



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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North Central woman takes the lead at IFRC

By Trudy Thompson Shumaker

Need to find North Central Phoenix resident Kate Forbes? She's not hard to track down. That is, if you are willing to follow her to Geneva (that's the place in Switzerland) or any place in the world where there's human suffering (that's places like all over Africa, Haiti, Ukraine and Syria for starters). While she and her husband, Don, live in North Central Phoenix and have a second home in Santa Fe, the family joke is that she lives at airports. And in disaster camps around the world. And in villages and nations' capitol buildings. And in Phoenix.

Kate, or Katherine, as some call her, is the newly elected president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). She is the first American ever elected to this position, and only the second woman to hold this position in its history. The IFRC is the world's largest humanitarian network, with member organizations in 191 countries around the world. Their work is done by 16 million volunteers. Kate is one of them.

In war zones and in neighborhoods here in Phoenix, Red Cross and Red Crescent Society volunteers work together to alleviate human suffering. Forbes leads their work.

"I'm a volunteer, and I really respect the work of volunteers," she says. She has more than four decades

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Pictured, R-L, are Bobby and Joe Quihuis, instructors and members of the Arizona JKA board, and Art and Lyn Weiner, members of the dojo since the 70s (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

Dojo fosters enduring relationships

By Kathryn M. Miller

Love can be found in the most unexpected places, but for members of the Arizona JKA Shotokan Karate dojo, love, in all its forms, seems to come with the territory.

On the wall of the dojo are its five guiding principles: Seek Perfection of Character; Be Faithful; Endeavor to Excel; Respect Others; Refrain from Violent Behavior. These principles, the Dōjō kun, are recited during the closing ceremony of each class, and members of the dojo carry them into their everyday lives. Is it any wonder, then, that a dozen or so members have not only found love, but longevity in those relationships?

As with many things that stand the test of time, this story begins with a good foundation. Originally founded in December 1961 at 28th Street and Thomas by Gary and Joan Abbott, in 1964, under the direction of the International Japan Karate Association (JKA), the owners helped bring Sensei Shojiro Koyama from Japan to the Valley. That same year, the dojo moved to its cur-

rent location at 7th Street and Maryland Avenue.

When Sensei Koyama retired in 2017, there was no immediate successor. To keep the doors open, management of the dojo was assumed by a board of senior students with instructor credentials. Now operating as a nonprofit, the dojo has sustained the Sensei's teachings, in heart and spirit, even after his death in 2021.

On a January morning some 60 years after the dojo first opened, four longtime members, Bobby Quihuis and her husband, Joe, both instructors and 5th and 4th degree black belts, respectively, and Lyn Weiner and her husband, Art, also black belts, talked about longevity, continuity, the lessons of their Sensei

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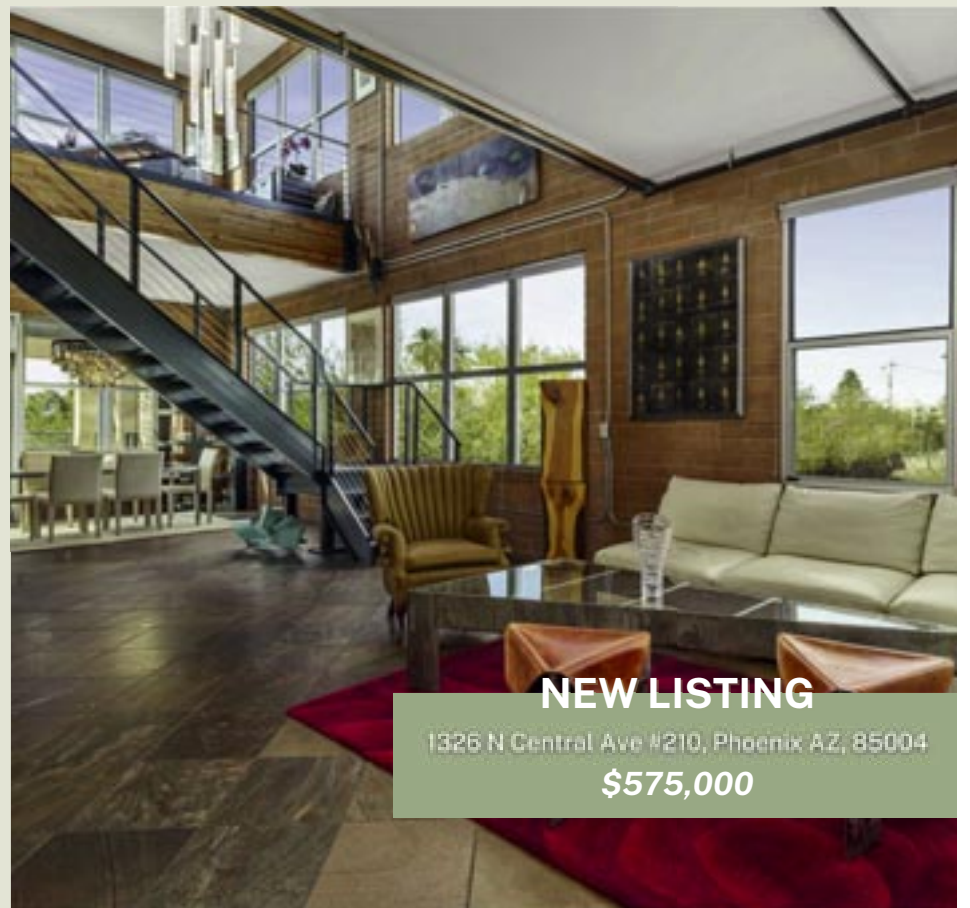
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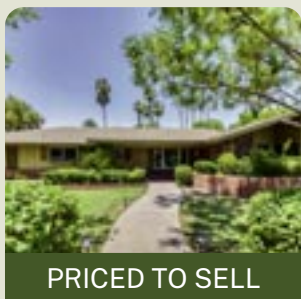
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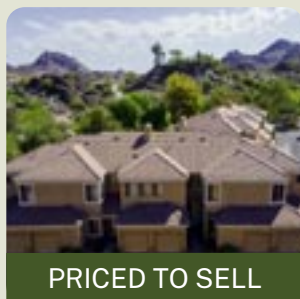
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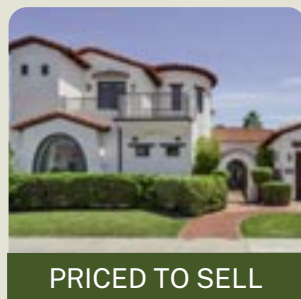
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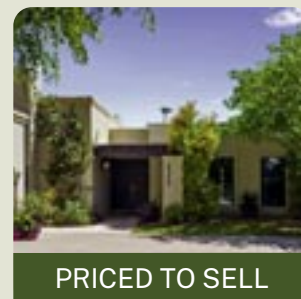
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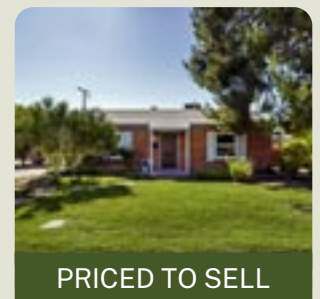
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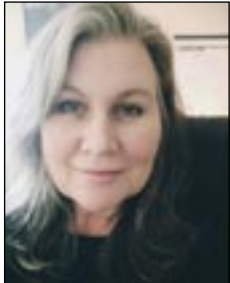
COMMUNITY

From the Editor

Hello, North Central neighbors!

For this month's cover stories, we highlight five amazing North Central residents — all of whom have found a personal passion either through the work that they do or the guiding principles that they follow.

First is Kate Forbes, the first American ever elected as president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and only the second woman to hold this position in its history. We also spoke to Bobby and Joe Quihuis and Art and Lyn Weiner, all decades-long members of the Arizona JKA Shotokan Karate dojo — a North Central business that has stood the test of time.



In this month's Café Chat, Marjorie Rice sat down with Ken Schnitzer, owner of Luci's Urban Concepts, at The Orchard. Along with all of the other myriad Luci's offerings, The Orchard is now home to a new tavern — a perfect spot for neighbors to gather.

As always, you can catch up on other community, business, dining and school news, as well as explore our round-up of things to do in the Valley this month and beyond.

Finally, if you would like to receive a link to our digital issue beginning in March, head over to our website (www.northcentralnews.net) and sign up for our monthly newsletter.

In the meantime, we hope that you enjoy our February issue, and until next month, all my best!

