



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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Educators celebrate 20 years of friendship

By Kathryn M. Miller

The members range in age from 65 to 85 years old, many of them attended area schools (Orangewood Elementary, Sunnyslope High School, Washington High School) and for the past 20 years, they have met (mostly) every month, brought together by their common history at Sahuaro Elementary School in the Washington Elementary School District. But what has kept them together over the past two decades is their deep love of reading and the lasting bonds of friendship that have developed.

The D.I.V.A. (Delving Into Various Authors) Book Club celebrated its 20th anniversary in May, and one of the club's members reflected on how they came together and what has kept them together all these years.

"We were all teachers at the elementary school," recalled longtime North Central resident Betsy Jenners-Smith, "and two of the girls were retiring and a couple of other girls were leaving. So, they wanted to figure out a way that we could all stay together, and instead of just doing a lunch once in a while, they came up with the book club idea. That was in 2004."

"It was only 12 members at the time, but it became 15 very quickly. We met once a month – we took summers off – and we have stayed together for 20 years."

And variety is the spice of life for these readers, or rather, diversity, which is reflected in the group's name.

please see FRIENDS on page 6



This is what "local" looks like, clockwise from top left: Bookmans Entertainment Exchange, Monsoon Market, Independence Bowl at Let it Roll Bowl, Noble Beast, and Practical Art at the Local First Arizona Fall Festival (photos courtesy of Local First Arizona).

Local success starts with small steps

By Trudy Thompson Shumaker

Whether you need an ice cream cone, a dry cleaner (to remove the evidence from your shirt), an accountant to figure out how to eat said ice cream well into your retirement years, or a place to eat that ice cream, chances are that the map of Local First Arizona businesses will be your new best friend. The nation's largest locally owned coalition is right here in Arizona.

It started in 2003 and now numbers nearly 3,000 businesses and 1,000 individuals with strong ties to the local scene.

And the events, classes, services and celebrations are more diverse and bigger each year for Indie Week.

Local First Arizona was founded by entrepreneur, business leader and community development specialist Kimber Lanning in Phoenix to support and promote local businesses. The organization now has a staff of 30 in four offices throughout the state and is known for its work to strengthen the Arizona economy through workshops, advocacy and efforts to increase diversity and inclusion.

Programs include healthy local food access, entrepreneurial development in underserved communities and rural community development.

Lanning, founder and CEO, spoke of why she founded Local First Arizona. "I'm the kind of person, when I see something that is unjust, I am motivated and inspired to change it. This is my home, this is my state, and I want to leave it better than I found it. So, I've dedicated my life to building a better Arizona."

As Lanning saw her beloved state grow, she saw its local entrepreneurs and the local communities sometimes taking a back seat to out-of-state interests. So, she

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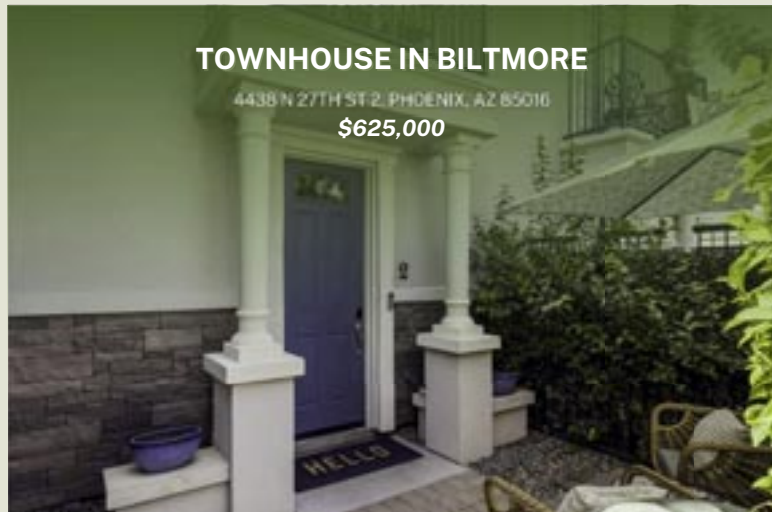
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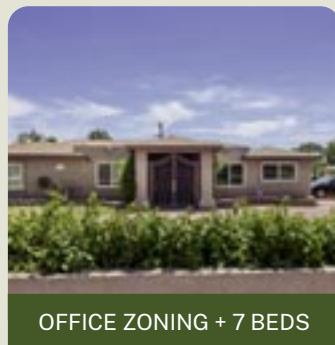


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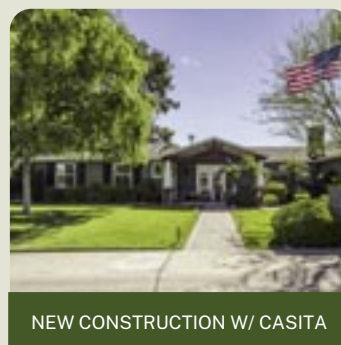
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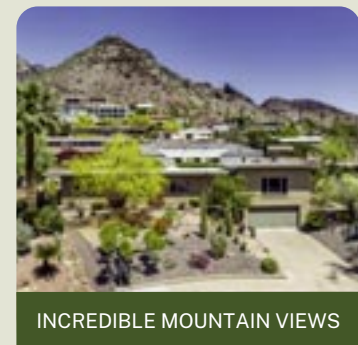
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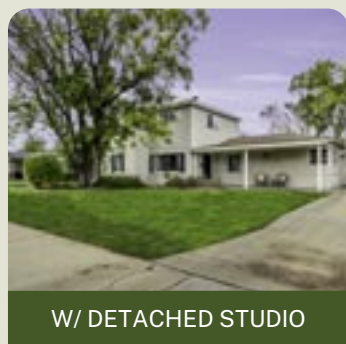
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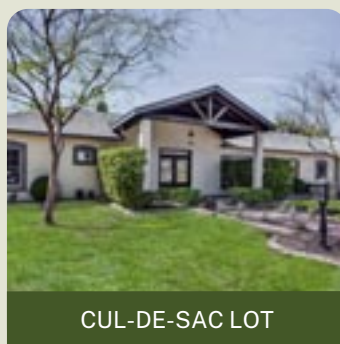
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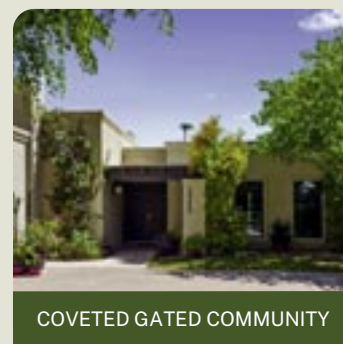
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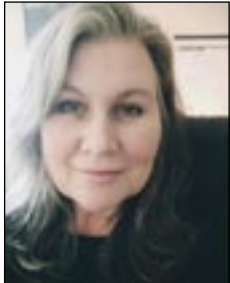


