph said. "We really set out to have a safe space for everybody. We wanted to create a place where you can feel like you're at home, like you're a part of something in the community. Our whole goal is to always have a safe space

please see SPARKLING on page 50







SPARKLING continued from page 49

where you can just be you, enjoy yourself, enjoy how you're treated.

"Our slogan is 'Leave a little sparkle wherever you go,' and that sparkle is kindness. That's the message we want to spread. Our message is first, be kind to yourself. Eat the cupcake!"

Community outreach is a priority. "We're still new so we're doing different things," Chris Jeremy said. "With our 'Million Dollar Teacher' project, teachers can come and get a discount on our products. When we have extra cupcakes or charcuterie, we'll drop them off at the fire station or school for the teachers. They're so important to us."

"Arizona is near and dear to our hearts. We've been here generations, and we want people to know we are a community place. We're here to engage."

Dos Chris' Bakery & Charcuterie Co., at 6007 N. 16th St., is open from noon to 9 p.m., Wednesday to Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday. For information, call 602-837-8899 or visit www.doschrisaz.com.



The Henry will open a second Phoenix location in 2024 at 2 E. Camelback Road (rendering courtesy of Fox Restaurant Concepts).

Dining Briefs The Henry plans to head Uptown

In November, Fox Restaurant Concepts announced that after 12 years in Arcadia, The Henry will soon expand with a second Arizona location, slated to open in 2024 at the historic Uptown Plaza located on the northeast corner of Central Avenue and Camelback Road in Phoenix.

Established in 2013 by restaurateur and 12-time James Beard Award nominee Sam Fox of Fox Restaurant Concepts, The Henry is "where neighbors and visitors can always count on warm welcomes at all times of the day in a restaurant that beckons guests in with timeless elegance and a friendly, comfortable environment."

Diners at Uptown will enjoy the same classics from the Arcadia location but can also expect to see some new additions to the dinner menu. The well-known corner spot will undergo all-new construction and take on a style all its own. Guests can expect rich, green exterior awnings and centerpiece fireplace on the front patio. Add to that a walk-up coffee bar, spacious private dining room, warm leather banquettes, sky-blue tufted chairs, and ornate wooden and marble tables to give the restaurant a chic, café-like coziness against the bustling open kitchen in the background.

The Henry Central Phoenix will be located at 2 E. Camelback Road, adjacent to its sister concept, Flower Child, within the same plaza. For more information, visit www.thehenryrestaurant.com.

Provision celebrates the season

In November, Provision launched three new specialty drinks filled with festive flavors to celebrate the season.

Now on the menu are the Kyoto Blossom, featuring sparkling white tea, house-made blackberry compote, lavender bitters and lavender rose dust; the Casablanca, made with Nitro cold brew, spiced honey syrup, fig bitters, cinnamon and cardamom dust; and the Habanero Mocha, with single-origin chocolate syrup, fire tincture, espresso, milk and cinnamon dust. These festive sips are available through Sunday, Dec. 31, during restaurant hours.

Provision 7th Street is located at 711 E. Missouri Ave., Suite 115, Phoenix. For additional information, call 602-704-7211 or visit www.provisioncoffee.com.

Arts center hosts Art & Wine Fest

In December, the Phoenix Center for the Arts will host the PHX Art & Wine Fest. Traditionally called the Phoenix Festival of the Arts, this year will feature a greater presence by Arizona wineries and more food vendors.

This celebration of Phoenix's art, culture, and the flavors of Arizona wine aims to offer visitors an unparalleled sensory experience, and will be held Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 9–10, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily. At the event 15 of Arizona's best wineries will be joined by more than 50 local artists, food trucks and other vendors. Attendees will also be treated to entertainment throughout the day.



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To-date, a tentative list of wineries includes 1764 Vineyards, Birds and Barrel, Copper Horse, Coronado Vineyards, DA Vines Wines, Keeling Schaefer Vineyards, Oak Creek Vineyards, Soaring Wines and Strive Vineyards.

Organizers say that the PHX Art & Wine Fest is open to all, welcoming art enthusiasts, wine lovers, and families alike. Tickets for the Saturday event cost \$35 per person pre-sale or \$45 at the gate; Sunday tickets are \$30/\$40. Each ticket includes a commemorative wine glass and 10 tasting tickets.