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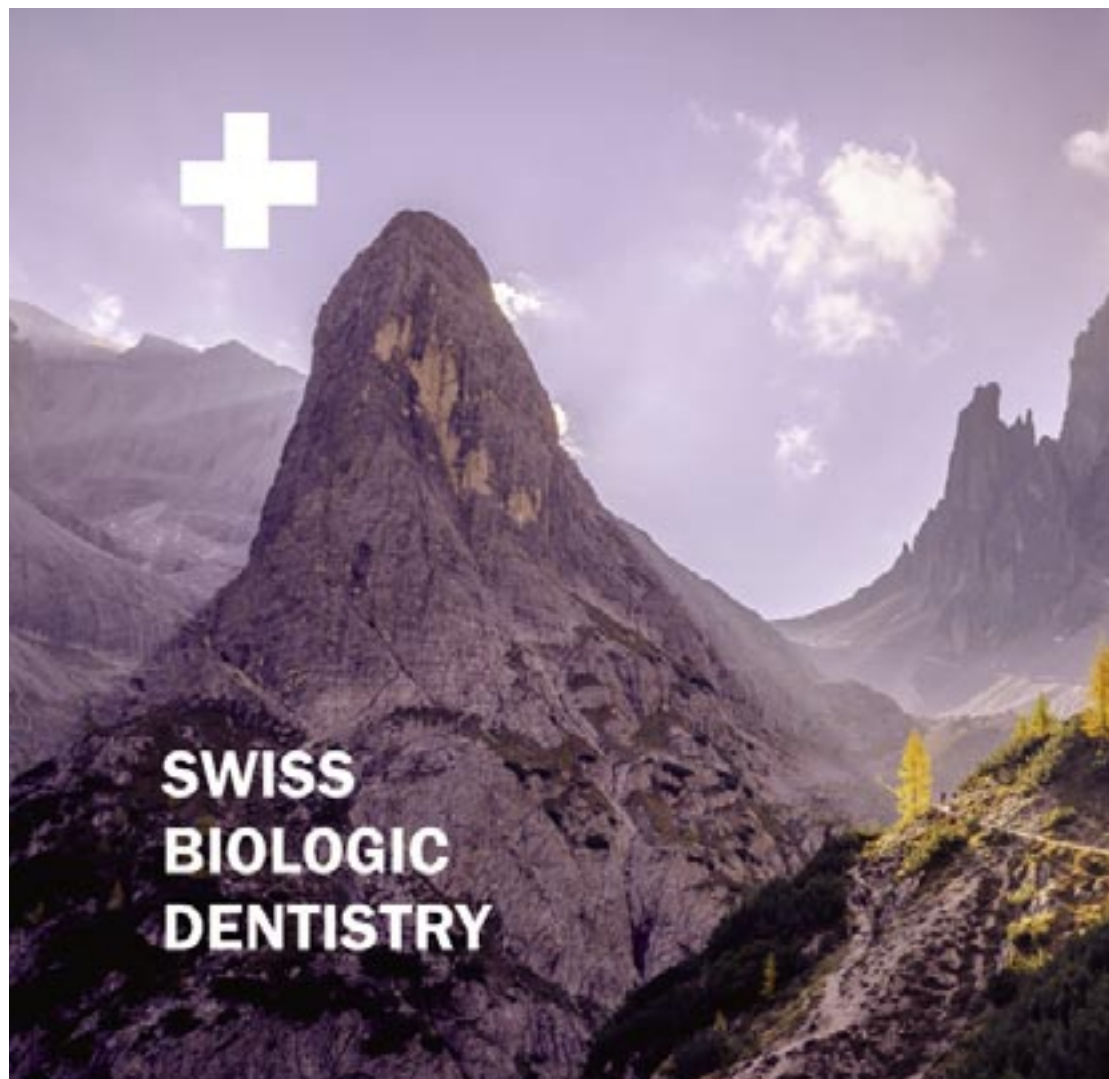
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COMMUNITY

Engage in the planning process

By Kathryn M. Miller

In 2020, the City of Phoenix was awarded a \$1 million Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to engage with the communities located along the Northwest Extension Phase II Light Rail extension (NWEII), a 1.6-mile connection from Valley Metro's light rail system at 19th and Dunlap Avenues to the former Metrocenter Mall area in Phoenix.

The NWEII TOD Study Area was established, roughly 19th Avenue west to 35th Avenue, Butler Drive north to Peoria Avenue, and a living document will be created and implemented with the local community — a TOD policy plan specific to the area. According to the project website, this plan “will serve to attract, guide, and prioritize strategic investments in infrastructure, housing, economic development, transportation, and other areas to realize a shared community vision for the future of the area.”



The newly opened Northwest Extension Phase II of the Valley Metro Light Rail, as seen from the new elevated platform of the Thelda Williams Transit Center, is the focus of the city's newest planning outreach (photo courtesy of Valley Metro).

With the launch of the city's General Plan 2025 outreach in late 2023, the Planning Department shifted from the use of TOD to TOC (Transit Oriented Communities) to better align with its vision of “a more connected city,” but the definition remains the same: Transit Oriented Communities feature “compact, pedestrian-scaled, mixed use development strategically located within a short walk of high capacity transit.” (www.phoenix.gov/pdd/tod)

The Planning Department will host a five-day workshop, Feb. 26-29 and

March 2, to further the process of creating the NWEII TOC policy plan, and it is seeking input from the community. The workshops will be held for roughly two to three hours each day at Cortez High School, 8828 N. 31st Ave. At press time, the workshop hours had not yet been determined.

A community input survey and more details can be found online at www.phoenix.gov/NWEII.

City launches vacant property registry

The city of Phoenix's Vacant Property Registry (VPR) is now open to the public. In a new ordinance passed by the Phoenix City Council in December 2023, properties vacant for more than 30 days that meet the following criteria are now required to register with the Neighborhood Services Department: Non-residential properties; unimproved land that is 10,000 or more square feet; and residential properties with 50 or more units.

The city said that it faced challenges with locating property owners, especially those who reside out-of-state. The new ordinance addresses these challenges by requiring owners to register annually, provide contact information and report occupancy changes within 10 days. In addition, out-of-state owners are required to designate a local point of contact who can address issues promptly.

Enforcement will begin on unregistered vacant properties in February 2024. With fines ranging from \$500 to \$2,500, the Neighborhood Services Department urges property owners to register as soon as possible. The Vacant Property Registry is available now on myPHX311, the city of Phoenix's online service portal. Learn more about the program at www.phoenix.gov/nsd/vacant-propertyregistry.



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of experience volunteering with the IFRC, and even longer volunteering with the American Red Cross.

Her life of service through the Red Cross started with one meeting in Phoenix many years ago. She's a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and was asked by a colleague to come to an American Red Cross Phoenix board meeting to lend her expertise in looking over financial statements.

"I told him I didn't have time. I was mom to a little girl, and my husband and I were running our family electrical business," she remembers. "My colleague said something that changed my life and the life of my family. He said 'Kate, how can you NOT have time for the American Red Cross?'"

She continued, "I heard him loud and clear. So, I went to the meeting. I was hooked. The volunteer service — the mission is to ease human suffering without bias, without politics, and that touched me deeply," she reflects.

And that was the start of her volunteering with the Red Cross. She served as a volunteer on the board of the Phoenix chapter, and worked tirelessly to increase awareness and raise funds for the work volunteers do. And what does that work involve? Aiding those affected by disasters across the street or across the world, working with military families, reuniting those separated by armed conflict or natural disasters, teaching life-saving CPR and water safety, and collecting blood from donors and distributing it to hospitals and clinics where it is used to save the lives of trauma victims and those with cancer and blood diseases such as sickle cell.

Forbes knows how to roll up her sleeves and get the job done, regardless of whether she is reading financial statements, recruiting volunteers, feeding hungry kids, meeting with world leaders to convince them to do the right thing or reassuring worried disaster survivors. She's likely to do it all and more in any given week. She often meets with world leaders on behalf of the Red Cross, and her engaging, sincere nature has turned many an icy meeting into a warm, productive one.

"Kate drives a hard bargain when it comes down to it," says one of her many supporters. "Seeing her in action, advocating for easing human suffering through the Red Cross, is impressive. She can get through to even the toughest



Kate Forbes, the new president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, is the first American ever elected to the position and only the second woman (photo by Roxanne Schorbach).

est of world leaders," he says.

Using her financial and accounting background, she has served on multiple audit committees for Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies around the world, always focusing on where Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are assisting. She works hard to ensure every bit of money raised is spent wisely, leveraging it for the best use to feed, house, and improve the safety and health of those needing help, regardless of their race, religion or political affiliation.

"The Red Cross/Red Crescent founding principles are based in neutrality, impartiality and humanitarian service," she says. She stands in the hallway of the American Red Cross office in Phoenix and shows visitors the posters illustrating the founding principles. "We stand for all of these, and we show others, regardless of the harsh conditions they face, that they can count on the Red Cross to stand with them."

Forbes has been honored with award after award, locally, nationally and internationally, for her selfless service. She is at home on a cot in a shelter, soothing a crying child, and sharing a moment with a tribal elder. She can throw a string of pearls around her neck, run a comb through her hair and dig a dress out of her suitcase just in time for a meeting with a head of state.

Running through an airport is nothing for her — and neither is running alongside a bus to flag down a driver, when she has stopped to help a child injured on a street in a war-torn country.

"My first priority is kids," Forbes says. "More than half our volunteers, worldwide, are youth. They know how

please see LEADS on page 8

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IN ADDITION

There is one aspect of being a long-time realtor that I have never shared in my monthly column. That is of being a Special Real Estate Commissioner in Arizona.

A Special Real Estate Commissioner, appointed consistent with Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure, Rule 95G, serves a crucial role in legal proceedings related to real property sales. With nearly two decades of experience, I have successfully fulfilled this role, overseeing the sale of homes and land. The Commissioner's responsibility includes establishing property value, orchestrating marketing efforts and guiding the sale process to closure. This impartial facilitation ensures the greatest value for all parties involved. The appointment by the Courts reflects an honor, emphasizing my commitment to fairness and unbiased representation in real estate transactions within Maricopa County, extending beyond my primary focus in Phoenix.

As a commissioner, I have been involved in selling several hundred properties. The job entails an initial visit to the home to meet with sellers within 10 days of being appointed. During the meeting, procedures are explained. A fair, impartial and professional blueprint will be detailed, as mandated by the court. The next step: evaluate the home based on its condition (offer suggestions to secure more value for the home) as well as research comparable sales. The home will then be

marketed and added to Multiple Listing Service (MLS), which displays the property to agents as well as online real estate sites. Communication and negotiations continue, with all parties. When there is an accepted contract, the property goes into escrow. We work with the title company, lenders and all other parties to facilitate a seamless transaction and meet all contractual requirements. I am happy to meet with you and provide more information or answer any questions.

In addition, 2024 is a 'leap year,' and we gain an extra day at the end of the month. Other than celebrating my niece Isabelle's actual birthday (Leapling), how are you going to spend this extra day? Maybe watch an episode of 30 Rock, from February 2012, and the story of Leap Day William, a Tina Fey creation. He appears every four years to trade children's tears for candy.

Merry Leap Day,

Bobby Lieb

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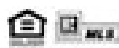
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DOJO continued from page 1

and why others might enjoy karate. Their ages range from late 60s to closing in on 80 and all have trained at the dojo for three or four decades — they also all met there and subsequently married.

JKA's three dozen members are anywhere from age 5 to 79, and it is not uncommon for multiple generations to train at the dojo, they said. Many friendships have been forged over the years, and there have been at least six marriages. And longevity? The Quihuis' will celebrate their 47th anniversary later this year and the Weiners have been married for 40 years.

Both couples point to karate and their dojo specifically for those strong relationships.

"It does form a very strong basis of activity in our relationship," Lyn said. "It's kind of the rhythm section."

Bobby agreed, "You have common interests. You have common friends. And just the diversity of the dojo is something that I think the whole world could learn from. With people from different religions, different ethnicities, different backgrounds, different political affiliation...none of that is important because everybody has a common interest. They're training for karate."

And key to that training are the concepts of the "Dōjō kun," which are reinforced at the dojo and translate beyond its doors.

