



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

volume 26, issue 4 • april 2024

www.northcentralnews.net

As one door closes, another one opens

By Kathryn M. Miller

It was a busy day at the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) Sunnyslope Campus Feb. 20, as staff prepared for a massive undertaking — moving some 200 shelter animals the 15-plus miles to the new Rob & Melani Walton Papago Park Campus. With the move, intake, shelter and adoption services are no longer available in Sunnyslope.

Opened in 1957, the Sunnyslope Campus, located at 1311 W. Hatcher Road, has served hundreds of thousands of sick and injured strays, abandoned and otherwise vulnerable animals over the years. In fact, AHS serves as the biggest intake shelter in the state, and they saw 22,000 animals come through their doors in 2023 alone, 18,000 of which were treated in the hospital.

Amidst the hustle and bustle in February and again as the new hospital opened in March, AHS president and CEO Dr. Steven Hansen sat down to reflect on the history and future of the Sunnyslope campus and their new state-of-the-art medical campus.

“In 1957, we were an adoption facility and over the years we developed a trauma hospital here, the most active trauma hospital in the Southwest,” Hansen said. “And that hospital treated animals that are homeless, so they can be animals that are hit by cars that don’t have homes. We do a lot of cruelty

please see SHELTER on page 8



As the Tempe store celebrates “50” and the Phoenix store approaches the decade milestone, Changing Hands owners Gayle Shanks, Bob Sommer, and Cindy Dach continue to emphasize community, inclusiveness, and sustainability in everything they do (photo courtesy of Changing Hands).

Changing Hands thrives in changing times

By Trudy Thompson Shumaker

Gayle Shanks and her business partners know magic when they see it. Even if that magic is buried under the dust in an old building. Correction: Especially if that magic is buried under the dust in an old building.

Changing Hands and the First Draft Book Bar, which is located inside the bookstore, are celebrating their 10th year in the old Beefeater’s building at 300 W. Camelback Road. The building itself holds sweet memories for Shanks, who grew up in Phoenix.

“When I was a little girl in a big family, our dad would take us out to eat, one kid at a time. It was a special time to spend time with him, and Beefeater’s was my favorite place to go. It was big, felt really fancy, and the food was great,” she remembers.

“So, when we saw that the building, an iconic landmark on Camelback Road from the 1950s, was being redeveloped, we had to check it out,” said the little girl now all grown up and known, with her partners, for carving a niche where an independent, community focused bookstore in Tempe has thrived since 1971.

“Customers had asked us to open a Phoenix location for many years, but we had our hands full with the growing Tempe store. We kept saying ‘no’ to a second location. Then Beefeater’s redevelopment came along, and we changed our minds,” she said.

The building, now named “The Newton” in honor of Beefeater’s founder Jay Newton, is a mixed-use concept developed by Venue Projects, LLC, and John Douglas Architects. Changing Hands is there, along with other businesses. Changing Hands and First Draft Book Bar offer far more than books and drinks.

“We’re a community event space, complete with classrooms and meeting rooms. We host classes, book

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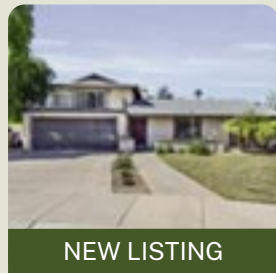
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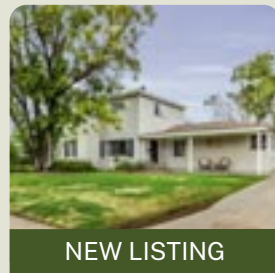
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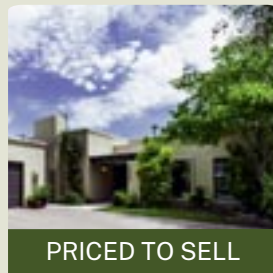
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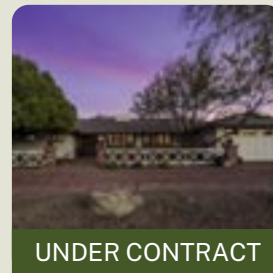
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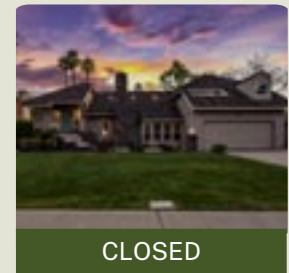
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COMMUNITY

From the Editor

Hello, North Central neighbors!

As the seasons transition, there are a number of transitions of note taking place throughout our community — not to mention some major milestones.

Popular bookstore and community gathering space Changing Hands celebrates 50 years in business this year and the Camelback Road location celebrates a decade in May. Trudy Thompson Shumaker caught up with founder and co-owner Gayle Shanks to talk about the Phoenix store and how the company has weathered five decades in business.



Also on the cover, after more than 60 years, Arizona Humane Society shuttered its Sunnyslope intake and shelter services in February as it pre-

pare to expand the existing clinic into a full-service veterinary hospital. Two weeks later, they celebrated the opening of a new state-of-the-art Papago Park Campus—we break down the details.

Another popular community business, Karl's Quality Bakery, will close their doors after 30 years, and a new bakery will move into the space in April. Read the details in Community.

In this month's Café Chat, Marjorie Rice sat down with the creative team behind The Vig North Central, which opened in December 2022 after Genuine Concepts closed its previous concept housed in the space.

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. We hope that you enjoy our April issue, and until next month, all my best!

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

Sunnyslope staple closes after 30 years

By Kathryn M. Miller

It was a good run, but after 30 years and thousands upon thousands of from-scratch baked goods sold, the doors at Karl's Quality Bakery will close on March 31.

Karl Boerner, a native of Germany, began his apprenticeship as a baker in 1958. He immigrated to America in 1976 and worked for a while in New Orleans, Hawaii and California, before moving his family to Sunnyslope in 1993. He opened Karl's in September 1994 at the southeast corner of 7th Avenue and Dunlap. Together, with his wife Stefanie, they grew their business, and raised a family.

The bakery has been a staple for many in the Sunnyslope area. And while it's said that "bread is life," the European style bakery served not only fresh baked breads, but became known for Boerner's doughnuts, as well as a wide variety of cakes and cookies, pastries, and seasonal specialty treats.

In 2014, Karl's daughter, Christine,



Christine Boerner will close the doors of the 30-year-old family-owned Karl's Quality Bakery at the end of March (photo by Jim Poulin).

took over the bakery and moved it to its current spot on Central and Dunlap avenues.

Despite growing up in her family's bakery, Christine resisted the profession. "I never wanted to work in a kitchen. Ever," she recalled. But one morning over Christmas break, her dad

woke her up saying, "You are old enough to see the top of the oven. You need to help." She was 12. She continued throughout her years at Sunnyslope High School, but she really didn't understand the alchemy of what she was doing, she just did as her dad directed, as an extension of him.

When she moved out, with her sights set on studying architecture, she needed a job and found that where she was most comfortable was in the kitchen, "because I'd been trained for six years," she laughed. So, it was off to culinary school, where she began to understand the theory behind the baking. After completing her apprenticeship and working in Switzerland, she came home to help with the family business, briefly opening The Baker's Daughter, offering chocolates alongside Karl's baked goods, before purchasing the business and moving to the Central Avenue location. But after 10 years, the time has come to move on.

"It's a culmination of a lot of things," she said. Choking back emotions, she explained that running a business is challenging in itself, added to that the pandemic, family obligations, changes in the industry – it can be a heavy load to carry. "You put so much effort and so much love into something...but you can't do it if you don't love it."

Residents will not be left completely bereft of a local baker. Dawn Hernandez will soon open Dawn's NY Baker in the spot. While an opening date is not yet confirmed, she is aiming for a mid-April opening.

Hernandez moved to the state with her family in 1997 and, much like Christine, she grew up in her family's Arizona bakery business. She will bring those 22 years of experience to the Sunnyslope space.

"I'm excited to be in the Phoenix area and bring a New York family bakery into the community," Hernandez said.

Hernandez says that she is still working on the menu, but the focus will be on classic New York offerings, including items such as cannolis, doughnuts, pastries and other goodies. The company has not yet set up a website or social media presence, but neighbors can watch the space at 111 E. Dunlap, Suite 13, for developments.

While Christine has mixed emotions as she closes the doors at Karl's for the last time, she plans to stay in Sunnyslope, and her next chapter is yet to be written — but she is not done baking yet, she says. Fans can follow her at <https://linktr.ee/karl-squalitybakery>.

In the meantime, she has a simple message of gratitude for the community, "Auf Wiedersehen and thank you for 30 wonderful years!"

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Publisher **Tara A. Blanc**
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The North Central News is published monthly by North Central News, Inc. The circulation is 22,000 copies mailed directly to homes and businesses in North Central Phoenix and 3,000 copies distributed from racks in the North Central area.

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CHANGING continued from page 1

signings, trivia nights, author talks and even weddings and baby showers,” said Shanks.

An astute visitor to Changing Hands—that is, if they aren’t focused on looking ahead to the books inside—will notice the letters to the Beefeater’s sign embedded in the walkway in front of the store.

“We love to see little kids skip across that iconic sign and they race into the store, headed for the children’s book section,” said Shanks. Little footprints and initials also adorn the concrete.

The offerings at First Draft Book Bar are tasty, and the comfortable tables and chairs are often occupied by singles, couples and families, all reading, writing, working remotely via laptop or just plain old visiting with one another. The First Draft Book Bar offers coffee, tea, wine and beer, as well as pastries and small bites.

When so many bookstores, even the big chains like Borders and Bookstar, have closed and their customers buy

books from Amazon by clicking their smart phones, how is it that Changing Hands is thriving in not one but two locations?

“We really focus on providing a community, inclusive experience, in addition to books,” said Shanks. In fact, the original Changing Hands was a “worker-owned collective,” occupying all of 500 square feet in Tempe. “We bought a lot of our books from swap meets and took a creative approach to the entire project. The original partners — we were friends from volunteering together at an alternative school. So, we knew one another well, and we all were creative types. We had lively conversations with our customers about what they wanted, and for the most part, we found a way to provide it,” she said.

She remembers keeping a running list of ideas and requests on a yellow legal pad by the “ancient” cash register. Changing Hands owners have always emphasized inclusiveness and sustainability in everything they do, from hiring to event programming.

“We trade used books—that’s

where the name ‘Changing Hands’ came from. Books are often shared, passed from reader to reader. They ‘change hands’ and we help that happen,” said Shanks.

The “trade counter,” where books change hands, is open Sunday through Friday from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. Customers bring in their books for consideration by Changing Hands staff.

Between the two stores, Changing Hands hosts more than 400 events a year. They vary from story time for little ones to book clubs for ‘twens and teens to author events to poetry readings. Events, such as their March 30 50th anniversary celebration, can be found through their website or their emails.

The original Tempe store opened on April Fool’s Day of 1974, and the Phoenix store opened 10 years ago this May.

“We were greeted by 3,000 customers lined up around the block, eager to see the new Phoenix store. Many of them commented on eating and celebrating special occasions like birthdays and graduations at Beefeater’s over the years.

“It’s been a lot of fun to see the little kids grow into reading parents who bring their kids and their grandkids to story time, or simply settle into a comfy chair with a kid and a book in their lap,” she said.

“Books are simply magical. They take us to new places, and they open our minds,” said Shanks.

The first book she remembers owning is Winnie the Pooh. “As I grew, I loved the Cherry Ames books about an adventurous nurse, and Louisa May Alcott was a favorite author.

“Events like poetry readings and writing classes introduce us to new experiences and help us get to know one another. It’s a lot of fun to see this community embrace Changing Hands. We work hard, but we feel so beloved. Phoenix natives and newcomers come in and get acquainted in the aisles or at events,” she said. “And I get to work in a favorite place from my childhood. It’s a changing world, but so many things don’t change. Books shared with friends—that’s so much fun and we help make that happen.”

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COMMUNITY

SHELTER continued from page 1

investigations. All of that activity has grown over the years. We've added special disease control units, we have a parvo unit here, we have a bottle baby nursery, we've got infectious disease wards for distemper — we treat just about anything that these homeless animals come across."

But the facility limited AHS' ability to control disease. Hansen added, "It's a huge problem here. You think about our trauma hospital here, just like a kindergarten room, all the air is shared amongst everybody. So, if we get a group of dogs that come in from one of our partners around Arizona and one of those dogs brings a virus with them, like canine distemper, everybody gets sick and it's a huge problem. The new campus is designed to manage diseases."

Located at 5501 E. Van Buren St., the 72,000-square-foot Papago Park Campus opened its doors to the public March 6. Situated on just under 5 acres, the \$46 million state-of-the-art medical campus is designed with safety and comfort in mind. Ninety percent of the pet spaces are designed with nat-



Cuteness abounds in one of the many "catios" at the newly opened Arizona Humane Society's Rob & Melani Walton Papago Park Campus (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

ural light, and the campus boasts 610 kennels (217 for dogs, 358 for cats and 35 for other critters), 5 fresh air "catios" and 13 play yards – and everything is transparent, open and offers a more natural environment.