The event is organized by Arizona Wine Events/Willcox Wine Country (www.willcoxwinecountry.org). Proceeds from the event will help support the Phoenix Center for the Arts, which is located at 1202 N. 3rd St. in downtown Phoenix. Learn more at https://phxartwine.eventbrite.com.

Breakfast spot opens in Biltmore area

Broken Yolk Café celebrated its grand opening of a new Biltmore area location in November.



Broken Yolk will bring its Chicken & Waffle Benedict, two Belgian waffle quarters topped with crispy chicken tenders, poached eggs, and hollandaise sauce, to its newest location at Camelback Colonnade (submitted photo).

Located in the bustling Camelback Colonnade, Broken Yolk Phoenix will serve breakfast, brunch, and lunch daily, and is equipped with a full bar. The restaurant says that it takes pride in its atmosphere and staff, who make every diner feel like a "regular."

Popular dishes include the Chicken & Waffle Benedict (two Belgian waffle quarters topped with crispy chicken tenders, poached eggs, and hollandaise

sauce), Californian Omelet (bacon, home fries, American cheese. Topped with avocado and sour cream), Wild West Burger (applewood-smoked bacon, onion rings, BBQ sauce, cheddar cheese, lettuce, tomato, and mayo), Monte Cristo (grilled ham and Swiss cheese sandwiched between two extrathick slices of French toast served with a side of raspberry sauce) and more. Wash it all down with unlimited refills on cof-

fee or choose from a Mimosa Flight or Bloody Mary Flight. Gluten-free and vegan/vegetarian options available.

The Phoenix location is the first in the market to be owned and operated by San Diego-based hospitality group, Grant & Grit Collective. In addition to Phoenix, the group also operates three of the concept's locations in Southern California, with more under development.

Broken Yolk Café is located at 1928 E. Highland Ave, #SF01. For additional information, visit www.thebrokenyolkcafe.com.

Postino WineCafe launches new menu

In early November and just in time for holiday gathering, Postino WineCafe introduced a new menu and residents are invited to experience the new seasonal offerings.

On the food menu are three new plates, including Roasted Mushroom Fondue (melted white cheddar, truffle, roasted cremini mushroom, focaccia crostini); Mexican Street Corn, this

please see MENU on page 52







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to help fill these food boxes. We are asking community members to come by and donate items for the food, household and seasonal item boxes. Needed items include non-perishable food, water, blankets, clothing, household items and toys. All donations will go to the Society's Food and Clothing Bank for distribution. *Accepting donations through Dec. 23, 2023*.

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MENU continued from page 51

summer's Battle of the Bruschetta winner; and Italian Beef Panini (Italian roast beef, brie, caramelized onions, garlic aioli and au jus). For a sweet finish to the evening, the restaurant has added Hot Donut Dots (homemade donut holes with salted butter chocolate, caramel and vanilla sugar glaze dipping sauces) and Cookie Sundae (waffle cone, vanilla bean ice cream, salted chocolate butter sauce, chocolate chip cookie, cookie butter and graham cracker streusel) to the lineup.

Fall additions to the wine list include Intuicion Cava Brut, Last August, Bayonne White Blend, Boire Gamay, De La Tierra and Correa.

Visit Postino Central at 5144 N. Central Ave. or Postino Arcadia at 3939 E. Campbell Ave. For more information, visit www.postinowinecafe.com.

New Italian concept to open this month

The restaurant team behind Hash Kitchen, The Mexicano, The Sicilian Butcher and The Sicilian Baker are set to launch a fifth concept this month. The Maggiore Group, along with Chef Joey Concepts, are set to open The Rosticceria with an official grand opening set for Tuesday, Dec. 5.

"The inspiration for the new concept came from traveling through the Rome and Abruzzo regions with my wife, Cristina, and father, Tomaso," says Joey Maggiore, chef and cofounder of The Maggiore Group and Chef Joey Concepts. "We loved the grilled meats and the porchetta, and I am still dreaming about it."

The new restaurant will feature Abruzzo-style cooking with a menu collection of wood-fired meats with an Italian twist. Menu items will include Arizona's only authentic Neapolitan fried pizza, rotisserie chicken and porchetta, a savory Italian culinary tradition that the restaurant says will be an exclusive item in Arizona. Guests can also expect interactive elements, which will include a build-your-own soft serve gelato shake bar with over 40 toppings offered and wearable alcoholic beverages poured in Italian horns on gold chains.