"It's not just how you act on the floor, but what you're trying to incorporate in your daily life," Bobby said. "Usually, when people think of martial arts, they think of kicks, you know flying kicks and stuff. But for us, it is lifetime training," she added.

"My 78-year-old-self is extremely grateful to my 33-year-old self because it provides mental and physical energy," Lyn interjected.

"And it's a nice family activity," Bobby continued. "We have multiple instructors in the class, that way we can kind of break it up, separate the children, but it's a common activity that you're doing with your family without really focusing on your family."

Art agreed, and related a story about the founders' daughter, Kimi, who grew up in the dojo, now teaches the kids' class and brought her granddaughter to a recent dojo gathering.

"It just blew me away to see that continuity of generations," Art said.

Karate is also a great way to create

focus in your day, Bobby said. She has seen adults find stress relief and concentration, and kids who may be on the fidgety side find calm, and if they are shy or quiet, it brings them out of their shell.

"You come here, you're breathing, you're stretching, you're focusing on the techniques, and you forget about work, you forget about stress. There's no phones out there. So, it's a chance to just kind of recenter yourself."

Art added, "You show up here with baggage from your day; you leave your baggage outside of the door when you train. When you get finished training and you leave, your baggage is gone."

And all four say that despite their decades of experience, they are still learning — every day.

"Above all, our Sensei used to say that it was a lifetime exercise," Joe said. "But it is also an art. It is not just a sport; it's not a weekend thing. I think people, once they experience that, they will stay for a little while."

He continued, "It doesn't require that somebody be massively strong or even particularly coordinated, you can develop these things. As you get older, you start to get the philosophy behind karate. Now that I've been here for a long time, 45 years...it's not about the time, it's the process. It's about the journey."

Residents who are interested in learning more about this North Central dojo can see its members in action at Arizona Matsuri festival, Feb. 24-25 at Steele Indian School Park. Or go online and sign up for an introductory class. Arizona JKA karate dojo is located at 6326 N. 7th St. Learn more at www.arizonajka.org.

LEADS continued from page 6

to work with other youth from around the world. Youth caring for and empowering other youth — it will be powerful."

Speaking of kids, Forbes smiles as she remembers something her daughter, then in sixth grade, said when she was juggling Red Cross responsibilities with those of being a mom involved with her daughter's class.

"The school had pizza on Fridays, and the parents volunteered to serve and clean up. My daughter said, very matter-of-factly — 'Now mom. Think about it. What is more important? Feeding me and my friends pizza on Friday or volunteering with the American Red Cross?'"

Forbes smiles even more as she remembers that day many years ago.

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collaboration and support. I am very excited about the positive changes this switch has brought to my real estate career.

Looking forward to 2024, I am eager to continue providing excellent service to my buyers and sellers in the Phoenix housing market.



LET'S CHAT!

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AVERAGE SALE PRICE	\$626,818	\$606,692	\$545,942
% CHANGE		↑3%	↑15%
#OF HOMES SOLD	1,950	2,466	2,408
% CHANGE		↓19%	↓17%

* Source of data: ARMLS for Single-family homes.

HAPPY HOUR WITH HERSCH

The NFL playoffs start in 2 weeks, and **what an unpredictable regular season we have enjoyed so far.** Even though our hometown Cardinals have been out of the running for a while, I can honestly say I have been pleasantly surprised with how tough and competitive we have played.

I am not a big believer in Kyler Murray, but I must admit he has played very well since his return from injury. I also had low expectations for our new coach, Jonathan Gannon, but he has rallied the team all year and filled them with a never-say-die attitude. **I am hopeful that this portends big things for our Redbirds next season.**

As far as this year's playoffs, I don't see a superior team, although Ravens fans will probably disagree. I expect the Ravens to be upset and I predict the AFC Championship will come down to the Bills (if they even make the playoffs) and the Browns. In the NFC it feels like the Eagles and Cowboys will fall short, leaving the NFC Championship to be contested between the 49ers and Lions, though the Rams could give a scare or two.

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COMMUNITY

SRP offers shade trees

Salt River Project (SRP) will offer two workshops this month as part of its popular shade tree program. After completing one of the virtual workshops, customers can select two 2-6-foot-tall shade tree saplings at a shade tree pick-up event.

The free, virtual workshops, scheduled for Feb. 10 and Feb. 24, from 10-11 a.m. both days, will educate customers on how to plant and care for the trees before receiving them. The workshops are bilingual and closed captions will be offered. Availability is limited.

Learn more at www.srpnet.com/shadetrees.

Murals bloom in unexpected places

Phoenix residents may have noticed a blooming of colorful new artwork across the city, but not in the typical space one might expect.

In March 2023, the City of Phoenix Street Transportation Department, working with the Office of Arts &



Local artist Lauren Lee transformed a traffic signal control cabinet at Central Avenue and Hatcher Road into a work of art as a part of a series of projects throughout the city integrating public art into the community (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

Culture, held an initial meeting with artists as part of a \$53,000 pilot program to wrap Phoenix traffic signal cabinets. A Streets spokesperson said that the beautification project is community-driven, and each artist worked with community stakeholders to collect input on the designs.

To date, 15 cabinets have been wrapped with colorful artwork, and two more are in the process. In and

around the North Central area, artwork can be found at the intersections of 19th Avenue and Glendale, 19th Avenue and Northern, Hatcher Road and Central Avenue, and 40th Street and Camelback Road.

Long-running sale returns

The Junior League of Phoenix (JLP) will host its 87th Annual Rummage Sale, also known as “Arizona’s Largest Indoor Garage Sale.” The event will take place Saturday, Feb. 24, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Arizona Exposition & State Fair Exhibit Building in the Arizona State Fairgrounds.

Shoppers are invited to explore a treasure trove of new and gently used items offered at deeply discounted prices. Early birds are encouraged to arrive promptly for the best selection.

The sale, which will feature thousands of items across various categories, serves as JLP’s signature fundraiser, raising more than \$125,000 and benefiting local community programs and JLP-sponsored training.

Arizona Exposition & State Fair Exhibit Building is located at 1826 W. McDowell Road. Admission is \$5 from 8 a.m. to noon and free from 1-4 p.m.; parking is \$10. For additional event information, visit www.jlp.org and click on the “Events” link.

Church hosts veteran talk

Veterans and the public are invited to an informal talk presented by Travis Burns, an Army veteran with service in the Gulf War and exposure to toxic burn pits. Burns is an active volunteer with the Phoenix VA/Veterans Affairs Medical Center Veterans and Family Council. His focus includes prevention of veteran suicide, and moral injury.

The free presentation will be held Saturday, Feb. 24, 9-10 a.m., at Cross Roads United Methodist Church, 7901 N. Central Ave. To ensure adequate refreshments, leave a message by Thursday, Feb. 22, at 602-943-7834. Direct questions about the program to Carol Culbertson, team leader for the Cross Roads veteran’s ministry: caroleculbertson@earthlink.net.

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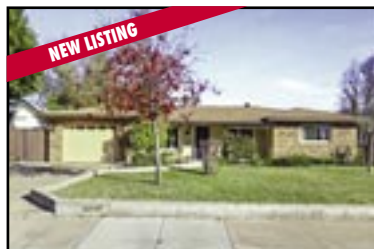
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6823 N. 10th Avenue • \$650,000
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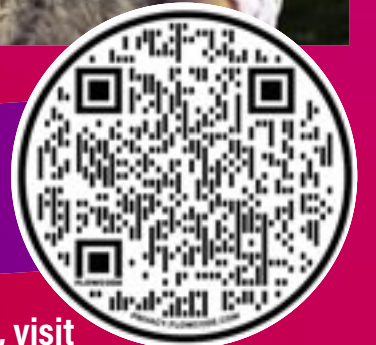
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COMMUNITY

Celebrate Melrose at street Fair

The 2024 Melrose on 7th Avenue Street Fair is scheduled for Saturday, March 2, from 11a.m. until 5 p.m. Now celebrating its 21st year, the annual one-day M7 Street Fair event spans over a half mile in the heart of Phoenix's Melrose District on 7th Avenue from Indian School to Campbell Avenue.

The event is free to the public and features 200 local and independent artisans, food trucks, live music, an entertainment zone for kids, a car show, craft beer garden and more. The event is also dog-friendly.

While attendees will have the opportunity to discover the unique local businesses in the Melrose District, another highlight of the day will be the LAMBDA Car Club (previously Chester's Classic Car Show), which will welcome over 100 classic, antique and vintage cars, truck and hot-rods.

The event is hosted by the Seventh Avenue Merchants Association, whose mission is to further the unique charac-



The Melrose District will celebrate its unique businesses along a half-mile of 7th Avenue at the annual M7 Street Fair (photo courtesy of Seventh Avenue Merchants Association).

ter and assets of the Melrose Curve. For more information, visit www.melrose-merchantsassociation.com.

Discover Willo at annual tour Feb. 18

The Willo Neighborhood Association's 35th Annual Willo Home Tour is scheduled for Feb. 18.

Initially planned in the 1920s, Willo is one of Phoenix's first historic neighborhoods and is now part of the core of Central Phoenix with all the amenities, culture, and community the area has to offer.

Visitors will have the opportunity to wander through the palm-lined streets and glimpse Phoenix's past with historic architectural styles – Tudors,

bungalows, Spanish Colonials and later ranch styles – and enjoy the historic charm and preservation efforts of the Willo neighborhood. The event will include a street fair with food and other vendors, a car show and live music.

In addition to street parking, parking is available at the parking garage located at 1850 N. Central Ave. Trolleys will be continually running throughout the day.

The event runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 18. Purchase tickets at www.willophx.com/home-tour or at Walton Park (3rd Avenue between Holly and Monte Vista) on the day of the event.

Coronado Home Tour set for Feb. 25

The Coronado Home Tour returns this year with a street fair, inviting neighbors, friends and family to a fun day of local vendors, food trucks, historic and historically modern homes on tour, kids parade, music and more.

Scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the street fair is free but home tours require a ticket. Once checked in at the ticketing tent at the street fair, touring guests will be given a wrist band for home access.

Ticket sales go towards supporting the Coronado Neighborhood Association, which allows the organization to continue advocating for the greater Coronado area and hosting more events like the fair and tour.

The street fair will take place at 1717 N. 12th St. For additional information or to purchase tour tickets, visit www.thecoronadoneighborhood.com/home-tour.