AHS' primary function is as a teaching hospital for shelter animals, Hansen says, "Everything else we do supports

the hospital." Four out of five animals who enter their doors will be treated at the Lazin Animal Foundation Trauma Hospital, with 11 ambulances available to transport sick and injured pets to the dedicated emergency room entrance.

Addressing the need to manage disease and address health and welfare needs, the campus kennels are all

equipped with separate ventilation systems to prevent the spread of contagious illnesses. The dedicated ICUs have been expanded, including a parvo unit, "mutternity" suites and baby bottle unit, which is expected to see an uptick with kitten season, with staff on 24-hour bottle duty. Other wellness features include sensory gardens, acoustics that minimize noise pollution, selected paint colors and lighting that are calming and easier on pet's eyes.

The beautiful campus also takes its employees into consideration, with plenty of natural light, the in-house Echo Coffee Shop to provide staff (and visitors) with a readily available pick-me-up, vibrant artwork throughout and relaxing spaces to help staff decompress from what can sometimes be difficult work.

This is not the end of the story for the Sunnyslope facility, however. Work has already begun on the expansion of the Marge Wright Veterinary Public Veterinary Clinic, which will still provide some services as remodeling work is completed over the next year.

"Sunnyslope has been very important to us," Hansen said. "It's gotten rather emotional over the last few months—we've enjoyed it here; it's been a good location for the trauma hospital. We're not leaving, we're growing and changing what the emphasis is here."

The hospital that is on the front of the building is going to move into the old trauma hospital, allowing the building to be gutted and remodeled. It will then reopen as a much larger, full-service veterinary hospital for the community—right now, the clinic only offers spay, neuter and vaccine services.

With the Sunnyslope location no longer taking in sick or injured strays, residents are encouraged to contact the AHS Pet Resource Center at 602-997-7585, Ext. 3800, for guidance. Hansen added that their call center took 10,000 calls in the month of January, and a lot of those calls were, "how can I keep my pet?" AHS has seen a big increase in the number of not only strays but abandonments in recent years, and they can help residents who are facing financial struggles or housing insecurity find resources to help them keep their pets. Their resource webpage is a good place to start: www.azhumane.org/resources-to-keep-your-pet.

In addition to AHS' 400 employees, the organization's mission is *please see SHELTER on page 10*



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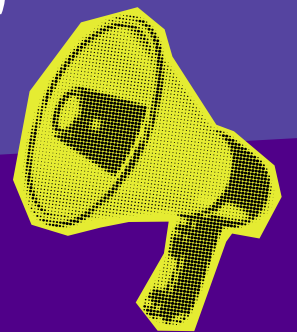
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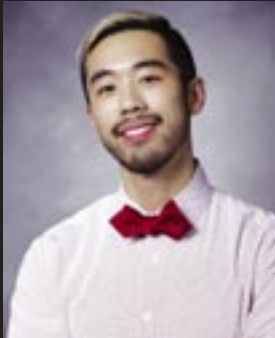



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COMMUNITY

Offer feedback on future development

The city of Phoenix Planning and Development Department hosted a five-day workshop in late February and early March to gather input from area residents within the Northwest Extension Phase II Transit Oriented Community (NWEII TOC) Study Area to help create a plan that will guide future area development.

The study area is roughly 19th Avenue west to 35th Avenue, Butler Drive north to Peoria Avenue, and impacts communities located along and near 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. 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."

A second community design work-

shop is scheduled for summer 2024. A date has not been announced, but in the meantime, residents can make their voices heard through a community input survey, which can be found, along with additional project details, at www.phoenix.gov/NWEII.

Weigh in on historic preservation

Residents who would like to weigh in on the future of historic preservation in Phoenix are encouraged to review the PreserveHistoricPHX 2025 update, and then take a brief survey, which will help the city of Phoenix Historic Preservation Office plan for the future.

The first comprehensive plan for historic preservation in the city of Phoenix was adopted in 2015. The update will assess the achievements made after the original plan adoption, address new challenges, and explore new opportunities to advance historic preservation in Phoenix.

The online survey is available through April at www.phoenix.gov/pddsite/Pages/PreserveHistoricPHX.aspx. Learn more at www.phoenix.gov/pdd/historic-preservation.

SHELTER continued from page 8

accomplished through the help of an army of volunteers, and as kitten season approaches, foster parents are in particular demand.

"Foster homes are probably the most important thing right now," Hansen said. "There are kittens in the Papago Park nursery currently, but "over the next few weeks it's going to become really busy. We'll start ramping up with more staff members 24/7 and more volunteers 24/7. That's because it's full-blown kitten breeding season — it starts in March and doesn't end until November."

As kittens come in, they are stabilized and then sent out to foster homes and partner organizations to make room at the shelter until the kittens are ready to go back for sterilization and adoption.

Residents who are interested in becoming a foster parent or volunteering in another capacity can visit www.azhumane.org/become-a-volunteer. And, of course, AHS always has hundreds of pets looking for forever homes. Visit www.azhumane.org/adopt to find a dog, cat or bunny that would be a good fit to join your family.

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COMMUNITY

Celebrate Earth Day every day

While Earth Day is officially April 22, Keep Phoenix Beautiful will host events throughout the month of April that will help residents “go green” year-round, beginning with two events on Saturday, April 13.

The Pierson Community Garden, 1822 W. Pierson St., will host “Worm Composting with Let’s Go Compost” from 9-10 a.m. The event will help residents learn about the wonders of worm composting and the benefits of using their “liquid gold” for garden soil. The Mountain View Community Garden, 9901 N. 7th Ave., will host “Everyday is Earth Day: Litter Cleanup and Flower Crowns” from 9-10 a.m. Attendees will clean up the litter surrounding the garden and within the Phoenix Mountain Preserve, as well as create a flower crown made using garden-grown flowers and plants.

Later in the month, residents can take part in a “Nurtured by Nature: How Gardening can Heal/Make and Take Craft” event, held at Mountain



Keep Phoenix Beautiful will host two community events in April at Sunnyslope’s Mountain View Community Garden (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

View Community Garden Wednesday, April 24, 4:30-5:15 p.m.

For details on these events and others, visit www.keepphxbeautiful.org/events.

Valley Metro plans westward expansion

Valley Metro concluded a fourth round of community meetings March 6 as it presented its West Phoenix High-capacity Transit Alternatives Analysis to

the public. The project looks at how best to improve high-capacity transit in the west Phoenix study area of Camelback Road, south to McDowell Road; Central Avenue west to 99th Avenue.

The Alternatives Analysis began in fall 2022 and is scheduled to conclude in May 2024, with action by the Phoenix City Council on the recommendation. If approved by the council, the project will move forward to the preliminary design and environmental analysis phase.

According to Marty Ziech, capital planning manager with Valley Metro, who presented at the March 6 meeting, the project is included in Phase 4 of the Maricopa Association of Governments MOMENTUM 2050 regional transportation plan, which puts a construction timeline between 2041 to 2045 (<https://azmag.gov/Programs/Transportation/Regional-Transportation-Plan-RTP>).

While both Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and light rail were considered for this study, the final recommendation is for light rail to travel from the station at Central Avenue and Indian School Road west to 75th Avenue, then south to Thomas Road, and west to the Desert Sky Transit Center at 78th Avenue. An optional route extension would take it as far west as 91st Avenue.

The recommendation will be presented to the Citizens Transportation Commission, March 28, and the Transportation, Infrastructure and Planning Subcommittee, April 17, and City Council, May 1. Find public meetings at www.phoenix.gov/cityclerk/publicmeetings/notices. Learn more at www.valleymetro.org/westphoenix.

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Phoenix Housing Market Snapshot as of 3/14/24

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

\$485,000

Monthly median sale price

2,176

Active listings



↑3% from last month
↑15% from last year



↑6% from last month
↑9% from last year

Please call Mike to discuss your specific real estate needs. Market conditions are currently relatively stable, so the idea that a collapse is imminent is far-fetched. However, conditions often change with little notice, so I check on the Phoenix housing market conditions daily. Remember from last month, I am still watching the supply of active listings.



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HAPPY HOUR WITH HERSCH

I am missing Coachella again this year, which is painful. Thank goodness I do not love the lineup again. Below is my personal Herschella lineup playing in my house that weekend.

FRIDAY

**Eminem • Jay-Z • Dr. Dre • Kanye West • Kendrick Lamar
Drake • Frank Ocean • Travis Scott • Nicki Minaj • The Wu-Tang Clan
Childish Gambino • Chance the Rapper • OutKast • Run-DMC • Lil Wayne
Big Sean • A\$AP Rocky • Kid Cudi • Ice Cube • Pusha T • Tyler the Creator • J Cole
Action Bronson • A Tribe Called Quest • Snoop Dogg • Atmosphere • Roots • De La Soul**

SATURDAY

**The Police • REM • Talking Heads • U2 • Blondie
Echo & The Bunnymen • Pretenders • The Cure • New Order
The Psychedelic Furs • Squeeze • Simple Minds • The Smiths • The Go-Go's
Billy Idol • Dingo Boingo • Devo • B-52's • Modern English • The Bangles • The Jam
Alphaville • Depeche Mode • The Dream Academy • A Flock of Seagulls • The Boomtown Rats • Talk Talk • Ultravox**

SUNDAY

**Taylor Swift • Beyonce • Miley Cyrus • Adele • Rihanna
Madonna • P!nk • Janet Jackson • Dolly Parton • Sania Twain
Billie Eilish • Dianna Ross • Olivia Rodrigo • Dua Lipa • Britney Spears
Brandi Carlisle • Christina Aguilera • Lady Gaga • Alanis Morissette • Phoebe Bridgers
Doja Cat • Sia • Cyndi Lauper • Halsey • Lizzo • Lorde • Katy Perry • Madi Diaz**

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Winner for Last Month – Mark Cosmas | Last Month's Answer – Fred Couples

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COMMUNITY

Building community one brick at a time

North Central resident Sabrina Posillico was thrilled when she learned about Pass the Bricks, an organization that collects used Lego bricks, sanitizes and sorts them, designs “new” sets and distributes them through nonprofits to kids who wouldn’t normally have access to them.

“Legos are one of the best toys children can play with,” Posillico said. “They boost creativity, stimulate imagination and increase spatial, math and engineering skills. But due to their cost, many kids do not have access to them.”

Although Pass the Bricks had ambassadors in over 50 cities, at the time, there were none in Arizona — she knew that it was a perfect opportunity for her family.

“We’d been looking for a way to give back to our community and as a big Lego family, it was just the perfect fit,” she added.

Her two children, Liliana and Karsten Beth, were equally excited and quickly started building. They even added mes-



Liliana and Karsten Beth help repurpose and redistribute used Legos through nonprofit Pass the Bricks (photo courtesy of Sabrina Posillico).

sages to each box, telling kids they have incredible imaginations and that the possibilities with Legos are endless.

So far, they have just been using their own Legos, but as outreach increases, they will depend more on donations. Recently, the family delivered its first batch of 100 sets to UMOM, a provider of shelter, housing and services for people experiencing homelessness. The goal

for 2024, the mom says, is to build 1,000 sets, and with the demand from Valley nonprofits they may surpass that number — assuming they can garner enough Lego donations.

Those interested in supporting Posillico and her family can reach out via email: sabrina@hanthro.com. To learn more about the organization, visit www.passthebricks.org.

Church hosts ladies’ tea

Desert Christian Fellowship Church will host its annual ladies’ tea, Saturday, April 13, with two servings available.

At 10:30 a.m., guests will enjoy a traditional tea. A “Mad Hatter” tea will be held at 1 p.m. Tickets cost \$15, and will include not only tea and delicacies, but prizes, fun and the opportunity to meet new people. To reserve a spot, call 602-885-1858.

Desert Christian Fellowship Church is located at 1445 W. Northern Avenue. For more information, visit <https://desertchristianfellowship.com>.

Group holds swap meet

The Grand Canyon Model Railroaders (GCMR) will host a mini swap meet event Saturday, April 27, at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church at 1212 E. Glendale Ave.. Enthusiasts will find 20-40 tables of trains for sale at this smaller scale meet. The event begins at 9 a.m., and admission and parking are free.

Learn more at www.gcmr.org.