The new 5,372-square-foot space will feature both indoor and outdoor seating to accommodate a total of 226 guests. The interior design of the restaurant will be "next-level" and incorporate



Residents can satisfy their pizza cravings at a new Crust location near 16th Street and Bethany Home Road (submitted photo).

inspiration from the couple's travels — envision Roman relics and graffiti. The venue will also feature a DJ booth to provide weekly live entertainment.

The Rosticceria is located at 12811 N. Tatum Blvd., Phoenix. For more information, visit www.therosticceria.com.

Pizzeria opens two locations

Crust Simply Italian announced the opening of two new pizzerias – Crust New York Pizzeria in Tempe and North Central Phoenix. The concept is a modern neighborhood pizzeria that serves New York-style pizza and other staples.

The Phoenix location is at 6031 N. 16th St. and took over a former Artichoke Pizza. The newly renovated, 2,400-square-foot space offers guests the option to dine in or take out. They can enjoy the secluded patio or a quick slice at the bar.

"The focus at these two restaurants is to serve the families and communities who live, work and play there," said Michael Merendino, owner of Crust Restaurant Group "The menu features my family's recipes, and we proudly serve them at an affordable price. We look forward to welcoming guests in and making Crust Pizzeria their new go-to."

Merendino, who is originally from New York, says that he designed the pizzerias envisioning the warmth of his own large Italian family, crafting a space where each guest is treated like a family member returning home.

In addition to the hand-tossed pizzas, the menu at both locations will feature a monthly special pizza including combinations like the Manhattan Special

(meatballs, ricotta cheese, red onion, Calabrian chilis and fresh basil). Guests can expect traditional items like garlic knots, wings, pastas and calzones, as well as hearty sandwiches including a meatball parm, and Italian beef. Beer, wine and specialty cocktails also are served.

For hours of operation and more information, visit www.crustpiz-zaplace.com.

Brewer releases seasonal flavor

Greenwood Brewing's latest seasonal brew sets out to capture the essence of the harvest season while "offering a symphony of flavors that dance on the palate." Valley residents will have the opportunity to raise a glass of Harvest Diem Spiced Ale at two events this month.

The journey of Harvest Diem began in 2014 when founder Megan Greenwood brewed the first batch in her own garage. This humble beginning laid the foundation for the brewery, which opened its doors in Downtown Phoenix in July 2020.

The Spiced Ale boasts a 5.5% ABV and is poured with a honey, sugar and cinnamon rim. It is brewed with a careful selection of Warrior and Mittlefruh hops, and infused with cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, and ginger.

"Our journey with Harvest Diem has been nothing short of magical," said Greenwood. "From its beginnings in my garage to the vibrant energy of our Downtown Phoenix brewery, every time we brew this beer, I know it's one of the best times of the year. We wanted to create a beer that not only embodies the spirit of the harvest but

also pays homage to the rich flavors that this season brings. The result is Harvest Diem — a beer that our customers say, 'tastes like fall' and welcomes you with open arms into the warmth and abundance of autumn."

The brew is available seasonally, from August to January, ensuring that beer enthusiasts have ample time to savor the unique flavors. Harvest Diem is now available in the Greenwood taproom, the Phoestivus Holiday Craft Market in Downtown Phoenix, Dec. 14 and 15, and Greenwood Brewing's Sip & Shop Market Dec. 16. Residents can also find Greenwood brews at locations around the Valley.

Greenwood Brewing is located at 922 N. 5th St. To find a store, visit www.greenwoodbrews.com.

Make merry with Match

Match Market & Bar at the FOUND:RE Phoenix Hotel invites residents to eat, drink and be merry with new holiday offerings to-go on Christmas Eve and for dining in on Christmas Day.

Instead of cooking on Christmas Eve, Match Market & Bar can take care of feeding the family with the Christmas Eve take out special. Designed to feed four to five people, this package is \$120 and includes maple and date salad, cheesy garlic flatbread, family-sized lasagna with Italian sausage, ricotta, mozzarella and San Marzano tomato sauce and one dozen assorted Christmas cookies.