Collectibles club holds sale

The Phoenix Antiques, Bottles and Collectibles Club will host its annual sale Feb. 23-24 at North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Ave. Friday's early bird (2-4 p.m.) admission is \$10; from 4-6 p.m. admission is \$3. Saturday admission is \$3 all day, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Hosted in February for more than 40 years, Club members and antique dealers gather to sell a variety of collectibles — from old Arizona bottles to restaurant dinnerware, lanterns, dolls, linens, toys and more. Learn more at www.phoenixantiquesclub.org.

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COMMUNITY

Pet of the Month Shy Sedona receives second chance

Puppy season is in full swing at the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) and dozens of pets have been given a second chance at a great life thanks to the shelter's lifesaving programs. This includes adorable Sedona, who is just one of more than 100 precious lives saved through AHS' Project Reachout Program this fiscal year alone.

This lifesaving program is just one way AHS works with other shelters and rescues to continue saving more vulnerable lives in our community by bringing in pets in need of medical care that other shelters are unable to provide and space allows. Thanks to this unique program, Sedona made her way to AHS all the way from the Navajo Nation earlier this year.

After receiving medical care in the shelter's trauma hospital and a loving Foster Hero home, the fluffy girl is hoping to find a forever home to call her own. Although she is a bit on the shy side, she promises to provide lots of love and joy to her future forever family in exchange for a patient, calm environment while she learns the ropes of home living. Those interested in meeting sweet Sedona are encouraged to visit www.azhumane.org/adopt to learn more.

If Sedona (pet #761763) has already been adopted, AHS encourages you to 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.

Enjoy puppy yoga at rescue

Residents are invited to join Almost There Rescue for its Paws & Reflect Puppy Yoga series the first Wednesday of each month.

The 30-minute flow will feature free-roaming puppies. All ages and abilities are welcome at the next event, scheduled for 6-7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 7. The cost is \$30 per person, with proceeds supporting the rescue's efforts to save mama dogs and pups, provide care and enrichment, and find loving, forever homes.

Almost There Rescue is located at 2611 E. Indian School Road. To register for a yoga event, visit www.almosttherescue.org. Call 480-336-9860 for additional information.



Shy Sedona has plenty of love and joy to give to her future forever family (photo courtesy of Arizona Humane Society).

Registration opens for Humane program

Teenagers between the ages of 14-17 will have the opportunity to participate in the spring semester of the Arizona Humane Society's (AHS) Humane Teens program. This program is an exciting youth leadership initiative for teens who are uniquely interested in the world of animal welfare.

Becoming a Humane Teen is a special commitment to the Arizona Humane Society that requires 24 hours of service within a school semester. Participants will receive animal handling training, help lead programs for younger animal lovers, assist with exotic animals and much more.

Teens will also participate in other activities. For example, in December, Humane Teens decorate AHS' Waggin' Wheels mobile adoption vehicle so it could truly sparkle during the annual APS Light Parade.

Registration for the spring semester (Feb. 17 to May 11) is now open. Visit www.azhumane.org/humane-teens.

Shemer hosts pet-centric art event

Those who love art and four-legged family members will find both as Shemer Art Center hosts a day of dog-gone fun this month.

Scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the center will host its eighth annual Furry Friends Fine Arts Festival. This fun, animal-themed arts festival is "purr-fect" for the entire family, and will include a handful of activities, art exhibits, food vendors, pet adoptions and more.

Shemer Art Center is located at 5005 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix. For more information, call 602.262.4727 or visit www.shemerartcenter.org.

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



The Royale, a mixed-use retail development, officially opened its doors in the Melrose at a Jan. 21 grand opening celebration, District (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

Royale celebrates grand opening

By Kathryn M. Miller

The Royale, a much-anticipated mixed-use retail development located at 635 W. Glenrosa Ave. in the Melrose District, celebrated its grand opening in style Sunday, Jan. 21.

The brainchild of owners Mark Howard and Rocco Menaguale, the community-focused development features an outdoor gathering space that is surrounded by eight local, independent businesses that will meet a variety of needs for area residents. Tenants include YUMBAR, owned by Howard who also is the owner of FEZ Restaurant & Bar, Rocco Designs, a full-service architecture, interior design and fine art studio and the creative behind The Royale, Cult Hair Salon & Spa, StemSwag Floral & Gifting, Window Coffee Bar, LIX Uptown Ice Cream, Scotty Kirby Photo + Design, and Your Health & Wellness.

StemSwag opened its doors at the development Jan. 5, and Window Coffee Bar held a soft opening Jan. 13. YUMBAR and Cult opened in time for the Jan. 21 community event, and those businesses that were not open to customers in time for the celebration will be opening soon. But they all had a presence at the event.

In August 2022, the project had been actively in the works for a year, but Howard and Menaguale told *North Central News* that they had been kicking around the idea of a development

like The Royale for many years, and the timing was finally right, as was the location — both have a deep love for the Melrose area.

Now, a year and a half later, as the project comes to fruition, there hasn't been much time for reflection yet, but Howard said he is feeling "Incredibly exhausted and incredibly blessed," as well as "amazed at the transformation and the incredible collection of businesses that will reside at The Royale."

Howard extended a "huge thank you" to the community, "Especially to those in the immediate surrounding areas for their support and patience throughout this redevelopment process. All of our tenants are ready to serve the community at large and create a place that will make Melrose and Phoenix proud."

Learn more about The Royal at www.royalephx.com.

Business Briefs

Event focuses on women entrepreneurs

Entrepreneur and advocate Heather Lennon, of Raconteuse Cigars, Imagine General Contracting and Development, Arizona Warehouse Holidays and Imagine Develops, LLC, will partner with other local female powerhouses to present WomenPHX'24, Saturday, March 2, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fairytale Brownies' co-founder and president Eileen Spitalny will co-host this unique experience at her bakery, 4610 E. Cotton Center Blvd. The inau-

please see EVENT on page 18

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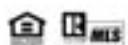
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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

EVENT continued from page 16

gural WomenPHX'24 kicks off Women's History Month 2024 and raises funds for Dress for Success Phoenix, a nonprofit that empowers women to achieve economic independence with support, attire and development tools for work and life.

During the event, women can participate in multiple workshops designed to help them further develop and enhance their business skills, interests, wellness and beyond.

Visit www.womenphx.com for more information and to register.

Artplay opens sister location

After 13 years of business, Artplay founder Elizabeth Tomko announced that the company has opened a sister location in North Phoenix at 15601 N. 40th St. Suite 130. The original location on 1130 E. Missouri Ave., Suite 350, will continue to serve families.

Artplay sessions are designed to help children ages 4-16 years learn about their emotions by allowing them to explore freely through art and play. This process



Founder Elizabeth Tomko, pictured, announced a second location for Artplay, which offers emotional support to children ages 4-16 (submitted photo).

can empower kids to better articulate how they feel and to develop calming techniques used at home and at school.

Tomko says that staff members undergo training in the "Artplay Way," which not only ensures they have a higher level of education in counseling, but it also emphasizes exceptional skills in helping kids in a direct, yet compassionate manner. Additionally, the company pri-

oritizes transparency and collaboration by providing feedback after each session, offering valuable insights into each child's progress. The owner personally handles all intake calls, ensuring a tailored match for a child with the most suitable helper.

For more information, call 602-329-1347 or visit www.artplayhealing.com.

The Central Park gets council OK

After six months of making its way through various public hearings in 2023, The Central Park, an 18-acre development at the northeast corner of Central Avenue and Indian School Road, was unanimously approved by the Phoenix City Council at its Jan. 3 formal meeting.

The project was originally approved in 2019, but the developer went back to the city in 2023 with a reimagined design and a short list of requested stipulation modifications, discussed at length in previous *North Central News* coverage. At an Oct. 18 Planning Hearing Officer meeting, the hearing officer approved for recommendation six of the seven requests. The only request he recommended for denial is to

delete Stipulation 14, which would remove the requirement for ingress and egress (entrance and exit) points to align with existing street network locations.

The Planning Commission reviewed the request Dec. 7 and recommended approval of the Planning Hearing Officer's recommendation by a vote of 5-0. The Planning Commission recommendation was appealed by a community member Dec. 14, which sent it to a public hearing before the council in January.

While some in the community felt that the developer should be held to all of the stipulations approved in the 2019 project, in particular a diagonal view corridor that highlighted the history of Phoenix Indian School and the surrounding area as well as a more open design, others argued that the project was, on the whole, a positive for the area. Council agreed.

The approved project features 78,000 square feet of ground-floor retail and restaurant space, to include a market/grocer space, and 245,000 square feet of office space, and 1,450 residential units. Included in the residential mix are 320 senior-living units, 930 market-rate multi-family units and 200 condos.

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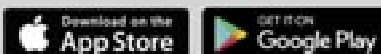
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613 E Vista Ave.....New Price.....	2987SF.....	4BR/3BA.....	\$1,225,000
77 E Missouri Ave #52.....In Escrow.....	3575SF.....	3BR/2.5BA.....	\$ 899,999
77 E Missouri Ave #67.....In Escrow.....	3184SF.....	4BR/3BA.....	\$ 774,900
902 E Kaler Dr.....	1/2 acre LOT.....		\$ 750,000
240 W Missouri Ave #25.....New Price.....	2167SF.....	2BR/2.5BA.....	\$ 650,000
2212 E Granite View Dr.....Just Listed.....	1907SF.....	3BR/2BA.....	\$ 585,000
225 E Echo Ln.....Just Listed.....	1619SF.....	2BR/1.75BA.....	\$ 519,000
5720 N 64th Dr.....	1561SF.....	4BR/2BA.....	\$ 399,900
3848 N 3rd Ave #2053.....New Price.....	989SF.....	2BR/2BA.....	\$ 275,000

3 Homes SOLD in 2024, 5 currently in escrow. Call me to discuss your real estate needs and the value of your home. 602.376.1341. I work 7 days a week and am always available to help.