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North Central Broader Area Market Update

SINGLE FAMILY HOMES Over \$1M
2/1/2024 to 3/10/2024

Closed Sales Over \$1M:
18

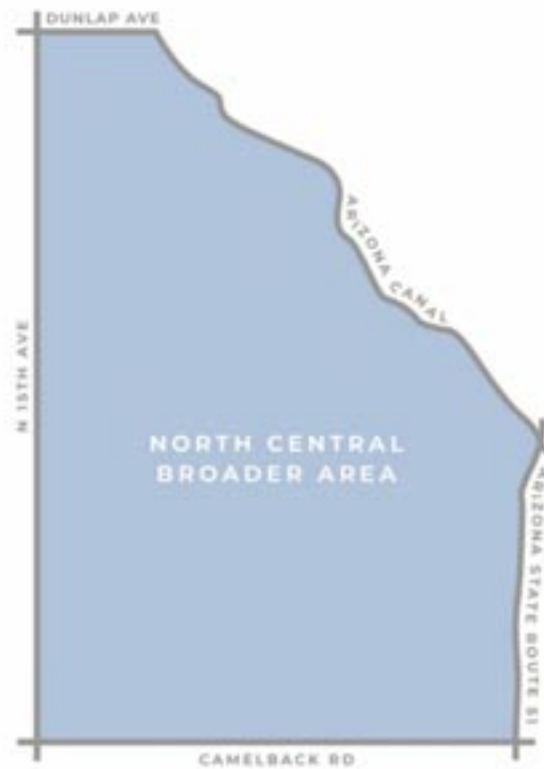
Avg Sales Price:
\$1,690,749

Avg List Price:
\$1,719,721

Avg Days on the Market:
61

Active Listings:
36 / \$1,065,000 - \$3,899,500

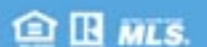
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COMMUNITY

Connect with your councilmember

Residents are invited to join Phoenix District 4 Councilwoman Laura Pastor for an open discussion on hot topics in Midtown and Central Phoenix at an April Coffee Chat event.

The event will be held Wednesday, April 10, 8-9:30 a.m., at Luana's Coffee and Beer, 1502 W. Thomas Road. Speakers will include representatives from the Phoenix Police and Neighborhood Services departments.

To RSVP, visit <https://bit.ly/D4CoffeeChat>. For more information, call 602-262-7447 or visit www.phoenix.gov/district4.

Budget hearings scheduled

In early April, the city of Phoenix will host nine in-person Community Budget Hearings to gather feedback on the proposed fiscal year 2024-25 Trial Budget. Additionally, two virtual/in-person hearings will be held in city council chambers. Community feed-

back will be considered in the development of the city manager's budget.

The District 6 hearing will be held Thursday, April 4, at 6 p.m. at the Devonshire Senior Center, 2802 E. Devonshire Ave. The District 4 meeting will also be held April 4, at 6 p.m., at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School Road. The District 3 hearing will be held Thursday, April 11, at 8:30 a.m., at the Sunnyslope Community Center, 802 E. Vogel Ave. Two community-wide, virtual/in-person meetings will be held at the city council chambers, 200 W. Jefferson St. An April 2 meeting will be held at 6 p.m. and a Saturday, April 6, meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m.

Find more information at www.phoenix.gov/budget. The 2024 calendar and future meeting timeline can be found at www.phoenix.gov/calendar/budget.

Residents also can use the FundPHX online tool, which is designed to educate and engage the public in the city's annual budget process. The tool is available with the 2023-24 adopted budget in both

English and Spanish. It also allows residents to provide feedback on current funding levels and share community priorities with staff. Information collected in the tool will be shared regularly with the city council, so it can help guide development for the upcoming 2024-25 operating budget. Visit www.phoenix.gov/budget/fund.

Neighborhood grant application opens

The city of Phoenix is now accepting applications for the Love Your Block (LYB) program, which is for all neighborhood groups who are listed with Phoenix Neighborhood Services on the Neighborhood LINK (www.phoenix.gov/nsd/programs/neighborhood-coordination).

Funded by a grant from the Gila River Indian Community and matched by the city of Phoenix Public Works Department, the LYB grant program offers neighborhood groups the opportunity to apply for grant funding up to \$5,000 for a community project that benefits their whole neighborhood.

Eight grants will be awarded annually.

The deadline to apply is 5 p.m., Monday, April 15. For additional information, visit www.phoenix.gov/nsd/loveyourblock or send an email to loveyourblock@phoenix.gov.

Family-friendly 'Slope Fest returns

The East Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association and Block Watch will gather with neighborhood partners and residents this month at Palma Park for the annual 'Slope Fest and Tour de Sunnyslope.

Celebrating the best of Sunnyslope, the free event is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The annual festival offers family-friendly entertainment and food for purchase, as well as the opportunity to connect with neighborhood groups and to city of Phoenix departments and resources.

Happening in tandem with 'Slope Fest is the annual Tour de Sunnyslope, a bike ride for all ages with the Phoenix Police Bike Squad. Gathering for the Tour begins at 7:45 a.m., with the ride beginning promptly at 8:30 a.m.

Palma Park is located at 1135 E. Dunlap Ave. For additional event details, visit www.slopefestaz.org.

Valleywise doubles goal

Valleywise Health Foundation completed its four-year ALL IN for Valleywise Health Campaign. Launched in January 2020, this first major campaign effort more than doubled its original campaign goal, raising \$54,123,689 by the end of 2023.

The campaign funds support Arizona's public teaching hospital and safety net system of care for Maricopa County, including burn survivorship care at the new Diane & Bruce Halle Arizona Burn Center-Valleywise Health; innovative behavioral health programs; teaching Arizona's future health care professionals; and caring for the community by serving all who seek care, regardless of their ability to pay.

The campaign will culminate with the opening of the Valleywise Health Medical Center, scheduled to open in April 2024. The new acute care hospital at 2601 E. Roosevelt Road in Phoenix will replace the current teaching hospital, which opened in 1971. Learn more at www.valleywisehealth.org.

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Fear not, dear drivers; I'm here to provide you with a comprehensive grasp of the blistering asphalt of our favorite desert cities. Whether you're a seasoned road warrior or a first-time driver, I have a juicy golden nugget of wisdom that's as valuable as a drop of water in our sun-kissed landscape. So, buckle up, adjust your sunglasses, and prepare to maneuver our busy streets with elegance and a bit of desert flare!

First and foremost, let's address the cactus in the room: So, you've been behind the wheel for a good 5 to 15 years, never so much as grazed a bumper, and your driving record is as clean as a freshly detailed dashboard. But does it imply you know how to drive? Or did you simply win the lottery of lane merging, escaping the pandemonium via pure luck?

As our Arizona cities expand quicker than a speeding bullet (or so it seems), we must all learn to adjust to increased traffic, newcomers who believe a turn signal is only a nice decoration, and the skill of remaining cool—both literally and figuratively—when the heat is on. Make sure to strap up, keep your wits about you, and remember that, in the larger scheme of things, we're all just trying to get from point A to point B without becoming roadrunner's food.

The open road is a place where freedom, adventure, and catastrophes may coexist in equal measure. Whether you are an expert driver or a rookie with no prior experience, these points are applicable to both types of drivers.

Let's Begin Navigating the Asphalt Jungle Without Turning Our Commute into a Demolition Derby...

SPEED HARMONY: Make sure that your speed matches that of traffic before entering the roadway. Think of it like dancing: if your rhythm isn't in sync with everyone around you, chances are high you may end up treading on some toes!

YIELD, BUT DON'T FREEZE: Make room for other drivers on the freeway while giving them space. However, try not to stop or slow down unless it's necessary; remember you are a motorist on a mission!

THE 3-5 SECOND RULE: Locate an opening in traffic that lasts 3 to 4 seconds wide. As an expert tip: don't target vehicles to pass ahead of; rather look for ones behind which would make good partners in an exciting game of dodgeball!

MIRROR, MIRROR, AND HEAD CHECK: Before entering any lane, make sure your vehicle is visible from all directions, and don't forget to inspect its blind spot. Don't rely solely on mirrors - turning your head quickly could save a world of trouble!

SIGNAL EARLY AND SIGNAL OFTEN: To send an inviting invitation to other drivers and inform them of your intentions, use turn signals at least 100 to 300 feet before merging or changing lanes. By doing this, it sends out a polite reminder about what lies ahead for all involved.

RESPECT THE SOLID LINE: Don't cross until the solid line ends before merging; this rule applies whether it is suggested or enforced - think of it like the boundary line in a game of tag!

ONE LANE AT A TIME PLEASE: Take one lane at a time across traffic lanes to make it safer, rather than trying to be an action hero by crossing multiple lanes at once. Slow and steady wins the race!

PLAN YOUR EXIT STRATEGY: Be prepared for your exit way ahead of time and navigate toward it by moving into the far-right lane as you approach. Think of this like setting up your chess pieces before the final move!

KEEP THE FLOW GOING: In general, follow the flow of traffic until exiting. However, adjust your speed according to weather conditions and exit ramp designs; being flexible is key here!

THE ETIQUETTE OF PASSING: If you must bully and overtake another vehicle, please use the left lane, and pass from their back onto your own lane when visible in your rearview mirror. When passing larger cars, expand your distance—it's the courteous approach to overtake, like saying "please" and "thank



you" with your car. Oh, and keep your inventive hand signals to yourself; they merely add a dash of unnecessary road rage to everyone's day. Furthermore, that momentary feeling of pleasure will fade faster than your turn signal (assuming you ever use it).

Merging may appear to be a minor aspect of driving, but it is an art form that, if not executed correctly, can cause havoc on our roadways. Consider it a dance, with each move and turn providing an opportunity to demonstrate your elegance and perfection, like a ballet dancer or chess master. It's more than simply avoiding tickets; it's about keeping yourself and others safe. So, the next time you take the road, harness your inner driving expert and merge in style. And if things become rough, remember that it's better to arrive fashionably late in this world than to be the first to enter the pearly gates.

As we move through our asphalt jungle, remember that the true art of driving is not merely arriving at your destination, but doing it safely, sensibly, and with the patience of a sea turtle taking a leisurely swim. The driver's technique, not the vehicle itself, defines the length of the trip. So, let's put our best tire forward and drive as if we had all the time in the world—because, let's be honest, in traffic, we do.

REMEMBER THAT THE BEST DRIVERS ARE THOSE WHO KNOW DRIVING IS NOT A RACE—UNLESS YOU'RE MERGING, THEN IT'S A GAME OF POLITE CHICKEN.

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COMMUNITY

Pet of the Month

Friendly senior girl looking for loving home

Carli is an absolutely gorgeous 10-year-old American Pit Bull Terrier mix who was unfortunately surrendered to the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) earlier this year after her family was moving and could not take her with. This sadly is a trend that AHS is seeing more and more of as pet owners face struggles such as housing insecurity, job insecurity, lack of pet-friendly housing and more.

Upon examination in the shelter's trauma hospital, Carli was found to have a wound on her tail known as "happy tail" due to wagging it and hitting it on objects, which has since healed. The pointy eared pup absolutely loves people, getting attention and going for car rides. Throughout her time at AHS, everyone has noted how sweet and friendly she is with every two-legged friend she meets.

This senior girl is truly a precious one who has a lot of love to give during her golden years and hopes a family



Carli is a gorgeous, friendly senior American Pit Bull Terrier mix with a lot of love to give (photo courtesy of Arizona Humane Society).

falls in love with her. Those interested in adopting curious Carli are encouraged to visit www.azhumane.org/adopt for more information.

If Carli (pet number 754838) has already been adopted, 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.

Take a shelter pup on a field trip

Maricopa County Animal Care and Control hosts Tails Around Town Thursdays through Saturdays at its West shelter.

The event is an opportunity to take a shelter dog on a day-long adventure and give them a much-needed break from the shelter. It also helps them be seen and allows the shelter to learn more about the pooch in order to help them find their perfect forever home.

Pick up is between 9-11 a.m. at the West shelter, 2500 S. 27th Ave., and volunteers should make sure to wear proper attire for the outing. "Tailwaggers" will be given a backpack with everything they will need for the day, including a list of places that are dog friendly.

As volunteers take their travel buddy on a walk around town to see the sights, the adventure lets potential adopters see them. If an interested adopter is met during the outing, they can head back to the West shelter to finalize adoption.

To learn more about this volunteer opportunity, visit www.maricopa.gov/6037/Tails-Around-Town.

Local cat does good

Ferguson, a central Phoenix cat "owned" by Candace Porth and Tony DiGiovine, recently held a fundraiser for Chele's Cat Care, a 501(c)(3) cat rescue and foster organization.

The organization recently achieved nonprofit status, which will help in its mission to rescue, foster, and aid cats in need. According to its website, the nonprofit takes cats from all situations, including abandoned or unwanted pets.

According to Porth, through her Facebook and Instagram pages, Ferguson offered to mail a headshot of himself to anyone who would send an online donation to the rescue group.

"People from five states (so far) have participated," Porth said, adding that Ferguson has hopes of becoming a furry philanthropist.

To learn more about Chele's Cat Care, visit www.chelescatcare.org.

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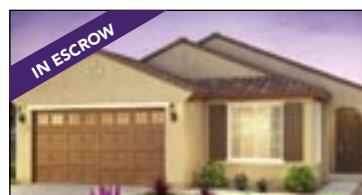
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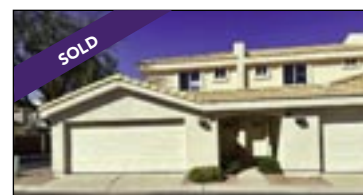
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Daphne Munro shares money-saving tips and stories about motivational residents through her website and her new Smart Living podcast (photo courtesy of Smart Shopper Daphne).