On Christmas Day, guests of the hotel and the public alike are invited for Christmas Day dinner. Cost is \$59 per person, plus tax and gratuity, and includes a holiday cheese plate with jalapeno jam, fruits and nuts; brussel sprout salad with cinnamon toasted almonds, goat cheese and honey apple vinaigrette; Christmas beef roast with roasted vegetables, parm-crusted smashed fingerling potatoes and red wine demi sauce; and Santa's milk and cookies mini cake featuring chocolate chip cookie white cake with buttermilk frosting, Santa hat garnish and sugar "snow."

FOUND:RE Phoenix Hotel and Match Market & Bar are located at 1100 N. Central Ave. To order or make a reservation, call 602-875-8080 or visit www.matchphx.com. For more information call 602-875-8000 or visit www.foundrehotels.com.

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SITTING CROOKED & TALKING STRAIGHT: Auto Industry Pro on What to Expect in 2024 Shahe Koulloukian, Owner of Mazvo Auto Care Center, examines the ever-changing automotive landscape

The auto industry has experienced you're sailing; the next, you're unexpected difficulties over recent years, from fluctuating lending rates and demand to touchless automobile purchases via kiosks. Our former reliance on Craigslist gurus appears to be gone; therefore, let's give a brief review live from 2023's automotive environment; sitting cross-legged while discussing some of the greatest difficulties automobile owners must endure buckle up!

These Are the Challenges Car Owners Are Facing Now SKY-HIGH REPAIR COSTS: The

complexity of modern vehicles has mechanics pulling out diagnostic tools more intricate than a Mars Rover. Say goodbye to fiddling and tinkering in the garage and say hello to crying in the waiting room.

SUPPLY CHAIN SHENANIGANS: Due to everyone's favorite thing supply chain issues — you might find yourself waiting months for a simple part. Patience, young Padawan. Thank goodness for Starbucks!

CRYPTO-CRAZE: Heard of NFTs? That's "Not Fixable Today" for you non-geeks. Digital currency is creeping into the car buying scene, making financial transactions more confusing than understanding a French road sign.

INSURANCE IRRITATION: Algorithms now calculate insurance premiums based on how many times you passed gas

in the passenger seat last month, your dog's zodiac sign, and whether Mercury is in retrograde.

SELF-DRIVING DILEMMA: Do you trust a computer to drive you home after your night out? Or do you stick to the traditional DUI - Driving Under the Influence of your own bad decisions?

ECO-FRIENDLY PRESSURE: It's cool to be green ... until you realize that means giving up your V8-powered, exhaust-belching

monster truck. Sacrifices,

sacrifices.

GAS PRICE PUZZLES: Gas prices are more unpredictable than a cat on a hot tin roof. One day

considering trading your firstborn for a full tank.

ROADWAY RODEO: Infrastructure is decaying faster than the moral fiber of our society. Construction workers have all gone to Denny's for breakfast. Potholes are turning commutes into obstacle courses, requiring the agility of a gazelle and the nerves of a bomb defuser.

CAR HACKING: No, not turning your sedan into a convertible with a chainsaw. Modern cars are susceptible to hacking, so now your car might catch a virus before you do!

Now that our analysis of 2023 vehicle owners' most pressing concerns and what lies ahead has reached completion, it has become evident that managing today's automotive landscape requires both caution and initiative. Change is inevitable; yet information and knowledge may provide invaluable assistance on your path toward making informed decisions, avoiding potential traps and turning obstacles into opportunities.

Keep your seatbelts on and let's remain focused and confident. We have the knowledge and empathy necessary to safely navigate any road ahead.

Shahe Koulloukian, known for his expertise as a stand-up comedian, feature film actor, professional chef, and auto repair shop owner for 28 years - is now adding author to his accomplishments with the highly anticipated publication of Car Confidential: an owner's manual tailored specifically for car owners rather than vehicles themselves. Condensing 42 years of hard-won automotive experience into an easy-to-read reference covering all aspects of automobile ownership as well as industry secrets that might save hundreds of dollars over time - making Car Confidential an immediate classic thanks to Koulloukian's unique combination of professional and personal experiences!

Car Confidential is now available on Amazon and soon at other fine major book retailers.









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