SOLD HOMES 2024

7117 N 13th Pl*.....	\$ 825,000
8225 N Central Ave #32.....	\$ 365,000
4727 E Lafayette Blvd #128.....	\$ 309,000

SOLD HOMES 2023

620 W Lawrence Rd.....	\$4,050,000
5319 E Rockridge Rd*.....	\$3,825,000
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
546 E Kaler Dr.....	\$1,330,000
910 E Kaler Dr.....	\$1,260,455
512 E Adair Dr*.....	\$1,235,000

50 E Lamar Rd.....	\$1,200,000	694 W Colter St.....	\$ 630,000
510 W McLellan Blvd.....	\$1,175,000	14210 N 9th St*.....	\$ 629,900
7101 N 3rd Ave.....	\$1,157,500	715 W Culver St.....	\$ 625,000
1324 E Lupine Ave*.....	\$1,075,000	715 W Culver St.....	\$ 625,000
5130 N 6th St.....	\$1,065,000	1400 E Bethany Home Rd #29.....	\$ 585,000
18244 W Meadowbrook Ave.....	\$1,025,000	17726 W Larkspur Dr.....	\$ 575,000
5645 N 7th Ave.....	\$1,000,000	7748 N 7th Ave.....	\$ 572,500
322 W Stella Ln.....	\$ 895,000	1222 E Wagon Wheel Dr.....	\$ 515,000
7814 N 4th Pl.....	\$ 875,000	2828 E Cholla St*.....	\$ 515,000
719 E Circle Rd.....	\$ 855,000	804 E Corte Oro*.....	\$ 550,000
4681 N 84th Way.....	\$ 833,705	1516 W Glenn Dr.....	\$ 505,000
3103 E Hazelwood St.....	\$ 830,000	1001 W Solcicio Ln.....	\$ 400,000
2524 E Beryl Ave.....	\$ 799,000	106 E Echo Ln.....	\$ 495,000
6811 N 11th Pl.....	\$ 785,000	3618 E Coronado Rd.....	\$ 460,000
12243 N 58th St.....	\$ 750,000	18383 W Vista Norte St*.....	\$ 432,000
21206 N 62nd Ave.....	\$ 725,000	5220 N 16th Ln.....	\$ 400,000
23 E Laurie Ln.....	\$ 715,000	16182 W Winslow Dr.....	\$ 378,000
2227 E Palmyra Ave.....	\$ 700,000	10432 N 11th St #2.....	\$ 359,900
3011 N 166th Pl.....	\$ 685,000	23836 W Wier Ave*.....	\$ 339,000
122 E San Miguel Ave.....	\$ 675,000	4239 N 20th St.....	\$ 280,000
5576 N 12th St #1.....	\$ 675,000	6541 N 41st Ave.....	\$ 270,000
5804 N 14th Ave.....	\$ 650,000		
15027 E Desert Willow Dr.....	\$ 645,000		

*represented buyer

**represented both buyer and seller

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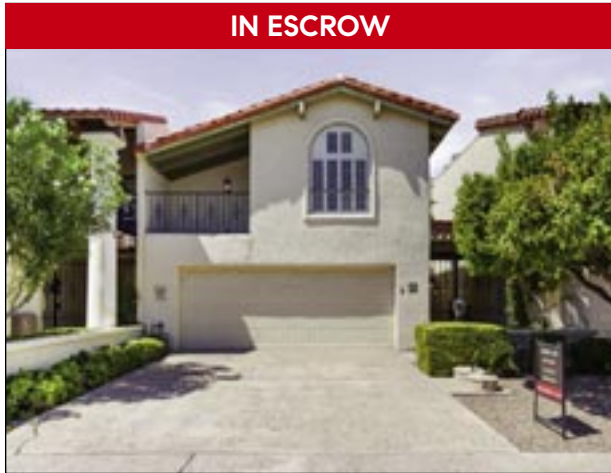
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IN ESCROW

77 E Missouri #52 • \$ 899,999
3575SF • 3BR/2.5BA



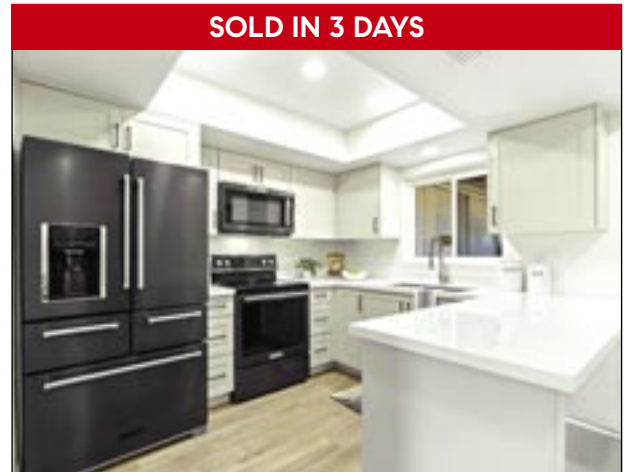
JUST LISTED

2212 E Granite View Dr • \$585,000
1907SF • 3BR/2BA



JUST LISTED

225 E Echo Ln • \$519,000
1619SF • 2BR/1.75BA



SOLD IN 3 DAYS

8225 N Central Ave #32 • \$369,500
1178SF • 2BR/1.5BA



SOLD

694 W Colter St • \$630,000
1883SF • 4BR/2.5BA



SOLD - REPRESENTED BUYER

7117 N 13th Pl • \$ 825,000
2956SF • 4BR/2.5BA



NEW PRICE

3848 N 3rd Ave #2053 • \$275,000
989SF • 2BR/2BA



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SCHOOL DAYS

Students receive 'Distinguished' scores

Students from Madison Highland Prep are given an assessment after they complete an engineering course, known as the PLTW Final Exam. The assessment tests students on rigorous educational standards and is developed using a secure exam browser. Unlike other exams, the PLTW Final Exam primarily focuses on problem-solving and critical thinking in a real-world context. The assessment questions are designed to involve real-world situations that students would most likely encounter, therefore, delivering a more dynamic and technical assessment.

Students receive detailed score reports that include a scale score ranging from 100 to 600. The scale score report places the student in one of four categories: Novice, Practiced, Accomplished, or Distinguished. The report gives an indication of the level the student's knowledge for that particular engineering course as well as provides individual eval-



Fourteen Madison Highland Prep students received "Distinguished" scores on their engineering first semester final exam, which also helps them earn college credits (submitted photo).

uation scores on specific skill clusters. At Madison Highland Prep, a total of 14 students scored exceptionally high, thus granting them the most esteemed recognition of "Distinguished."

Among the students who received this score, two were seniors, 11 were sophomores, and most remarkably, one

was only a freshman. These scores are not only something for students and their parents to be proud of, but can be incredibly beneficial to a student's future, the school said. In scoring in the "Distinguished" category, students have the opportunity to obtain college credit from more than 30 colleges, including

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Another advantage to scoring well is students can use their test scores to qualify for internships and apprenticeships. Including PLTW distinguishable scores can even help strengthen a student's college application or resume.

The 14 students who received this remarkable score were from the engineering classes that took the PLTW Final Exam in December before students left for winter break. The PLTW exam is given a total of two times. The second exam will be given in May, before students are released for summer break.

School Briefs

GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT GUHSD honored by state superintendent

Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) was acknowledged for its accomplishments by Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne during a regular governing board meeting Jan. 10. Horne praised the district for its exemplary support of English Language Learners (ELL), pointing out the district's leading reclassification rate in ELL programs, evidenced by their high proficiency on the AZELLA (Arizona English Language Learner Assessment) test. He noted that the reclassification rate is the highest in the state.

The district says that the success is attributed to GUHSD's dedicated teachers who meet each student at their level, offering tailored language services to fulfill individual needs.

"The hard work of the ELL students and the commitment of GUHSD teachers, who set high expectations and build meaningful relationships with students, encourage them to achieve exceptional performance," the district said in a released statement.

Horne also highlighted the district's national acclaim, citing their recognition as the Advanced Placement District of the Year by the College Board. Moreover, he mentioned that all nine schools in the GUHSD consistently rank among the top in the nation, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. He presented a certificate of achievement to GUHSD Superintendent Brian Capistran and the Governing Board, in recognition of the



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SCHOOL DAYS

district's impressive achievements.
Learn more at www.guhsdaz.org.

NJROTC participates in clean up

Thunderbird High School NJROTC conducted their quarterly Adopt A Street. Cadets cleaned 19th Avenue from Thunderbird Road to Greenway, and other cadets cleaned the campus, including the stadium and softball/baseball fields. This activity added over 100 community service hours to NJROTC's count and made the environment cleaner for everyone.



Members of Thunderbirds NJROTC added to their community service hours with a recent street and campus clean up (submitted photo).

Tax credit contribution support district students

GUHSD reminds residents that there is still time to give back to district students with a tax credit contribution. By donating to a GUHSD high school or program of choice, residents can benefit students' high school experiences and positively affect the community.

Arizona state law also allows you to receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit for contributions that residents make to an Arizona public high school, which can be used as a credit against any state income taxes that you may owe (consult a tax professional for more information). Married couples can contribute up to \$400 when filing jointly; \$200 per person if filing separately; and single individuals can make a maximum contribution of \$200.

To make a tax credit contribution, visit <https://bit.ly/3ZL18L9>. Residents can make a larger donation through the

GUHSD Education Foundation (501(c)3). Visit www.guhsdaz.org/domain/50.

All members serve without pay. Learn more at www.madisonaz.org/governingboard.

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT Board elects leadership

At the Jan. 9 Madison School District Governing Board meeting, Karen Gresham was elected as the president and Christine Thompson was elected as the vice president. Other members of the board include Scott Holcomb, Mitra Khazai and Sarah Speer

The Governing Board is a five-member body of citizens elected by the voters of the school district and charged with ensuring the district meets the best interests of the students and the school system. Members serve a four-year term.

Madison earns 'A' rating

Madison School District is an A-rated district, as determined by the annual achievement profile developed by the Arizona Department of Education and adopted by the State Board of Education for every public school and school district in the state, based on an A through F scale.

The system measures year-to-year student academic growth, proficiency on English language arts, math and science, as well as the proficiency and academic growth of English language learners. These metrics serve as indicators that an elementary student is ready for success in high school and that high school students are ready to succeed in

a career or higher education. Madison's Superintendent, Dr. Kimberly Guerin, said, "Our talented, dedicated staff, working hand-in-hand with parents and community members help us to continue to provide an outstanding educational experience for each and every student."