Savings maven launches podcast

By Kathryn M. Miller

Many residents still remember Daphne Munro for her upbeat television segments, but more recently, the North Central Phoenix neighbor has moved into the world of podcasts. And while the format is different, the content is still very much on brand for the savings maven.

Known as ABC15's Smart Shopper beginning in 2004, Munro recalled helping create and build that popular segment, and others. But things began to change in 2016.

"I felt that social media and living in the digital world was going to be better for the brand," she said. "So, I left in 2016, took about a year off to redo things, and then I lived in the digital world starting in 2017. But the pandemic really got most people kind of off track. So, I basically just kind of fell off the face of the earth, for two or three years."

But in 2024, the time was right to relaunch her efforts and a podcast was born in an effort to reach a broader audience, "Because it's just this simple: I'm always going to show people ways to save money and spend their money wisely."

Munro says that she also happens to know a lot of interesting women, and it is their stories that she wants to help tell on her new podcast, Smart Living.

"I want women to be able to tell

their stories on how they made smart choices in their life to lead to their success," she said. "And that success is not always defined by money. It can be defined by the things that they love and they're passionate about. That's what Smart Living podcast is all about."

Her smart money-saving tips will always be an integral part of her blog and podcast; however, "That's my brand and that's how everybody knows me — that's who I am."

Munro's smart shopping habits didn't begin with her television segment, though. It came about naturally years earlier.

"In 2000, I was just a young woman trying to support her family, and I just happened to be an incredibly cheap person," she laughed. "When you have a family, you've got to make ends meet. So, you may not necessarily be a bargain person, but you become one because of the situation."

Her new podcast will be a seasonal offering, currently posting one episode a week. But when summer rolls around, it will likely become a monthly production, "It just depends on how people are receiving the podcast," she said.

As far as content, expect smart, interesting and motivational guests, such as Bridget Pettis, former WNBA player and coach, and founder of the nonprofit Project Roots. Other guests include a local realtor talking about a free buyer's guide, and a look at the

please see SMART on page 22

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

SMART continued from page 20

hidden costs behind electric vehicles. “It really is all about living your life smart. But people also really enjoy listening to other people’s life story,” Munro said, adding, “Women are smart as hell. And I know so many wonderful women in the Valley that are all on the same page as me. We’re just trying to make a living here. And so, you’ve got to make smart choices with your money.” To find podcast episodes and Munro’s money- and time-saving life hacks and more, visit www.smartshopperdaphne.com.

Business Briefs
Vintage shop opens on Central

A new retro shopping experience opened in Uptown Phoenix in late February that offers a variety of vintage treasures for the home. The new shop, D-constructed Vintage Home, located at 5034 N. Central Ave., is a collaboration between self-described serial entrepreneur Mike

Robertson and his partner in vintage, Conni Ersland (Salvage Sisters). The team says that their union has resulted in a destination that brings together the best finds from all over Arizona and the country with a goal of offering mix and match vintage decor, curated by seasoned buyers, to help residents cultivate the personal space of their dreams. The two met when Ersland worked at a thrift shop where Robertson was a volunteer. Ersland says that the two had a lot of “mutual friends and similar dreams.” When that thrift store ceased operations, Robertson knew it was time to open a new shop and asked Ersland to partner up. He adds that the two are “bound by fate,” and share a deep mutual respect for each other’s work ethic, good nature and creative skills. The team is “excited to be a part of the neighborhood” and its evolving roster of dynamic businesses, as well as the nature and historic architecture of the area. “They’re not demolishing historic properties but updating them and injecting new life into them. Thus, we clean and repurpose our items and reduce landfill overload,” Robertson said.



Conni Ersland and Mike Robertson celebrated the grand opening of D-constructed Vintage Home store Feb. 24 (submitted photo).

For more information, visit their Facebook page or send an email to dconstructedvintagehome@gmail.com.

Donut shop coming to Phoenix

According to its website, Randy’s Donuts will set up shop on 7th Street just south of Bethany Home Road.

Established in 1952 in Inglewood, California, the original shop is recognizable for the giant donut gracing its rooftop. The company, with more than a dozen U.S. locations in California and Las Vegas, offers everything from the classics (glazed, raised, cake and filled) to premium donuts (maple raised with churros, red velvet with ganache, bacon maple long john and others), in addition to a specialty drinks menu. An opening date was not available for the new location, 5709 North 7th St. Learn more at www.randysdonuts.com.

Career expo focuses on diversity

Job seekers looking for a career with a company that values diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace may want to check out the ONE Community Diversity Career Expo. Scheduled for Thursday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the virtual event will connect people with inclusive companies, and registration is free *please see EXPO on page 24*

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

EXPO continued from page 22

for job seekers. ONE Community says that the event “will deliver a highly interactive, 3D environment including live streaming video interviews with key corporate sponsors and the opportunity to have one-on-one conversations with recruiters looking to fill job openings.”

To register for the event, visit www.onecommunity.com/diversity-career-expo-april-11.

Bond partners with Tarbell

Phoenix-based developer George Oliver announced that the Camelback Corridor’s Bond office redevelopment has partnered with award-winning chef and entrepreneur Mark Tarbell to run all food and beverage services at the company’s latest hospitality-inspired office transformation.

The company says that the agreement will elevate the onsite food and beverage offerings to new heights while maintaining its emphasis on local collaborations — in this case, with one of



The first phase of renovations for Camelback Corridor’s Bond office complex is expected to be completed mid-year (photo courtesy of George Oliver).

Arizona’s most celebrated restaurateurs. Tarbell will oversee all food and beverage offerings at Cultivate, Bond’s full-service coffee, cocktail and food service bar, and at The Vault, the exclusive speakeasy cocktail experience hidden in Bond’s sub level. Tarbell will also offer catering services for on-site meetings and an on-site food delivery service available at individual tenant spaces and throughout the building.

The overall renovations for the complex will be delivered in phases, with the first phase planned for completion in mid-2024. Office spec suites and tenant spaces delivered in November of last year with move-in-ready spaces available. Located at 3200 E. Camelback Road, Bond totals 287,000 square feet in three stories, and offers an extensive amenity package. Learn more at www.bondphoenix.com.

Nonprofit announces program director

Free Arts for Abused Children of Arizona announced in March the appointment of Kerri Kaczmarczyk to the role of program director. The company says that her career in nonprofits gives her unique expertise and insights in helping the organization achieve its strategic vision for current and future programs and opens an exciting chapter after previously serving as a Free Arts Mentor.



Kerri Kaczmarczyk

“As a former volunteer in Free Arts’ weekly mentoring program, I’ve always admired this organization as the gold standard for supporting youth who have experienced significant trauma,” Kaczmarczyk said. “I’m fortunate to now work alongside an incredible network of staff members, volunteer mentors, professional artists, partner agencies, and board members who are dedicated to utilizing art as a vehicle for youth to not only heal, but also thrive beyond their circumstances.”

Founded in 1993, Free Arts for Abused Children of Arizona helps transform children’s trauma to resilience through the arts. For additional information, visit www.freeartsaz.org.

City librarian announces retirement

In March, Phoenix City Librarian Rita Hamilton announced her retirement, effective April 5. She served in the role for the past 13 years. Mitch Menchaca, Arts and Culture Director has been appointed as the acting city librarian by the city manager while a national search is conducted.

“I am thrilled to have been asked to step into this important role and work with the library team,” said Menchaca, who will continue in his current role as Arts and Culture Director in addition to the acting role. “There is a lot of synergy between the arts and culture sector and our public libraries — not just in literacy but as community hubs that advance the quality of lives for residents.”

The Phoenix Public Library celebrated its 125th anniversary last year and served 200,000 visitors a month with its 16 branch libraries and flagship, Burton Barr Central Library. Learn more at www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org.

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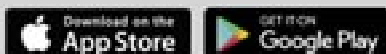
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345 E Ocotillo Rd.....	In Escrow.....	5177SF.....	5BR/4BA.....	\$2,340,000
36 E State Ave.....	In Escrow.....	5224SF.....	6BR/6BA.....	\$2,250,000
6748 N Central Ave.....	In Escrow.....	3242SF.....	4BR/3.5BA.....	\$1,510,000
6809 N 12th Ave.....	Just Listed.....	3387SF.....	5BR/4.5BA.....	\$1,499,900
314 E Rose Ln.....	New Price.....	3588SF.....	5BR/4BA.....	\$1,190,000
4280 E Stottler Dr.....	In Escrow.....	4159SF.....	8BR/4.5BA.....	\$1,260,000
7031 N Central Ave.....	In Escrow.....	3592SF.....	5BR/4BA.....	\$1,150,000
1340 W Myrtle Ave.....	In Escrow.....	2878SF.....	4BR/2.5BA.....	\$1,349,500
240 W Missouri Ave #25.....	In Escrow.....	2167SF.....	2BR/2.5BA.....	\$630,000
5720 N 64th Dr.....		1561SF.....	4BR/2BA.....	\$399,900
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1008 E Northview Ave*.....	\$ 832,500
7117 N 13th Pl*.....	\$ 825,000
77 E Missouri Ave #52.....	\$ 800,000
929 E Cavalier Dr*.....	\$ 750,000
8410 N 17th St.....	\$ 739,000
77 E Missouri Ave #67.....	\$ 725,000
225 E Echo Ln.....	\$ 510,000
631 E Royal Palm Sq N.....	\$ 400,250
7887 N 16th St #136*.....	\$ 390,000
12919 W Crittenden Ln*.....	\$ 380,000
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	122 E San Miguel Ave.....	\$ 675,000
5737 N 2nd Ave.....	\$1,750,000	5576 N 12th St #1.....	\$ 675,000
4902 E Piccadilly Rd*.....	\$1,700,000	5804 N 14th Ave.....	\$ 650,000
6518 N 25th Way*.....	\$1,683,000	15027 E Desert Willow Dr.....	\$ 645,000
345 E Pomona Rd.....	\$1,500,000	694 W Colter St.....	\$ 630,000
334 W State Ave.....	\$1,375,000	14210 N 9th St*.....	\$ 629,900
546 E Kaler Dr.....	\$1,330,000	715 W Culver St.....	\$ 625,000
910 E Kaler Dr.....	\$1,260,455	715 W Culver St.....	\$ 625,000
512 E Adair Dr*.....	\$1,235,000	1400 E Bethany Home Rd #29.....	\$ 585,000
50 E Lamar Rd.....	\$1,200,000	17726 W Larkspur Dr.....	\$ 575,000
510 W McLellan Blvd.....	\$1,175,000	7748 N 7th Ave.....	\$ 572,500
7101 N 3rd Ave.....	\$1,157,500	1222 E Wagon Wheel Dr.....	\$ 515,000
1324 E Lupine Ave*.....	\$1,075,000	2828 E Cholla St*.....	\$ 515,000
5130 N 6th St.....	\$1,065,000	804 E Corte Oro*.....	\$ 550,000
18244 W Meadowbrook Ave.....	\$1,025,000	1516 W Glenn Dr.....	\$ 505,000
5645 N 7th Ave.....	\$1,000,000	1001 W Solcicio Ln.....	\$ 400,000
322 W Stella Ln.....	\$ 895,000	106 E Echo Ln.....	\$ 495,000
7814 N 4th Pl.....	\$ 875,000	3618 E Coronado Rd.....	\$ 460,000
719 E Circle Rd.....	\$ 855,000	18383 W Vista Norte St*.....	\$ 432,000
4681 N 84th Way.....	\$ 833,705	5220 N 16th Ln.....	\$ 400,000
3103 E Hazelwood St.....	\$ 830,000	16182 W Winslow Dr.....	\$ 378,000
2524 E Beryl Ave.....	\$ 799,000	10432 N 11th St #2.....	\$ 359,900
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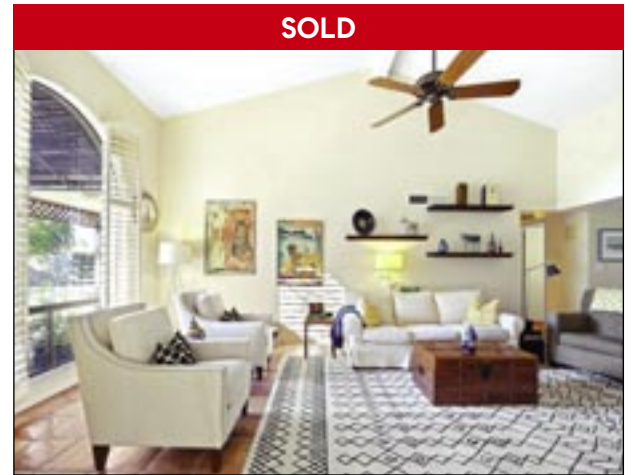
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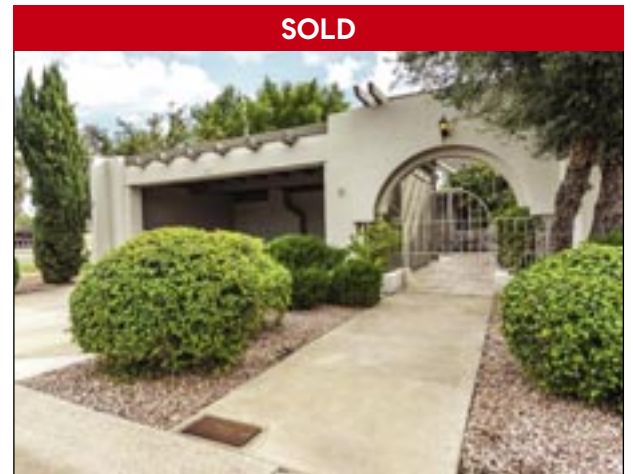
IN ESCROW

7141 N 16th St #228 • \$200,000
837SF • 1BR/1BA



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1008 E Northview Ave • \$832,500
2063SF • 3BR/2.5BA



SOLD

631 E Royal Palm Sq N • \$400,250
1692SF • 3BR/2BA



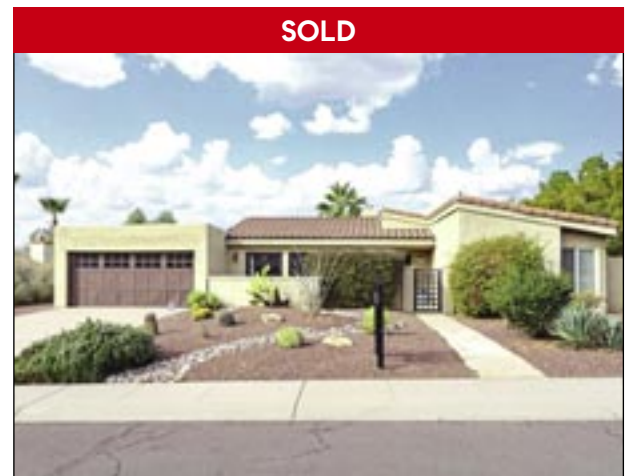
SOLD

7887 N 16th St #136 • \$390,000
1234SF • 2BR/2BA • Represented buyer



SOLD - REPRESENTED BUYER

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



SOLD

8410 N 17th St • \$739,000
2058SF • 4BR/2BA



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SCHOOL DAYS



North Central Phoenix residents Nancy Wilson, left, and Sarah Root are leading the move and expansion of the Early Education Cooperative Preschool (photo courtesy of EEC).

New location offers preschool expansion

A Valley preschool is making the move to a new, expanded location after 60 years, but leadership says that their supportive, nurturing focus will not change.

Established in 1961, the Early Education Cooperative Preschool (EECP) is a parent-involved cooperative preschool that focuses on developing the whole child, supporting the growth of parents, and creating meaningful connections within an inclusive community. After over 60 years at its original location at 40th Place and Lincoln Drive in Paradise Valley, EECP will be moving to a new expanded location this fall, renting space from Shepherd of the Hills, UCC at 5524 E. Lafayette Blvd., Phoenix.

Preschool directors Sarah Root and Nancy Wilson, both parents of EEC graduates and North Central residents, say that they're looking forward to the move and having an even greater impact with their unique preschool model.

"Our new location will have five classrooms and an expanded outdoor space for playing and gardening," said Root. "And with the new space, we're looking forward to adding a mixed-age 3's class to our programming!"

Wilson says the longevity and success of the preschool is largely due to the thoughtful incorporation of parent involvement. "We are the only preschool in the Valley with regular parent partici-


pation in the classroom twice a month, plus monthly parent education meetings," she said. "Our unique preschool model helps our students gain the skills and confidence to thrive once they are ready to move on to elementary school."

Sarah Corwin is uniquely qualified to comment on the EEC preschool, having one daughter who completed the program, twin girls currently enrolled – and having attended the preschool herself as a child in the 80s.

"If you want a warm and loving community for yourself and for your children, this is the place to go," said Corwin. "There's so much nurturing, so much encouragement to explore and learn through playing with others." She adds that the parent education meetings are one of her favorite elements of the preschool program, as well as the fact that her children get to know their classmates and their parents in a positive nurturing environment.

"You don't feel alone. The meetings are so different at each age (language development, speech, potty training, playing with others, using your words, getting ready for kindergarten). It's an open safe space to talk with teachers and parents, ask if anyone else is dealing with challenges, and express what you're going through as a parent. I learned parenting techniques when my oldest was 2 that I still use!"



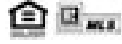
Enrollment is underway for programs serving children aged 2 through pre-K and families may apply online at www.cooppreschool.org. Applications will be accepted through May.



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SCHOOL DAYS



Thunderbird students took to the field during the March 2 opening ceremony at Surprise Stadium (photo courtesy of GUHSD).

School Briefs
GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Save the dates for GUHSD graduations

Graduation time is just around the corner in the Glendale Union High School District. All graduations will be held at the Desert Diamond Arena, located at 9400 W. Maryland Ave. in Glendale.

Graduation ceremonies will be held May 20 for Glendale High School, 10 a.m.; Cortez High School, 12:30 p.m.; Thunderbird High School, 3 p.m.; Moon Valley High School, 5:30 p.m.; and Sunnyslope High School, 8 p.m. Ceremonies will be held on May 21 for Greenway High School, 10 a.m.; Independence High School, 1 p.m.; Washington High School, 4 p.m.; and Apollo High School, 7 p.m.

For additional information, visit www.guhzdaz.org.

Guard presents colors at opening game

Thunderbird High School's NJROTC Color Guard presented the colors at the opening ceremony of the Major League Baseball spring training game between the Oakland Athletics and the Texas Rangers. The game was at the Surprise Stadium.

The cadets were led by veteran Color Guard member David Bechtel, and included Wesley Davis, Kashus Blevins, and Carson Emery.

Vocal teacher recognized

Sunnyslope High School choir teacher Tamara Krause recently received

the 12 News A+ Teacher Award. Krause was nominated by the parents of her Vocal Ensemble students.

Seniors are Merit finalists

Sunnyslope High School seniors Haley Trice and Reagan Corlette have moved on to be National Merit Finalists. Only a small percentage of students in the country qualify for this honor. As a finalist, they will receive scholarships but they will find out if they are recipients of the top scholarship this month.

Tennis students receive scholarships

Four Washington High School tennis students received the New American Scholarship to Arizona State University for participating in the PASS summer tennis program. Each recipient will receive \$32,000 over their four years at ASU.

Cortez receives 'A+' award

The Arizona Educational Foundation presented Cortez High School with a banner for their prestigious A+ School of Excellence award to administration and the GUHSD governing board members.

GUHSD offers employment opportunities

Residents who have thought about making an impact at their neighborhood high school are invited to explore employment opportunities in the Glendale Union High School District. GUHSD has many full-time and part-

please see HIRING on page 30

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SCHOOL DAYS

HIRING continued from page 29

time jobs, including cafeteria assistant, instructional assistant and parking lot attendant.

Visit www.guhsdaz.org/domain/68 or call 623-435-6010 for more information. The district says that it offers excellent benefits, including medical coverage, life insurance, and retirement contributions.

MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Enrollment is open for 2024-2025

Choosing a school for your child is an important decision. A strong and supportive educational experience helps set the foundation to inspire a life-long love of learning. It prepares children with the skills and confidence to take on future challenges and become effective problem-solvers.

The Madison School District says that through its Signature Programs, students learn not only reading, writing, and math but also develop communication, teamwork, and creative



Described as “the heart of Longview,” Elaine Marxer has served the elementary school for more than three decades (photo courtesy of Osborn School District).

thinking skills, all within an educational program that engages and inspires their individual interests.

The Visual & Performing Arts program at Madison Rose Lane Elementary and Madison No. 1 Middle School offers opportunities in arts, dance, music, theater and more. Through the elective classes, students can focus on an area of the arts to continue to develop their skills or explore and try new opportunities.

The STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) program at Madison Camelview Elementary and Madison Park Middle School provides students with a strong foundation in computer science, coding, engineering, building and innovation, preparing them for future technology and skilled careers in a variety of industries.

The district also offers Spanish Immersion, International Baccalaureate, REACH - Profoundly Gifted and

Traditional Academy Signature Programs at the elementary and middle school levels.

Madison is now accepting open enrollment applications for the 2024-25 school year. More information about the Signature Programs, schools and scheduling a tour is available at www.madisonaz.org.

OSBORN SCHOOL DISTRICT

District recognizes long-time employee

On March 8, Osborn shined the spotlight on Elaine Marxer, who has served as an administrative assistant at Longview Elementary School for the past 31 years.

The longtime employee is described as “the heart of Longview,” “a breath of fresh air who always seems to make every day a little brighter for all of us,” “a daily dose of sunshine,” “the glue that sticks all of Longview together,” and “like a Redwood tree that will only bend with the wind and will never snap.” All apt descriptions, the district says, “because she has been caring for the front office of



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SCHOOL DAYS

Longview for three decades, and her love for the school and students overflows into everyone that interacts with her!”

Learn more about the Osborn School District at www.osbornnet.org.

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT School hosts student job fair

Camelback High School, in partnership with Goodwill of Central and Northern Arizona, held its third Annual Job Fair Feb. 6.

According to Camelback High Principal James Arndt, the fair drew dozens of employers and more than 350 students looking to find their next job and maybe career.

Camelback junior Emily Ruiz said, “As a student who wants to major in hospitality, I decided to go to the job fair and look for opportunities which would help me for my future. I stopped by the Hilton Resort and Spa and decided to apply. I got the job!”

Stephanie Strehans, senior community awareness partner at Goodwill, added, “Goodwill is dedicated to the



Marriott International and Ironworkers Apprenticeship vied for Camelback High School students’ attention at a Feb. 6 job fair (photo courtesy of Phoenix Union High School District).

ongoing support of educators and students at Camelback High School. Our Community Awareness team was happy to assist such a successful event and look forward to future collaboration.”

Companies interested in having a booth at next year’s event should contact Victoria Pettit at pettit@phoenixunion.org or call Camelback High School at 602-764-7256.

Andrade named superintendent

The Phoenix Union High School District (PXU) governing board unanimously selected Thea Andrade as the next superintendent on March 5 following an extensive screening process with three finalists. This selection is contingent upon negotiating an employment contract and the board’s

acceptance of an independent background check report.

Already serving as the interim superintendent, 2023-24, Andrade will begin her official appointment following negotiations with the Governing Board. Andrade has served in public education in Arizona for nearly three decades and



Thea Andrade

as an administrator for over 20 years. As a former mathematics teacher, she taught middle and high school Algebra. She earned a Master’s in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University and served as a high school principal and Director of Quality Schools before joining PXU.

Students engage in reading

In celebration of literacy, Camelback High School students recently partnered with Bethune Elementary for Read Across America.

please see LITERACY on page 32

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**Week 5: June 24-28
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**Week 6: July 8-12
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**Week 7: July 15-19
NINJA WEEK**

**Week 8: July 22-26
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SCHOOL DAYS

LITERACY *continued from page 31*

Spearheaded by Spartan alum Salma Ballesteros in collaboration with Camelback's literacy coaches, this initiative brought high school ambassadors into Bethune classrooms.

On March 1, students Kimber Bowsher, Isabella Chamberlain, Zoe Elvin Lynn, Matthew Gondos and Jatziri Izazaga Fierro shared the joy of reading with elementary students through read-aloud sessions. They also offered a glimpse into high school life, sharing personal anecdotes and engaging in an enlightening Q&A session.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT**Tax credits support local schools**

Washington Elementary School District (WESD) is reminding residents that there is still time to reduce their state tax liability (up to \$200 filing single or \$400 filing jointly) by donating to a WESD school. This year, Tax Day is Monday, April 15, which means residents have until then to make a tax credit donation that is eligible for a 2023 tax filing.

A tax credit donation to a WESD school puts tax dollars back into the community where they will make a difference for students. The district asks residents to consider donating to one or more of its Royal Palm region schools including Desert View Elementary School, Maryland School, Moon Mountain Elementary School,

Mountain View School, Orangewood School, Richard E. Miller Elementary School, Royal Palm Middle School and Sunnyslope School.

To make an online tax credit donation, visit www.wesdschools.org/taxcredit.

Desert View earns an 'A'

Desert View Elementary School recently held its "A" letter grade celebration. Students, families, staff and community members gathered to celebrate the school's first ever "A" letter grade designation by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE).