Apply now for open enrollment

Madison School District is currently accepting open enrollment applications for the 2024-25 school year. Madison schools offer high-quality signature programs including Visual & Performing Arts, STEAM, Spanish Immersion, International Baccalaureate, REACH-Profoundly Gifted program, and a Traditional Academy. Six Madison schools were recently named as "Best" schools in the 2024 U.S. News & World Report rankings.

For more information on schools, signature programs and enrollment, visit www.madisonaz.org/enrollment.

District schedules blood drive

Madison School District, in partnership with Vitalant, will host a blood drive at the Madison District Office March 8. In addition to helping to support those in need, donors will also be eligible for a chance to win Vitalant's prize drawing.

The blood drive will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the district office, 5601 N. 16th St. For more information ***please see BLOOD DRIVE on page 24***



**2024 - 2025 SCHOOL YEAR
OPEN ENROLLMENT**

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[**madisonaz.org/enrollment**](http://madisonaz.org/enrollment)

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SCHOOL DAYS



North Valley Arts Academies senior Vi Garza-Reeves' "In Circles" was performed at the SCC fall dance concert (photo by AnnaK.Mac Photography).

BLOOD DRIVE continued from page 23

and to schedule an appointment, visit www.madisonaz.org/blood-drive. Walk-in donors will also be accepted.

OSBORN SCHOOL DISTRICT Enrollment is open for upcoming school year

Enrollment is now open for the 2024-25 school year. Registration for kindergarten through eighth grade, as well as students enrolling in the Montessori Program, can be completed online by visiting www.osborn-schools.org. In addition to its monolingual and dual language Montessori program, Osborn offers a dual language program for all grades in addition to preschool and English learner programs.

With increased interest and limited space, the district encourages families to not wait to enroll. Osborn's signature programs will reach enrollment capacity quickly.

For questions or to schedule a tour at any of Osborn's schools, contact 602-707-2000 or visit www.osborn-net.org.

PARADISE VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT Student choreographer captures spotlight

Olivia "Vi" Garza-Reeves, a senior at North Valley Arts Academies (NVAA) at Shadow Mountain High School, has blazed a unique trail in the Arizona dance community by winning

the prestigious C² Choreography Competition. Her choreographic piece, "In Circles," triumphed over a competitive field of submissions, catching the discerning eyes of five adjudicators who recognized her creative genius.

The C² Choreography Competition is a distinguished platform connecting high school dance creators, Scottsdale Community College (SCC) Dance, and Arizona's professional dance communities. The win not only propels Garza-Reeves into the limelight of the dance community but also includes a scholarship award. A crowning achievement of the competition was the opportunity to perform at the renowned SCC 2023 "Images in Motion" fall dance concert held Dec. 8-9.

The Paradise Valley Unified School District says that the student's victory bears witness to the exceptional talents emerging from NVAA Dance and Shadow Mountain High School and the vibrant potential within Arizona's dance industry.

"Her achievement is not just a personal win but a triumph for the school and the Arizona dance community, inspiring future generations of dance creators," the district said.

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Student earns full ride to Yale

Maddox McShane, a senior at Phoenix Union High School District's (PXU) Bioscience High School was *please see FULL RIDE on page 26*



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pxu.org/camelback



Schools of Opportunity that Welcome, Love, and Inspire All Students to Go Places and Do Things that Matter

SCHOOL DAYS

FULL RIDE continued from page 24

admitted to Yale with a full ride scholarship through the QuestBridge National College Match program.

The program gives students who have excelled academically despite financial hardships the opportunity to attend some of the country's best colleges through a four-year scholarship. More than 12,000 finalists have been matched to a college partner since QuestBridge's founding, and more than 1,700 finalists were matched in fall 2022.

Finalists who attend the program's college partners are supported in their college years and beyond through on-campus chapters and nationwide opportunities offered through the QuestBridge Scholars Network and QuestBridge Alumni Association.

McShane attended school in the Madison Elementary School District prior to joining the PXU family. He plans to dual major in math and philosophy at Yale.



Bioscience High School senior Maddox McShane has been admitted to Yale with a full ride scholarship through the QuestBridge National College Match program (submitted photo).

domly selected to receive a \$2,500 grant to fund classroom supplies and projects as part of the program. Skaw will use her funds to purchase a variety of xylophones for her students, while Coleman will spend his grant to purchase materials to upgrade the music library. The district thanked the Palo Verde Fiesta Bowl for supporting the teachers within the WESD family.

District to hold interview fair

WESD is hiring teachers, and candidates are invited to join them to experience the WESD difference at an upcoming Teacher Interview Fair, scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 13, from 3:30 to 6 p.m. at the WESD Administrative Center, 4650 W. Sweetwater Ave.

The district says that it offers competitive salaries of \$51,610-\$66,150 including performance pay, student loan forgiveness, multi-layer teacher support, professional development, medical, dental and vision benefits, employer-matched contributions to Arizona State Retirement, and more.

To learn more and preschedule an interview, call 602-347-2622. Candidates can also apply online at <https://jobs.wesdschools.org>.

CHARTER AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS Black History Festival slated for February

The Brophy Black Family Alliance and the Brophy Black Student Union will host a Black History Festival from

noon until 4 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 24, on Brophy's campus. The public is invited to attend this free event, which celebrates Black history, culture, food and more. There will be performances, food trucks, vendors and art.

For more information on the Brophy Black History Festival, please contact Brophy's director of equity and inclusion, Deena Sellers, at dsellers@.org.

Brophy hosts fashion show

Brophy College Preparatory will host the 2024 Fashion Show: Brothers in Faith on Friday, March 1, at the JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn. The show will feature Brophy's class of 2024, with fashions from Neiman Marcus. All proceeds benefit the Brophy Financial Aid Fund.

The social hour and shopping will begin at 11 a.m. followed by the fashion show and luncheon at 1 p.m. Tables and individual tickets for the event are now available for purchase at <https://e.givesmart.com/events/xyf>.

Golf coach receives accolades

Xavier College Preparatory announced that the *Arizona Republic* named Tui Selvaratnam its 2023-24 Golf Coach of the Year. Selvaratnam serves as the head coach for the Xavier Golf Team. She is also the associate director of Athletics for the school.

Coaching at Xavier since 2006, this year Selvaratnam led a talented team to its 38th championship in program history. They won the Division I champi-

onship and a No. 13 national ranking by the PGA National High School Golf Association for fall 2023. Throughout its history, eight Xavier golfers have gone on to compete in the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA).

Selvaratnam says the best thing about coaching is, "Sharing the knowledge I have about golf to the young ladies. I help them grow as an individual and golfer. I see them come in as freshmen and grow into mature, confident young women when they leave as seniors."



Tui Selvaratnam

A native of Sri Lanka, Selvaratnam moved to Arizona in 1995 to attend Arizona State University and began to dominate Arizona Women's Golf. In 2007, Tui led the first Arizona team to win the USGA (United States Golf Association) Women's State Team Championship. She has successfully competed in many other USGA National Championships.

Athletic director wins national award

Sister Lynn Winsor, BVM, vice-principal for Activities and athletic director at Xavier College Preparatory, was conferred the Leslie Moore Legacy Award by the Global Community of Women in High School Sports. The organization sought to honor a trailblazer and champion who left an indelible mark in the realm of athletic administration and the world of sports.

Winsor has been an innovative coach and administrator since she returned to Xavier to teach in 1974 — she's a member of Xavier's Class of 1961.

As a founding member of the Arizona Interscholastic Association's Girls Equity and Sports Committee, she was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the AIA to provide more sports for girls — soccer, beach volleyball and flag football. The school says that Winsor continues to be unrelenting in advocating for female athletes and administrators to receive more support.



Sr. Lynn Winsor, BVM

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Middle school hosts future student event

All future sixth through eighth grade students are invited to Royal Palm Middle School for its Future Raider Night, scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 15, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at 8520 N. 19th Ave. The event offers the opportunity for future sixth through eighth grade students and their families to tour the campus, meet the staff and learn about the programs and school culture.

Discover the benefits of attending Royal Palm as a middle schooler and why it is an A-rated school by the Arizona Department of Education. To learn more, call 602-347-3200 or visit www.wesdschools.org.

Teachers are 'Wishes' recipients

The Washington Elementary School District congratulated Desert View Elementary School music teacher Leah Skaw and Mountain View School instrumental music teacher Paul Coleman, who were recently chosen as winners of the Palo Verde Fiesta Bowl Charities Wishes for Teachers program.

Each year during the holiday season, Arizona K-12 teachers are ran-

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GENERATIONS

Senior Living GrandKin Café launches

In Arizona, it is estimated that 62,433 grandparents are responsible for their grandchildren. In January, Valley nonprofit Duet: Partners In Health & Aging introduced a new way to support grandparents or kinship caregivers with its GrandKin Café.

More than just a gathering, the café is a community where grandparents and kinship caregivers can connect with others facing similar journeys. Duet provides a space to learn about community resources and explore topics that impact grandfamilies. GrandKin Cafés are uniquely designed to be more than a support group. By bringing in community organizations to share their services and programs with special topics like healthy relationships, self-care, child development, and discipline, the events offer a hub of resources and supportive fellowship.



Valley grandparents who are raising their grandchildren can find support from their peers and facilitators at Duet's GrandKin Café events (submitted photo).

In Central Phoenix, the cafes are held the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 9 to 11 a.m. at Duet's Offices, 10000 N. 31st Ave., Suite D200. Virtual events also are offered. To learn more, visit www.duetaz.org/grandparents-grandkin-cafe-groups.

Online mindfulness classes offered

Hospice of the Valley's Dementia Care and Education Campus offers opportunities to practice mindfulness, which can help people relax, focus and breathe, thus calming the mind and body.

Mindfulness Based Stress

Reduction (MBSR) training has been found to improve physical symptoms (such as chronic pain, high blood pressure, shortness of breath and insomnia) and to decrease emotional and psychological distress (such as anxiety and depression). Brain MRIs before and after an eight-week course show growth of temporal lobe areas (memory, emotional stability) and shrinkage of the amygdala (anxiety, anger, fear).

The free mindfulness sittings are held weekly for the public and HOV staff on Thursdays from noon to 12:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. There also is an audio recording available online for those who would like to experience a relaxing session at their convenience. Thursday and Saturday classes are held via Zoom, and all are welcome. No registration is required. just drop in.

For more information, call 602-767-8300 or visit <https://hov.org/our-care/mindfulness> or <https://dementia-campus.org>.