The event included congratulation from Superintendent Dr. Paul Stanton, Governing Board President Jenni Abbott-Bayardi, Phoenix Vice Mayor Debra Stark and Phoenix Councilman Kevin Robinson; food and games, and special performances from Desert View first graders and cheerleaders, as well as musicians from Royal Palm Middle School, also rated an "A" by ADE.

The district thanked the East Sunnyslope Neighborhood Association & Block Watch, City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department, Cactus Campus of Scottsdale Bible Church, and First Christian Church for their donations and support, many of which were on hand to celebrate the school's achievement.

Kiwanis donate dictionaries

Third grade students at Desert View Elementary School, Maryland

School, Moon Mountain Elementary School, Mountain View School, Orangewood School, Richard E. Miller Elementary School and Sunnyslope School were recently surprised with free dictionaries from WESD's longtime partner, the Kiwanis of North Phoenix.

"These generous donations will go a long way in benefitting our students' learning," the district said, adding, "Thank you to the Kiwanis of North Phoenix for their ongoing support of the WESD Family."

Teachers sought for new school year

WESD is looking for teachers for the 2024-25 school year. The district will hold a Teacher Interview Fair Saturday, April 13, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at Arroyo School, located at 4535 W. Cholla St. The district is currently hiring elementary, middle and special education teachers, as well as a speech language pathologist, teacher of visually impaired, occupational therapist and physical therapist.

The district says that it offers competitive teacher salaries of \$53,000-\$83,950 (including \$3,000 approx. for performance pay), student loan forgiveness, multi-layer teacher support, professional development, school-age child care discounts, a wellness program and EAP, medical, dental and vision benefits, employer-matched contributions to Arizona State Retirement and more.

Those interested can preschedule an interview by calling 602-347-2622 or emailing teach@wesdschools.org.

PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS Senior awarded prestigious scholarship

Aydan Leeds-Peralta, a student at Madison Highland Prep, was recently awarded the prestigious Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) scholarship. The NROTC Scholarship awards scholarships through a highly

competitive national selection process of examining academic records, test scores, leadership and athletics, as well as participating in an interview.



Aydan Leeds-Peralta

The scholarship covers full tuition, book stipend, educational fees and other financial needs at many of the country's best colleges and universities.

"I applied for this scholarship program because it aligns perfectly with what I plan to do for my future," said Leeds-Peralta. "I know I want to serve in the military and I know I want to get a degree in engineering and thanks to this scholarship, it's all a big win."

Choosing to major in astronautical engineering, Leeds-Peralta's top-choice for post-secondary education is the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Although he is still waiting to hear back from the university, he has also applied to Caltech, University of California, Berkeley, and Stanford.



MADISON
SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR
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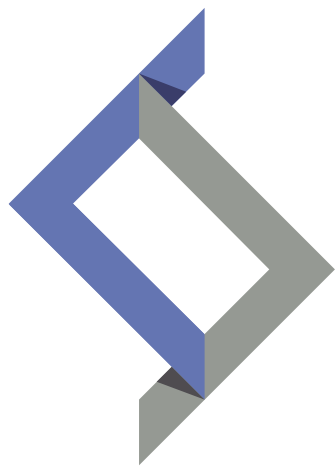
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SCHOOL DAYS

Fashion show supports students

Nearly 1,200 guests attended the 40th annual Brophy Fashion Show, which raises funds for the Brophy Financial Aid Fund and celebrates the Brophy Class of 2024.

The event, featuring 236 Brophy seniors and the Neiman Marcus “Art of Fashion” runway show, was held March 1 at the JW Marriott Scottsdale Camelback Inn. The guests enjoyed a social hour on the Sonoran Terrace and had the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets to win eight raffle prizes, including items donated by Schmitt Jewelers, Neiman Marcus, Steak 44 and The Global Ambassador.

Senior models donned chef’s coats provided by Steak 44 and helped sell raffle tickets by mingling with parents and guests. The Brophy Varsity Shop also sold Brophy branded fashions and accessories, including new lululemon activewear. The popular “Jewels & Gems with Jewel Ya” pop-up event featured fresh-for-spring earrings donated by Brophy alumna parent Julia Winter, founder of Jewel Ya, along with a grand



Pictured left to right are Jack Sebald, Brophy Class of 2024, Brigette Sebald and Sarah Gallagher, co-chairs of the 40th annual Brophy Fashion Show, and Jack Gallagher, Brophy Class of 2024 (photo by Emilee Gawel, courtesy of Brophy College Preparatory).

prize drawing for a Jewel Ya necklace and bracelet.

For the first time, full tuition for the Brophy 2024-25 school year was offered as the special raffle item and only 300 tickets were sold.

This year’s event, “Brothers in Faith,” was co-chaired by Sarah Gallagher and Brigette Sebald. Over its

40-year history, the Brophy Fashion Show has raised millions of dollars to support need-verified financial aid.

Spiritline wins national recognition

Xavier College Preparatory’s Spiritline team won several honors at February’s USA Spirit Nationals in

Anaheim, California.

The team won second place in both Show Cheer and Crowdleader in the super large division. They placed seventh in both Jazz Finals and Pom Finals at the United Spirit Association High School national event.

Not only has the team placed well in several competitions this year, the team of student-athletes has a team GPA of 3.94. Senior Sam Aulicino has signed with the University of Oklahoma to be on their pom team next season.

Students win computing awards

Forty-two students from Xavier College Preparatory won a total of 44 awards from The National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT). The NCWIT Aspirations in Computing (AiC) High School Award honors ninth through 12th grade women students for their computing-related achievements and interests, and encourages them to pursue their passions.

Under the direction of Xavier’s Computer Science Department Chair, Leon Tynes, Jr, JD, students applied for the awards connected to their achievements in computing, academic performance, proven leadership ability, plans for post-secondary education, and passion for STEM.

Arts school year culminates in showcase

Arizona School for the Arts (ASA) invites residents to attend “Imaginarium: An ASA Showcase,” scheduled for Thursday, May 30, at 6 p.m. at the Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Ave.

“Imaginarium” is the theme of this year’s annual year-end culminating performance event, which will feature performances from students in all of ASA’s performing arts departments, including band, choir, dance, guitar, piano, strings and theater. The students will present solo and ensemble acts, student-devised works, academic and club installations, and interactive surprises.

Whether a supporter of the arts or simply curious about the school’s programs, residents are invited to witness the students in action. Proceeds support Arizona School for the Arts performing arts programming and events.

Purchase tickets and learn more at www.goasa.org/showcase.

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July 22nd – 25th • 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Conditioning, cheer and dance skills, and teamwork drills. **Fee: \$75.00**

Women's Volleyball

July 22nd – 25th • 8:00 am – 11:00 am

Conditioning, volleyball skills, and teamwork drills. **Fee: \$75.00**

Football

July 8th – 25th • 8:00 am – 11:00 am

Conditioning, offensive and defensive skills, and teamwork drills. **Fee: \$200.00**

Aerial Drones

July 8th – 11th • 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Focusing on skills in preparation for 2024-2025 aerial drone competitions. **Fee: \$75.00**

Basketball

July 22nd – 25th • 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Drills and skills in preparation for 2024-2025 basketball season. **Fee: \$75.00**

VEX Robotics

July 15th – 25th • 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Designing, programming, and building skills in preparation for 2024-2025 season. **Fee: \$125.00**

Soccer

July 8th – 25th • 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Conditioning, offensive and defensive skills, and teamwork drills. **Fee: \$125.00**

Pep Band

July 22nd – 25th • 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Instrument is required. Focusing on 2024-2025 athletics season. **Fee: \$75.00**

Registration forms available at MadisonHighlandPrep.com/summer-camps



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Senior Living

This month at Phoenix senior centers

Throughout the month of April, City of Phoenix senior centers will offer a variety of ways for the Valley's older residents to stay active, have fun and engage with peers.

At Devonshire Senior Center, located at 2802 E. Devonshire Ave., programs and activities are offered from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. This month, celebrate Earth Day with a special presentation April 22 at 10 a.m., enjoy Art with Christy April 2 and 16 at 9:30 a.m., take a lunch trip to Chino Bandido April 25 at 11 a.m. and enjoy a Sand Art Project April 26. Contact the center at 602-262-7807 to confirm all event information.

Members of the Sunnylope Senior Center, located at 802 E. Vogel Ave., will take two scheduled trips in April — one to Joe's Diner, Friday, April 19, and another to Liberty Wildlife, Wednesday, April 24. In addition, enjoy Scrapbooking with Kirsten April 8 and 22 at 10 a.m., and Yoga with Yasmin April 5 and 19 at 11 a.m. Contact the center at 602-262-7572 for more information.

In addition, both centers offer the Memory Café Program, which just celebrated its 200th event March 14. Memory Café is a welcoming place where both care partners and individuals living with early to moderate dementia can connect with others in a similar situation and participate in social activities, music therapy, and different forms of art. Advance registration is required; there is no fee to attend. For information, call 602-534-5750 or send an email to memory.cafe@phoenix.gov.

Membership gives residents access to all 15 Phoenix senior centers. The annual membership fee is \$20 for Phoenix residents and \$40 for non-residents. Learn more at www.phoenix.gov/humanservices/programs/older.

Don't fall for scams

You know those annoying calls and texts claiming to be a government agency with urgent information about your Social Security benefits ending or

taxes you owe...don't fall for it. The Social Security Administration (SSA) says that government agencies won't call, email or text asking for money or personal information — only a scammer will do that.

In 2023, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) received over 228,282 complaints of government imposter scams, with Social Security as the most frequently impersonated agency. Over 14 percent said they lost money to a scammer — a total of more than \$126.5 million for Social Security scams. To prevent further losses, the SSA is urging everyone to use caution when receiving calls from someone claiming to be from a government agency.

Recognizing the basic signs of a scam is helpful in stopping fraudulent activity. Remember: Scammers pretend to be from an agency or organization you know to gain your trust; Scammers say there is a problem or a prize; Scammers pressure you to act immediately; Scammers tell you to pay in a specific way.

The SSA says that residents should hang up on suspicious calls from "government officials" calling about a problem with their Social Security number or account, never make payments with gift cards, wire transfers, or by mailing cash, and report Social Security scams to <https://oig.ssa.gov>. Report other scams to <https://reportfraud.ftc.gov>.

Vet speaks on Navy service

Veterans and the public are invited to an informal talk to be presented by Scott Martorano, U.S. Navy, Retired. Martorano will talk about life on a fast-attack submarine during the Cold War, how and why someone volunteers for submarine duty and the story of a multi-generation military family.

The free guest speaker program is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, 9-10 a.m., at Cross Roads United Methodist Church, 7901 N. Central Ave. To ensure adequate refreshments, please reserve a spot by Thursday, April 18, at 602-943-7834. The one-hour presentation is complimentary/free.

For questions about the presentation, contact the Veterans Ministry team leader, Carol Culbertson, via email: caroleenculbertson@earthlink.net.

GENERATIONS

Kids & Families

Help can be a text or call away

If there is a teen in your life, April is a good time to check in with them — a simple hello or message of support could make all the difference.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, strong, positive relationships with others can be protective and prevent suicidal thoughts and behaviors. These protective relationships can be especially important this time of year, as research indicates the number of suicides rises during the spring months.

The Teen Lifeline crisis hotline, staffed by volunteer teen peer counselors, handles a 10-percent increase in calls from teens in crisis each year between spring break and the end of the school year. Staff and volunteers are urging every Arizonan with a phone to take proactive action on National Telephone Day, Thursday, April 25, by calling or texting a teen in their life to check in, say hello and let them know you care.

“Whether it’s finals, graduation or friends moving on and moving away, the end of the school year is more stressful for our teens than we realize,” said Nikki Kontz, clinical director at Teen Lifeline. “Please use your phone for its best possible purpose on April 25 and throughout the next two months — to check in with a teen and see how they are doing. It could save a life.”

It’s important for teenagers to know that the adults in their lives care about them, Kontz says, yet she also urges teens to reach out to other teens on National Telephone Day. “It’s all about making someone feel like they’re cared about,” she adds.

In 2023, Teen Lifeline received nearly 48,000 calls and text messages from teens in crisis – a 10.6 percent increase from call volumes in 2022. Of those, nearly 16,000 calls and texts were from a teen experiencing thoughts of suicide.

A teen’s cell phone, as Kontz explains, can be an important relationship building tool for parents, caregivers, family members and friends.

“Some teens who are nervous about opening up in person will be more likely to share their feelings through text messages, especially when they are struggling with something,” says Kontz.

Sending memes, gifs or articles that align with a teen’s interests is another way to use a cell phone to uplift, encourage and maintain a relationship.



A Teen Lifeline volunteer answers a call from a peer (photo courtesy of Teen Lifeline).

Adults who suspect a teen may be having thoughts of suicide should ask the teen about it directly. Asking the question will not plant the idea of suicide in a teenager’s head and it can give them permission to speak freely, says Kontz.

If a teen replies that they have been thinking about suicide, Kontz recommends thanking them for their honesty and then asking questions about how they’ve been feeling and why.

If a teen is in immediate danger of self-inflicted harm or of acting on sui-

cidal thoughts, call 911 or take the child to an emergency room.

If the teen is not in immediate danger, create a plan to get help by calling Teen Lifeline or seeking a referral to mental health services or counseling. While waiting for services, be sure to minimize suicide risks by locking up all medications, sharp objects and poisonous chemicals and securing all firearms, including storing ammunition separately.

For more information, visit www.teenlifeline.org.


Explore the arts with Culture Pass

Whether it is summer vacation looming, with parents looking for ways to keep kids busy and off electronics during the extended time off from school, or family members and caregivers looking for options to get older adults engaged out of the house, the Act One Culture Pass may provide the perfect solution — and it is free.

The Culture Pass provides access for students, seniors and under-resourced families to visit many of Arizona’s arts and cultural treasures, offering two free tickets to dozens of museums and arts organizations across the state.

This year there are 26 arts and cultural venues and 16 performing arts organizations that are part of the program. In Metro Phoenix, the culture pass can be used at dozens of well-known establishments including the Desert Botanical Garden, Heard Museum, and the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art. It also includes smaller and lesser-known facilities in the Valley like the River of Time Museum,

please see PASS on page 38










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GENERATIONS

PASS continued from page 37

the Desert Caballeros Western Museum and the Gilbert Historical Museum.

To get a Act One Culture Pass, all you need is a library card and a desire to explore. Arizona residents can stop by one of the more than 175 libraries statewide to “check out” the Act One Culture Pass. Passes are good for free admission for two individuals to the arts and cultural institutions in their local area and throughout the state. Each library has a designated number of passes for the public. Once individuals check out a pass at a local library, they have seven days to redeem the tickets at the location.

Act One has offered more than 3 million passes to Arizona families since 2013. To find a library that hosts the Culture Pass program, visit <https://act1az.org/culture-pass>.

Get a jump on summer

Jump Athletic will host a youth summer basketball camp in June for boys and girls entering second through ninth grade.



Residents of all ages can access cultural centers and museums at no cost through the Culture Pass program (photo courtesy of Act One).

Now in its 15th year, Jump Athletic was founded by Brian Sacks, a North Central resident who pivoted from the magazine publishing world to youth sports.

“After volunteering as a coach for several basketball teams I knew that my next career would be supporting kids in

their growth,” said Sacks. “Sports was a big confidence builder for me as a child.”

The company was created as an inspiring sports program for the Valley’s boys and girls, supported by former professional basketball players who help the young residents their game to the

next level. It has since grown and impacted thousands of kids in Arizona. Four summer camp sessions will be offered throughout June where kids work on skill building, game play and team collaboration. Sessions include June 3-6, June 10-13, June 17-20 and June 24-27. Each session is four days, running Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The basketball camp is designed for boys and girls entering second through ninth grade and will be held at Scottsdale Preparatory Academy.

“Fifteen years we’ve been leading the Valley with the best basketball camp - we’re incredibly proud,” Sacks added. “Our team of talented and inspiring coaches motivate players to push themselves outside their comfort zone and have fun.”

The company says that its summer camp sells out each year, and parents are encouraged to register at www.jumpathleticbasketballcamp.com while spots remain open. To learn more about Jump Athletic’s year-round programs, with two North Central gym locations, visit www.jumpathletic.com.



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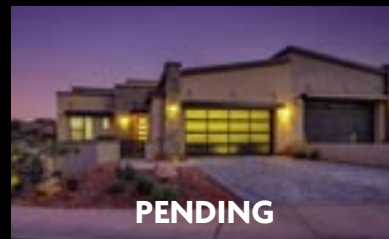
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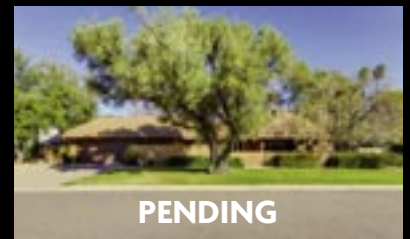
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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A rendering shows planned renovations for The Nash Jazz Club in downtown Phoenix. The project also will include a new education center (photo courtesy of Jazz in Arizona).

The Nash announces expansion

Exciting things are in the works at The Nash, the Valley's preeminent jazz venue, which opened in 2012. The club and its Jazz in Arizona leadership announced plans in February for an expanded center for jazz in downtown Phoenix on Roosevelt Row.

The \$2.5 million combined projects will include a new 3,200 square foot education center and extensive renovations for The Nash Jazz Club, located at 110 E. Roosevelt. The new education center will be located off the Nash parking lot at 1014 N. 2nd St, creating a comprehensive complex for jazz concerts and musician training.

The John Dawson Foundation and Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust have committed significant support for the project.

The education center will include 1,800 square feet of rehearsal space including a 900 square foot hall to accommodate large music groups such as big band ensembles, as well as two 450 square foot spaces for combo and ensemble instruction and rehearsals. The space will also allow additional musical recording space to be utilized for students, including college audition materials. Student performances will continue to be held in The Nash Jazz Club.

The renovations for The Nash Jazz Club include plans for a new stage and green room, more relaxed seating including banquettes, booths and bar seating, a full bar and enhanced food offerings,

and restroom facilities for patrons.

For more information, visit www.thenash.org.

Carnation hosts music event

Thanks in part to a Park Activation Grant from the City of Phoenix, the Carnation Association of Neighbors (CAN) will host Music in the Park, Saturday, April 13, from 2-6 p.m. at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School Road.

The purpose of the event is to activate the park and to encourage community engagement. The free, community event will host two local bands, The Nicki Park Trio and Louis on Tour. Families can also enjoy face painting, a bounce house and other fun activities, as well as visit local food trucks and connect with area community groups and city representatives.

This is the inaugural event for CAN, but Ed Hermes, president of the organization, says that the goal is to bring the event back on an annual basis. Attendees who do not live within walking distance of the park are encouraged to utilize light rail. For more information or to connect with the CAN, visit www.carnationassociationaz.com.

Beadle lecture scheduled

Shemer Art Center will present "Al Beadle: His Life, Work & Legacy" at an April 18 Artist Café event.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Scheduled for 5:30-7 p.m., the discussion will be presented by Beadle's daughter, Gerri Beadle-Murray, as well as fellow architect Ned Sawyer and artist Gary Slater.

The cost for the event is \$20 per person. Shemer Art Center is located at 5005 E. Camelback Road in Phoenix. For more information, call 602-262-4727 or visit www.shemerartcenter.org.

College hosts Mariachi Festival

Phoenix College (PC) will host its first Mariachi Festival Saturday, April 20. The event, held from 5 to 9 p.m., will include Latin American food trucks and an artisan marketplace in Pastor Plaza and Freshman Square, followed by performances from state-wide mariachi ensembles in Bulpitt Auditorium.

In addition to the host ensemble, Phoenix College's Mariachi Osos del Valle, festival performers include Arizona State University Mariachi Los Diablos del Sol; Carl Hayden - Falcon's Folklorico de M.E.Ch.A., Mariachi Los Gauchos de Glendale Community



Mariachi Osos del Valle is one of a handful of groups performing at Phoenix College's first Mariachi Festival April 20 (submitted photo).

College, Maryvale High School Mariachi Panteras de Oro, Rosie's House Mariachi Milagro Juvenil, Mariachi Los Tigres de Tolleson Elementary School.

Tickets are \$10 for regular admission and \$30 for VIP tickets, including preferred seating and a festival poster. Phoenix College is located at 1202 W. Thomas Road. For tickets and information, visit www.phoenixcollege.edu/events/phoenix-college-mariachi-festival.

Friendship Garden extends hours

The Japanese Friendship Garden is extending its hours to take advantage of Phoenix's early evening hours.

The extended hours will allow guests to enjoy "golden hour" in the garden — a perfect time for sunset photos and an early evening stroll. During extended hours the garden will

be open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Japanese Friendship Garden is located at 1125 N. 3rd Ave. For information about the garden, upcoming workshops and events, visit www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org.

Film festival returns

Single tickets and festival passes are now on sale for the 2024 Phoenix Film Festival. The 24th annual event runs Thursday, April 4 through Sunday, April 14, at Harkins Scottsdale 101 Theatre.

Founded in 2000 by three local filmmakers as a way to get their films some exposure in their home town, 24 years and thousands of movies later, the Phoenix Film Foundation has grown from a 3-day exhibition to an 11-day celebration of film with over 250 films, filmmaking seminars, parties and student workshops for over 20,000 attendees.

For tickets or information about the 2024 event, call 480-513-3195 or visit www.phoenixfilmfestival.com.

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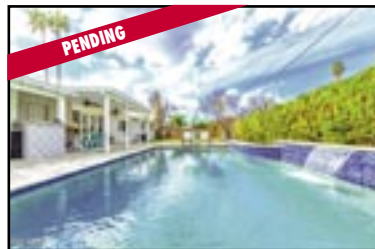
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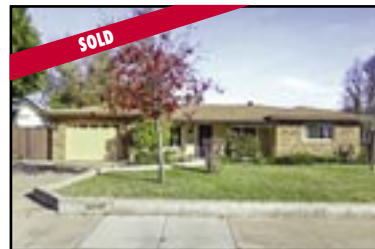
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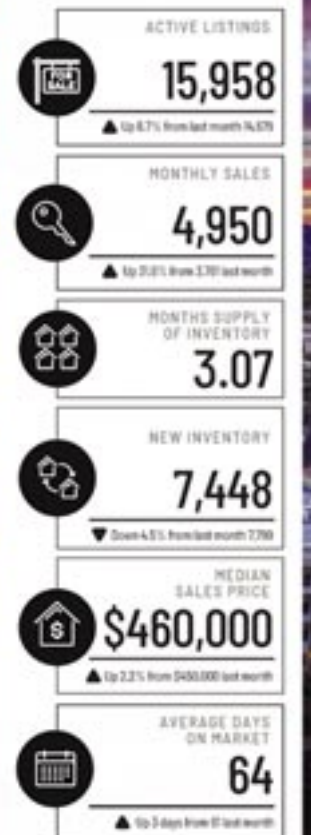


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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

On the Town

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Storytelling Singer

Songwriter Night

April 3
 The Rhythm Room
www.rhythmroom.com; 602-612-4981



Brandon Sanders

April 5
 The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

'The World According to Snoopy'

April 5-21
 Valley Youth Theatre
www.vyt.com; 602-253-8188

Inspired by O'Keeffe Exhibit

April 5-28
 Herberger Theater Center
www.herbergertheater.org; 602-252-8497

Annual Bonsai Show

April 6-7
 Valley Garden Center
www.phoenixbonsai.com

Hooray for the Riff Raff

April 7
 Valley Bar
www.valleybarphx.com; 602-716-2222

Cocomama

April 7
 The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

Solar Eclipse View Party

April 8
 Arizona Science Center
www.azscience.org; 602-716-2000

Gary Numan

April 8
 Crescent Ballroom
www.crescentphx.com; 602-716-2222

Late Night Drive Home

April 9
 The Rebel Lounge
www.therebellounge.com;
 602-296-7013

'What the Constitution Means to Me'

April 10 – June 16
 The Phoenix Theatre Company
www.phoenixtheatre.com;
 602-254-2151

'Animal'

April 11-13
 Scorpius Dance Theatre
 at Herberger Theater Center
www.scorpiousdance.com

The Brothers Comatose

April 12
 Crescent Ballroom
www.crescentphx.com; 602-716-2222

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 - ✓ Septic tank permitting verification and inspections - SOME City of PHX residents are still on septic and sometimes the sellers don't even know.
 - ✓ Property water wells
 - ✓ Flood irrigation rights & "how-to"
 - ✓ Governing Zoning & Setback Regulations that overlay and take precedence over the standard area or lot zoning - which is NOT listed in the MLS.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Aída Cuevas
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April 12-14
The Phoenix Symphony
at Orpheum Theatre
www.phoenixsymphony.org;
602-495-1999

'Celebrity Autobiography'

April 13
Madison Center for the Arts
www.themadison.org; 602-664-7777

19th Annual Polish Festival

April 13-14
Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish
www.polishfestivalaz.com;
602-212-1172

'Master Class'

Thru April 14
Arizona Theatre Company
www.arizonatheatre.org;
602-256-6995 1-833-282-7328

Young Fathers

April 15
Crescent Ballroom
www.crescentphx.com; 602-716-2222



Fantastic Cat

April 18
The Rhythm Room
www.rhythmroom.com; 602-612-4981

Reverb Contemporary Music Festival

April 18-20
The Phoenix Symphony
at Herberger Theater Center
www.herbergertheater.org;
602-252-8497

Charlie Parr

April 19
Valley Bar
www.valleybarphx.com; 602-716-2222

Chicano Batman

April 20
The Van Buren
www.thevanburenphx.com;
480-659-1641

'Don Giovanni'

April 20-21
Arizona Opera
www.azopera.org; 602-266-7464

Urban Nocturnes

April 21
Trinity Cathedral
www.trinitymusicaz.org; 602-254-7126



Dan Navarro

April 21
Fiddler's Dream Coffeehouse
www.fiddlersdream.org; 602-997-9795

Small Crush

April 22
The Rebel Lounge
www.therebellounge.com;
602-296-7013

'Fantastic Planet'

April 24
Phoenix Art Museum
www.phxart.org; 602-257-1880

Hot Dogs & Jazz

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

Julia Wolf

April 27
The Rebel Lounge
www.therebellounge.com;
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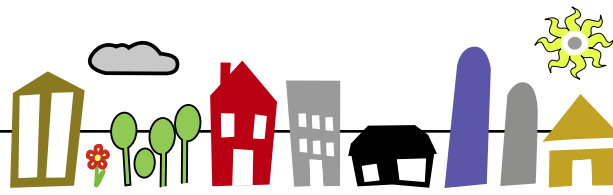
Slowdive

April 28
The Van Buren
www.thevanburenphx.com;
480-659-1641

LA LOM

April 28
The Rebel Lounge
www.therebellounge.com;
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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.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Café Chat

Something for everyone at the Vig North Central

By Marjorie Rice

Jeremy Pacheco, culinary director for the sprawling Genuine Concepts restaurant group, is a stickler for details. Who else would have a tasting of six different sliced pickles for their cheeseburger?