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GENERATIONS

Tour event offers sweet finish

Valley seniors are invited to tour CenterWell’s Alhambra location this month, and take home a special Valentine’s Day treat.

A subsidiary of Humana, CenterWell offers senior primary care, as well as home health and pharmacy services. At the Feb. 12 Fondue Party for Seniors tour event, which runs from 10 a.m. to noon, guests can learn about the facility, then create a personalized chocolate box by dipping a selection of sweets into a chocolate fountain to create thoughtful gift for someone. Sugar free options available.

CenterWell Alhambra is located at 702 W. Camelback Road. To reserve a spot, call 602-560-6162. For more information, visit www.centerwell.com.

Kids & Families ‘Truck’ event to raise funds

The Patsy Reeve Foundation will host the “Touch a Truck” fundraiser Saturday, Feb. 3. The fundraising event is designed to assist children affected by Spina Bifida by granting them the opportunity to attend a specialized camp, called Camp Patrick.

The fifth annual Touch A Truck for Camp Patrick event will feature more than 50 big vehicles — everything from fire trucks, helicopters, tractors, dump trucks, and Military vehicles — for kids and adults to touch, explore, and play on. There will be food trucks, vendors, and interactive activities as well.

The requested donation is \$5 per person or \$20 max per family, and tickets may be purchased online or in person. All proceeds go towards sending kids to Camp Patrick. The event will be held Feb. 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at North Phoenix Baptist Church, located at 5757 N. Central Ave.

For tickets, visit <https://camp-patrick.ticketleap.com/touch-a-truck-for-camp-patrick-2024>. For additional information, visit <https://camp-patrick.com>.

Camp offers grief support

Change is difficult for everyone, and accepting the death of a loved one, on top of all the normal changes life brings, can be difficult to deal with. Learning how to cope and adapt to



The annual Touch a Truck event brings big vehicles to families and much-needed funds to support Camp Patrick (photo by David Schacher).

these changes is important for children to make a smooth and healthy transition to adulthood.

Stepping Stones of Hope, a small nonprofit in the Valley dedicated to providing comprehensive support-based programs, a continuum of care, and education to grieving children, teens, adults, and families, will offer One Day at Camp for Kids & Grown-Ups on Saturday, Feb. 24, at First United

Methodist Church in Central Phoenix. The day-long camp helps grieving children, ages 6 to 17, and their families by providing a neutral environment where both children and grown-ups feel safe to express their private and innermost feelings about their death loss.

Campers will learn coping skills that will serve them as they experience changes and begin accepting their life has a new path. Providing a healthy out-

let for expression may be the most important, as well as the most challenging task parents and caregivers face, especially when also dealing with their grief.

For more information about camp registration, email info@steppingstonesofhope.org or call 602-264-7520. Online registration is available at www.steppingstonesofhope.org.

Nominations open for young leaders

Junior Achievement of Arizona is searching for young people who aren’t waiting until they are adults to make a difference in the world through its 18 under 18 program.

Nominees must have demonstrated leadership, community service and an entrepreneurial spirit and be selfless leaders, change makers or innovators who are active in their communities.

Nominations for 2024 close Feb. 15 at midnight. Nominees have to be under 18 years of age by July 1, 2023 and attend K-12 in Arizona. Winners will be announced in person Thursday, April 18. To apply, visit: www.18under18.org.



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Guest vocalist Carmen Bradford will join the Legendary Count Basie Orchestra for a musical fundraiser in support of the education programs at The Nash (submitted photo).

Concert supports music education

In celebration of the centennial of jazz vocalist Sarah Vaughan, The Nash will bring the Legendary Count Basie Orchestra, directed by Scotty Barnhart with guest vocalist Carmen Bradford, to Phoenix for a spectacular concert Feb. 24 at 7:30 pm.

Held at The Madison Center for the Arts, 5601 N. 16th St., proceeds from the concert will benefit The Nash's jazz education center and its efforts to expand the center's facilities downtown to serve more youth.

Founded in 1935, current members include musicians hired by Basie himself, including Bradford (who joined in 1983 and was discovered by Basie when she was just 22 years old) and trombonist Clarence Banks (joined in 1984).

Tickets for The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra are \$59, \$79 and \$250 for VIP, which includes pre-concert reception with auction, hosted hors d'oeuvres and bar. Visit www.thenash.org for tickets and additional information.

Book Sale is back

The VNSA Used Book Sale will return for its 67th year Feb. 10-11. All proceeds from the event benefit human service charities in Maricopa County.

The VNSA sells thousands of books, media and other related items at prices significantly reduced from retail prices. Except for books in the Sets Area, books are marked with a price

sticker on the spine, upper right cover and/or inside the front cover. All unmarked standard-size paperbacks are \$2. All items are half-price all day Sunday (except for the books in the Rare & Unusual area).

The annual event is held at the Arizona State Fairgrounds, 1826 W. McDowell Road, in the Ag Building, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission to the book sale is free, but attendees should be aware that the Arizona State Fairgrounds charges a parking fee that supports the Fairgrounds. VNSA does not receive any money from parking fees.

For additional information, visit www.vnsabooksale.org.

Celebrate film at February festivals

This month, film lovers and film makers alike will enjoy three opportunities to celebrate the art form.

First up, the 2024 Indie Film Fest will take place Feb. 15-24. The multi-day, multi venue, festival in downtown Phoenix is community organized and funded, and now in its sixth year of supporting independent filmmakers and helping to grow the artist economy in Phoenix. Screenings will be held at the Phoenix Center for the Arts as well as panels, mixers, and events all around the artist community on Roosevelt Row. Learn more at www.theindiefilmfest.com.

Next up, the A3F 72 Hour Short Film Challenge invites local filmmakers to grab their gear, gather their cast and

please see FESTIVALS on page 32

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

FESTIVALS *continued from page 30*

crew and get ready for a crazy three days. The Almost Famous Film Festival (A3F) takes place Feb. 16-19. Teams will have three days, or 72 hours, to make a 1-5-minute film. Teams that beat the 72-hour deadline will have their films watched and scored by a judges panel and the Top 20 films will play at a public screening Feb. 29 at AMC Arizona Center 24 Theatres in downtown Phoenix. The event is open to all ages and skill levels. Learn more at www.thea3f.net/72hour_2024.html.

Finally, the 28th annual Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival is set to take place from Feb. 18 to March 3, at Harkins Theaters across the Valley. Featuring over 20 captivating films from around the world, the festival celebrates diverse Jewish storytelling while exploring themes of culture, history and the human experience. Enhancing the festival experience, attendees will enjoy engaging discussions, Q&A sessions with content experts, filmmakers, and talent, and other exciting events. Learn more at www.gpjff.org.

Festival celebrates Japanese culture

Steele Indian School Park will play host to the annual Arizona Matsuri: Festival of Japan, Feb. 24-25. The two-day festival celebrates the culture of Japan through exhibits, arts and crafts, demonstrations, children's activities, bonsai displays, Japanese food, Japanese beer and sake garden, games and contests, and live entertainment on four stages.

The Arizona Matsuri is a nonprofit organization, whose steering committee members are drawn from the Arizona Buddhist Temple, the Phoenix Himeji Sister City Committee, the Japanese American Citizens League, the Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix, the Japanese Business Association of Arizona, the Japanese Culture Club of Arizona and interested individuals. The Matsuri is the means for the nonprofit Arizona Matsuri to fulfill its mission of introducing the arts and culture of Japan to Arizona.

Steele Indian School Park is located at 300 E. Indian School Road. Admission to the Matsuri festival, which runs from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, is free. For additional information, visit www.azmatsuri.org.

On the Town

Celebrate a love of the arts with live, local music and theater performances, family-friendly outings and art and cultural events. See you on the town in February!

'The Piano Lesson'

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

Bobby Rush

Feb. 6
The Rhythm Room
www.rhythmroom.com; 602-612-4981

'The Truth About Winnie Ruth Judd'

Feb. 7–March 17
The Phoenix Theatre Company
www.phoenixtheatre.com; 602-254-2151

'The Woman in Black'

Feb. 9-25
Herberger Theater Center
www.herbergertheater.org;
602-252-8497



Rebecca De La Torre

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

'Peter and the Starcatcher'

Feb. 9-25
Valley Youth Theatre
www.vyt.com; 602-253-8188

'A Proper Pint' film series

Feb. 10
Irish Cultural Center
www.azirish.org/films; 602-258-0109

Performance Pop-Up: Metropolitan Arts Institute

Feb. 10
Herberger Theater Center
www.herbergertheater.org; 602-252-8497



Yo La Tengo

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

Sherry Roberson & Friends

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

Enjambre

Feb. 14
Crescent Ballroom
www.crescentphx.com; 602-716-2222

Bad Cactus Brass Band

Feb. 15
Valley Bar
www.valleybarphx.com; 602-716-2222

Booze Bombs

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

'Moving Movies 2024'

Feb. 15-18
Ballet Arizona
www.balletaz.org; 602-381-1096

Natalie Gallatin Quintet

Feb. 16
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

Third Friday Ceili

Feb. 16
Irish Cultural Center
www.azirish.org; 602-258-0109

'Intimate Apparel'

Feb. 16–March 3
Arizona Theatre Company
www.arizonatheatre.org;
602-256-6995, 1-833-282-7328

World Championship Hoop Dance Contest

Feb. 17-18
Heard Museum
<https://heard.org>; 602-252-8840

Daniel, Me Estás Matando

Feb. 18
Valley Bar
www.valleybarphx.com; 602-716-2222

Jeremie Albino

Feb. 20
The Rebel Lounge
www.therebellounge.com;
602-296-7013

Briscoe

Feb. 20
Valley Bar
www.valleybarphx.com; 602-716-2222

Malevo

Feb. 23
Madison Center for the Arts
www.themadison.org; 602-664-7777

'When Dreams Take Flight: A Gospel Celebration'

Feb. 23-24
Phoenix Boys Choir
www.boyschoir.org; 602-264-5328

Mia x Ally

Feb. 25
Crescent Ballroom
www.crescentphx.com;
602-716-2222

Joe Bourne

Feb. 25
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464



The Surfrajettes

Feb. 27
The Rhythm Room
www.rhythmroom.com; 602-612-4981

'The Watermelon Woman'

Feb. 28
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.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Café Chat

A new tavern blooms at The Orchard

By Marjorie Rice

Things are growing at The Orchard, 12th Street north of Glendale Road.

The popular neighborhood spot originally included Luci's Marketplace, Splurge Ice Cream and Candy, and Pomelo restaurant. They're owned by Luci's Urban Concepts, which also owns Luci's Marketplace and The Other Bar, on the busy culinary corner of 12th Street and Bethany Home Road; Luci's at The Grove in Scottsdale's McCormick Ranch; and Luci's Catering.

That's a lot of Luci's to keep track of. And now a new business – the new Orchard Tavern with a renovated bar and expanded patio dining – has opened at The Orchard, along with newly expanded space for Orchard Events & Catering.

And if that's not enough, Luci's Urban Concepts owner Ken Schnitzer says a new speakeasy is in the works in



Partners Ken Schnitzer, front, and Jerry Mansoor, enjoy the ambiance of the newly opened Orchard Tavern (photo by Darryl Webb, special for North Central News).

the basement of the Orchard Tavern, expected to open this spring.

All the Luci's operations feature the same vibe, what Schnitzer describes as "a neighborhood gathering place" where people can relax and enjoy good

food, conversation and cocktails. They're also family-friendly, with play spaces next to Luci's at The Orchard.

It all started in 2009, with Luci's Healthy Marketplace at 12th and Bethany, named for Luci Schnitzer,

Ken's wife and business partner. That has morphed into Luci's Marketplace and The Other Bar, added about three years ago, when the marketplace was expanded.

In 2016, The Orchard opened on a former citrus orchard and 1920s home- stead that included two houses and a grove of trees owned by the Wasser Family. The Orchard respects the site's historic roots, maintaining the character of the original buildings.

While Pomelo, located in the century-old main house, was popular, the restaurant wasn't quite the right fit, Schnitzer said. People thought Pomelo, named for the orchard's citrus trees, was an Italian restaurant. "We served gourmet, brick-oven pizza and pasta, which further confused them," he said. "Also, the perception was that it was 'that expensive place next to Luci's.'"

The original Orchard also included a tented outdoor dining and special events area, but the Orchard's events and catering business was growing and needed more space. Also, Schnitzer wasn't happy with the seating in the former living and dining rooms. "It wasn't comfortable," he said.

His solution? Divide and conquer, giving the former main Pomelo dining area over to events and catering, and creating a whole new concept in the other half of the building.

"I said, North Central Phoenix needs a traditional, cool tavern," Schnitzer said.

The tavern renovation, which opened in December, is cozy and welcoming, with lush, high-backed booths, elevated on platforms and covered in warm, muted terra cotta tones. A massive brass chandelier dominates the room, and an open fireplace adds warmth.

"We wanted it to be comfortable," Schnitzer said. "We were up in Northern Arizona and found a series of wooden art that has a barn theme. These whiskey bottles on the walls were my grandfather's. I inherited them. Some of them still have whiskey in them, after 50 or 60 years."

The tavern and bar spill out onto large patios on the home's east and north sides.

About that bar – it has a canine theme, complete with paintings and caricatures of dogs, and bronze lamps fashioned like bulldog heads. The bar menu

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LUCI'S CATERING
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

is titled “The Ruff Stuff” and includes signature cocktails, wine and draft beers.

“We’re trying to be really fun here,” Schnitzer said. The décor includes a series of drawings Luci Schnitzer discovered. Titled “The Dirty Dogs,” it’s a delightful, and only slightly naughty, group of drawings of dog sniffing each other and doing other canine things.

The tavern’s menu includes many favorites from Pomelo, including chicken pot pie with corn and chilies, topped with a cheddar biscuit crust; steak frites; and fish and chips – the “chips” being spicy potato “sidewinders” cut in thick spirals. The tavern also began serving brunch – with more Pomelo favorites – in mid-January.

Schnitzer’s one-word description of the Tavern’s cuisine? “Phenomenal. I spent four weeks in Boston, doing research. Taverns there are popular, with a little more elevated food than a pub, and it’s hard-core American comfort food.”

They’ve also kept the pizza oven, which was imported from Naples and is so big it had to be installed before the kitchens were renovated back before Pomelo opened.

Luci’s at the Orchard is in the sec-



The 12th annual Arizona Cocktail Weekend will feature three signature events, including Last Slinger Standing — a battle of Arizona’s top mixologists (submitted photo).

ond old house on the property. The kid-friendly spot includes a market and indoor and outdoor dining.

“People take their visiting relatives here,” Schnitzer said. “What are you going to do if you have four kids? You go to restaurants and they’re kind of mad because you have a family. We wanted it to be family friendly.”

The tented area between the main buildings is closed off in the evenings

for events, served by a “shed” structure that houses buffets and the bar. “We’re a full catering operation,” Schnitzer said. “We do so many weddings on-site that I’m probably going to buy a bus where the bride can get ready.”

Luci’s, the Tavern and Splurge at The Orchard, 7100 N. 12th St., have different opening hours. For information, call 602-633-2600 or visit www.lucisurbanconcepts.com.

Dining Briefs

Raise a glass (or two) at Cocktail Weekend

Arizona Cocktail Weekend will return to the Phoenix area for its 12th year Feb. 16 through 20. The longest-running cocktail event in the Southwest, the five-day schedule will offer a variety of events, including exclusive tastings, expert-led seminars and can’t-miss cocktail events, in addition to three signature events. The events are spread out over various venues, including hotels and bars around the Valley, though most take place in downtown Phoenix.

The first signature event, The Cocktail Carnival, takes place Saturday, Feb. 17, at the Walter Where?House in Downtown Phoenix. This event will showcase innovative and immersive light and sound displays, while guests enjoy unique cocktails, art shows and circus performances.

Top Bars follows on Sunday, Feb. 18, at Warehouse 215. The annual sell-out tasting event brings more than 40 of the world’s best bars to Downtown Phoenix as pop-ups. Some spots are

please see COCKTAILS on page 36



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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

COCKTAILS continued from page 35

trekking all the way from London, Singapore and Hong Kong.

On Monday, Feb. 19, Arizona's top mixologists battle it out at The Last Slinger Standing at the R&D Lab at Republic National Distributing Company. Each round features secret ingredients, judged by a panel of renowned cocktail experts from around the world, until the last slinger is remaining, and takes the trophy for 2024.

Tickets for the 21-and-over Arizona Cocktail Weekend start at \$50, depending on the event and date of purchase. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.arizona-cocktailweekend.com.

Celebrate Valentine's at Wrigley

Two properties at the iconic Wrigley Mansion will host special dining events to celebrate Valentine's Day this month.

Geordie's Restaurant & Lounge will offer a four-course limited-choice menu with the sommelier's suggested



Valley diners can enjoy the views and two special Valentine's Day events at Wrigley Mansion this month (photo courtesy of Christopher's at Wrigley Mansion).

wines on Wednesday, Feb. 14, only. Guests will enjoy the views from their table for up to two hours as they celebrate Valentine's Day. Reservations will be accepted for parties of 1 to 12, with a \$50 deposit per person.

Diners also can enjoy an eight-course tasting menu created by James Beard Award winning Chef Christopher Gross at Christopher's Feb. 13 and 14 in the restaurant's newly

built dining room, which offers expansive views of Camelback Mountain and Downtown Phoenix. Prepaid reservations of \$275 per person will be accepted for parties of 1 to 6.

To make a reservation for either event, visit www.exploretock.com/christophers or www.exploretock.com/wrigleymansion and look for the respective Valentine's event.

Wine dinner features Hundred Acre

Anhelo Restaurant will host a seven-course wine dinner featuring the full continuum of the Hundred Acre portfolio on Tuesday, Feb. 27.

The evening will include everything from champagne and Summer Dreams sauvignon blanc, chardonnay and pinot noir, to Fortunate Son's The Diplomat Red Blend and the Hundred Acre Fortification Port Style Wine, all paired with creations by Chef Ivan Jacobo.

Dinner begins at 6 p.m., and the cost is \$1,000, plus tax and gratuity. Seating is extremely limited for this exclusive event. Reservations are required and can be made directly when in the restaurant or by emailing ryan@anelorestaurant.com.

Anhelo Restaurant is located at 114 W. Adams St. in downtown Phoenix. For additional information, call 602-596-7745 or visit www.anelorestaurant.com.

Provision serves late-night crowd

Night owls who are looking for the occasional coffee (or adult beverage) and a quick bite may want to head over to Provision at 7th Street and Missouri. The restaurant is offering an Evening

Bites menu three days a week during extended hours for those who want a little late-night nibble.

The Evening Bites menu is offered Thursday through Saturday from 4 to 10 p.m.

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

Wine and dine at Royal Palm

Royal Palms Resort and Spa invites residents to wine and dine with their special someone for Valentine's Day at the resort's award-winning T. Cook's, which will feature two unique and romantic menus.

From Feb. 9 to 11, Valley diners can indulge in a Chandon limited 2-course menu, including a bottle of Chandon Brut for \$110++ per couple. Available from 5:30 to 10 p.m.

On Valentine's Day, Wednesday, Feb. 14, try the 4-course menu with a glass of Veuve Rosé for \$175++ per person. Available from 5 to 10 p.m.

Book online through OpenTable (www.opentable.com) or by calling 602-808-0766.

Royal Palms Resort and Spa is located at 5200 E. Camelback Road. Learn more at www.royalpalmshotel.com/happenings.

Enjoy Pizza Wednesdays (and wine) at Sauvage

Sauvage Wine Bar and Shop offers natural wines, appetizers, bottled wine, rotating chef events and more, including Pizza Wednesdays wine tasting events.

Otra Pizzeria is in the house at Sauvage making wood-fired Neapolitan style pizza every Wednesday from 5 to 10 p.m., to complement the shop's weekly Wednesday wine tastings. The owners say that the event is especially popular for its Wine Club members, because the wine tastings are free for members.

Spots are currently open in Wine Club, and besides free wine tastings every Wednesday, benefits include waiving of all corkage fees at Sauvage, 10 percent off all bottles of wine, and two bottles of wine every month accompanied by a newsletter about the wines.

Sauvage Wine Bar and Shop is located at 149 W. McDowell Road. For more information, call 602-357-9436. A link to sign up for the wine club can be found on the shop's website: www.sauvagephx.com.

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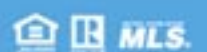
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