Settled into one of the comfy couches in the spacious patio of The Vig North Central, one of the newest Genuine Concepts locations, Pacheco described the painstaking process of picking purveyors for the group's menus.

Take, for example, the seeming lowly cheeseburger.

"We put a lot of effort into it," Pacheco said. "Every component has to be right. We wanted to make sure it's the best burger we can make, so we went through tasting eight to 10 different burger patties, with five or six different styles."



Backed by the patio fireplace at The Vig North Central, Jeremy Pacheco, left, holds a cheeseburger while Blake Farbman serves up a steak salad. In the background, tuna tartare (photo by Darryl Webb, special for North Central News).

They found a source, a 100-year-old local farm, he said, "but after several years, they decided they didn't want to be in the ground beef business anymore, so we had to go through the process again."

The same goes for buns – ending with Phoenix's Noble Bread.

And don't forget the fries. "Fifteen different options," said Blake Farbman, vice president for operations for the

Genuine Concepts group.

"Jeremy's very conscious about The Vig having something for everybody," Farbman said. "That's why you see so many different components in the menu – familiar but elevated. I think that's the cool part about The Vig. You can get tacos, pozole, a burger, prime rib – a little bit of everything and that makes it cool."

"It's all scratch, with high-quality ingredients," Pacheco said. "We're an American upscale tavern. We want everything to be the best, and that's what we focus on."

Favorites include those cheeseburgers, along with tuna tartare and a steak salad topped with crispy onions.

And there's a wide selection of beverages.

"We're working the cocktail list all the time, and we just changed the wine menu," Pacheco said. "I took one for the team and tasted 40 different wines. We wanted good wine at a reasonable price."

please see EVERYONE on page 46

Auf Wiedersehen

After thirty years of baking for our community we bid adieu to our beloved shop.

It has been an extraordinary journey filled with the aroma of love and the sweetness of shared moments.

While our ovens may cool, the warmth of our bakery will forever linger in the hearts and taste buds of those we've had the honour to serve.

We are excited to announce that a new, local, family-owned bakery will be taking over as of April of this year.

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Our Last Day Open:
Sunday, March 31st 2024

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

EVERYONE continued from page 45

Another focus is comfort – with a careful selection of locations, then layers of creature comforts such as comfy seating in the laid-back patios. The vibe is laid-back, with an edge of sophistication in a very cool setting. Lots of comfortable seats, lounge areas, spacious patios – a place to sink in and savor creature comforts and creative menu selections.

“Ambiance is always on point,” Farbman said. “There’s just this warm vibe that you get into these facilities; it feels cozy. It’s comfort, and it’s not pretentious,” Farbman said.

The Vig North Central’s patio, with its leisurely ambiance, is an especially inviting example. It’s in a location formerly occupied by another Genuine Concept restaurant, Ladera Taverna y Cocina. The renovation included the patio, making some changes to enhance creature comforts.

“We make the fireplace a focal point from any spot in the building,” Farbman said. “You sit in the patio, and you almost feel like you’re in a ski lodge with the fireplace and hardwood ceilings and décor.”



Gastronomic Union of Tucson was named Best in Show at the 2024 Devour Culinary Classic for their Tacos de Canasta de Calabaza & Cascabel and other delicious dishes (photo courtesy of Local First Arizona).

Genuine Concepts was founded about 17 years ago by Tucker Woodbury and Jim Riley. Today the group includes Vig locations in North Central, Arcadia (the original), McDowell Mountain, Park West in Peoria, McCormick Ranch and downtown Phoenix on Fillmore; along with The Little Woody at 42nd Street and Indian School Road, Campo at

McCormick Ranch, The Womack at 7th Street and Bethany Home Road, The Genuine in North Central, and The McMillan on Route 66 in Flagstaff.

The group is looking to expand, Farbman said. “We’ve seen a lot of restaurateurs who are doing Buckeye and Surprise, Goodyear and Maricopa – that’s where the magic is.”

“We’re a neighborhood place,”

Pacheco said. “We pick the neighborhoods for our restaurants, and that’s what makes them different.” The group has helped to transform the dining scene at several locations, helping to create hubs where creative restaurants cluster, he said.

“What we do, you have to love,” Farbman said. “What I love about our group is we always want to do better, provide a better experience. We never settle. With our expansion, we’re spreading out without selling out.”

The Vig, at 8729 N. Central Ave., is open from 3 to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 3 to 10 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday. For information, call 602-606-2258 or visit www.thevig.us.

Deconstructing Devour 2024

By Kathryn M. Miller

The tents have folded, the chefs have returned to their kitchens, and the eager crowds have dispersed, returning the Desert Botanical Garden to its tranquil state—the 2024 Devour Culinary Classic is over, but the delicious memories continue to resonate.

Local First Arizona’s 15th annual Devour, an event showcasing Arizona’s top chefs, was hosted at the garden Feb. 24-25 in partnership with the Southern Arizona Arts & Cultural Alliance. As guests wound their way throughout the desert setting — which was punctuated by members of the Scottsdale Artists League demonstrating their plein air techniques—they were greeted by dozens of Arizona restaurants, drink purveyors and other food-centric vendors who treated them to samples of their wares. Also placed throughout the event were patient Devour volunteers, who helped attendees sort and divert a record three tons of waste from the landfill to recycling or composting, a 70 percent diversion rate.

A panel of top food critics and journalists from around the country tasted dishes served by over 50 participating restaurants and others, scoring on taste, presentation, degree of difficulty and creativity. Dishes that qualified for awards were then designated Best in Show, Double Gold Medal, Gold Medal, Silver Medal, Bronze Medal and Heritage Food Medal.

A Best in Show was awarded to the Gastronomic Union of Tucson (GUT)

please see DEVOUR on page 48

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

1. Windsor
2. Churn Ice Creamery
3. Federal Pizza
4. Joyride Taco House
5. Postino Central-Wine Bar
6. Jinya Ramen Bar
7. A J's Fine Foods
8. Dapper & Stout
9. Lou Malnati's Pizzeria
10. Sushi Vibe
11. Huss Brewing Co.
12. Elly's Brunch & Cafe
13. Scoopwell's Dough Bar
14. Chula Seafood
15. Flower Child
16. Zooks Sandwiches
17. Sauce Pizza & Wine
18. Streets of New York Pizza
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

DEVOUR continued from page 46

chefs for their birria campanelle, tacos de Canasta de Calabaza & Cascabel and Jamaica & limoncello cheesecake. Judges called these dishes “mouthwatering,” “killer” and “luscious.” The *North Central News* team found GUT’s tacos (mesquite roasted local white squash, Cascabel chiles, pepitas, tepary beans, corn tortilla, pomegranate pickled shallots, Azafran vegan crema, mushroom chicharron with Sonoran chile crisp and mico cilantro) especially delectable.

For the second year, the Heritage Food Medal honored the best dish with ingredients that are indigenous, heirloom, low-water, desert-adapted or locally sourced (within a 100-mile radius of the restaurant) and thus more sustainable for Arizona. This year’s winner, also a gold medal winner, was The Rez: An Urban Eatery for its chocolate mole tamale and jackfruit taco on fresh blue corn tortilla.

Restaurants in the North Central Phoenix and surrounding areas made an excellent showing at the event, including Chilte, awarded the Double Gold Medal



A rendering shows how 7 Leaves Cafe will repurpose the building located at 702 W. Osborn to create its first Arizona location (submitted photo).

for their Duroc Pork Tomahawk with Huitlacoche Chiltepin Mole, and Chula Seafood, taking home a gold medal for their Dry Aged Fish. Silver medal winners included Uptown’s Clever Koi, Frites Street, Sandfish Sushi, Midtown’s Poolboy Taco, Renata’s Hearth at Arizona Biltmore and Camelback’s The Gladly. Bronze medal winners included

Aioli Gourmet Burger, Lylo Swim Club and Renaissance Phoenix: Dust Cutter, which is in downtown Phoenix.

The 2025 event is slated for Feb. 22-23. Those who have never experienced Devour before are encouraged to follow Local First Arizona on social media or check the event website in early fall for sale dates. Tickets go

quickly for this perennially sold-out event. For more information, visit www.devourphoenix.com.

Dining Briefs

Tea shop set to open

Making its debut in Arizona, 7 Leaves Cafe is set to open in Midtown Phoenix on the northwest corner of 7th Avenue and Osborn Road. The location will be the company’s 46th to open in its 12-year history.

Established in Orange County California’s Little Saigon district in 2012, the company is known for crafting premium quality teas and coffees, which it says is “rooted in a passion for innovation and excellence.” They add that their mission is “to create spaces where individuals can come together, share moments, and forge lasting connections.”

Signature drinks include their top-selling House Coffee, Mung Bean Milk Tea and Sea Cream Jasmine Tea. The shop atmosphere will marry “contemporary aesthetics with warm hospitality.”

The store, located at 702 W. Osborn Road in the former Burger Factory space, is expected to open in the second quarter of 2024. For more information, visit www.7leavescafe.com/coming-soonaz

North Italia continues Pi Day celebration

North Italia will continue its Pi Day promotion, which kicked off March 14, through April 10. This year, chefs across the country composed a “Love Letter to Italy” through specialty pizzas that connect regions of Italy with North Italia’s restaurant markets, with 10 regional pizzas and one national pie. In Arizona, diners can enjoy the Winter in Puglia, made with Puglian soffrito, Italian sausage, caciocavallo and colatura. The pizza was inspired by Puglia’s most popular winter dish, a calzone. The pie available nationwide is the Hot Honey & Smoked Prosciutto; a pizza that draws on popular flavors and ingredients both in Italy and the United States. The promotion includes a sweepstakes opportunity, details of which can be found on the company’s website.

In North Central, visit North Italia at 4925 N. 40th St. For additional information, call 602-324-5600 or visit www.northitalia.com/piday.





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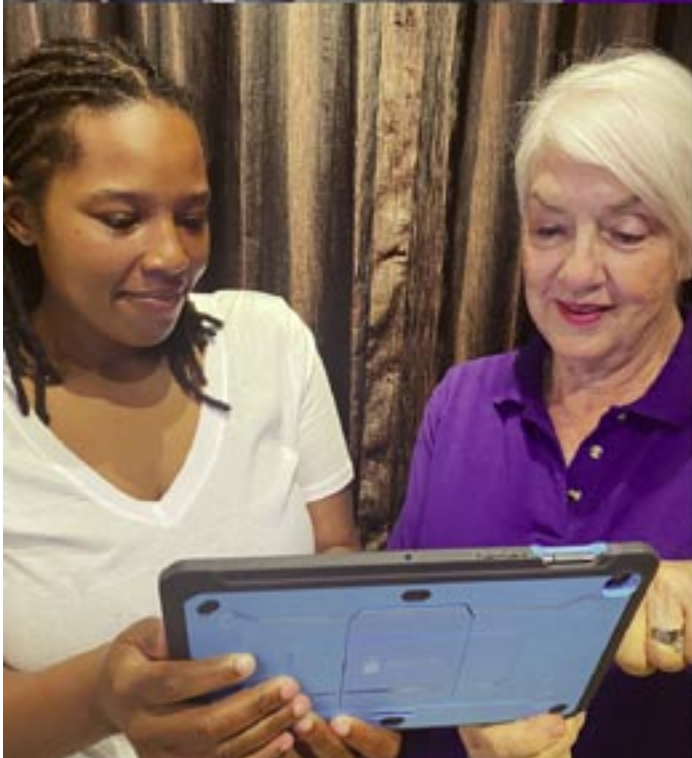


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