COMMUNITY

From the Editor

Hello, North Central neighbors!

As we head into the depths of our Arizona summer, we are celebrating those of you who make Phoenix your year-round home and exploring all things local and independent.



For this month's cover stories, we met the D.I.V.A.s, a group of local educators who formed a book club to keep in touch after retirement and have been going strong for two decades. Also, we caught up with Local First Arizona as they gear up for Independents Week and the return of their (almost) annual Independents Bowl event. They celebrated 20 years of supporting all things local in 2023 and they continue to encourage residents to make small changes that have a big

impact on the local economy.

In Community, you can read about the new addition to Cave Creek Park – Cactus, meet the Arizona Humane Society's Pet of the Month and find out about other news and events happening in our neighborhoods.

For this month's Café Chat, Marjorie Rice spent time with well-known local chef Mark Tarbell. As Marjorie writes, "Promoting 'local' – whether it's produce, chickens or rock bands – seems paramount to the renowned chef."

As always, you will find other community, business, dining and school news, as well as our round-up of things to do in the Valley this month in the Arts & Entertainment section.

We hope that you enjoy our July issue and have a safe and happy Independence Day. Until next month, all my best,

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

Shaw Butte activates park, walking path

By Kathryn M. Miller

Residents in the Shaw Butte neighborhood came out by the dozens Saturday, June 1 to celebrate their park and the newest city of Phoenix WalkPHX path at Cave Creek Park – Cactus, 2400 W. Cactus Road.

Cave Creek Park is made up of six segments – Cholla, Cactus, Larkspur, Sweetwater and Thunderbird – built along Cave Creek Wash beginning just north of Peoria Avenue and ending at Thunderbird Road. The Cactus portion of the park boasts a range of amenities that now includes a 1.33-mile walking path that connects three of the parks – it is the city’s 54th WalkPHX path (www.phoenix.gov/parks/fitphx/walkphx).

Hosted by the Shaw Butte Neighborhood Alliance, families gathered at the park activation event and joined in art, sport and game activities as well as enjoyed a bounce house, water slide, and goodies from Mama T’s food truck. Attendees also included represen-



Vice Mayor Debra Stark, who represents Council District 3, addressed attendees at the June 1 ribbon cutting for the newest city of Phoenix WalkPHX path at Cave Creek Park – Cactus’ (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

tatives from various city departments and community leaders, as well as Vice Mayor Debra Stark, who participated in the official ribbon cutting, and spoke about the importance of not only adding amenities but finding ways to draw neighbors together at the parks.

“Probably the most important part of activating our parks is safety,” Stark told us. “You know, putting on my ‘mom’ hat – the more people in the park, the more comfortable you feel, and the more things that we can put in our parks to attract both kids and

adults... we’re trying to do that, so our parks are activated.

“Some of our parks are more passive in nature – they just don’t get used. You can go out and walk or kick a soccer ball around, but you’ve really got to have activities going on, and you’ve got to have basketball courts, and playgrounds, and ball fields.”

Stark added, “For a long time, we’ve heard criticism about the wash areas of these parks, and I think activating it will help. You’ve got to do something, so we opened up some grant money to help neighborhoods activate parks and asked, ‘What would you like to see in your park?’ and that’s what happened here, and that’s why we are here to celebrate.”

The Shaw Butte Neighborhood Alliance, whose boundaries run from Cave Creek Park east to 19th Avenue and from Cactus Road north to the Dahlia Drive wash channel, meets on the third Tuesday of each month. To connect with them, visit www.shawbuttephx.org or follow them on social media.

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COMMUNITY



The members of the D.I.V.A. Book Club celebrated their 20th anniversary in May. Pictured from left are (top row) Jeanne Fuhrman, Kathleen McLellan, Trish Toschik, Alice Lewis, Eunice Larson and Linda Cool; (bottom row) Ellen Reeves, Leonore Martinez, Betsy Jenners-Smith, Sue Johnston and Beckie Lee (photo courtesy of Betsy Jenners-Smith).

FRIENDS continued from page 1

At the end of each year, they all nominate books to read the following year.

"We always pick eight, because we don't meet during Christmas either and we read books we wouldn't normally read, which pushes us out of our comfort zone."

That means a lot of historical fiction (absolutely no romance) and other interesting works. Currently, they are reading Kristin Hannah's "The Women," set in 1965 Vietnam and telling the story of the women who served in the Army Nurse Corps.

"We have shared hundreds of great reads, some we never would have chosen but because we are committed, we read them," Jenners-Smith added. "We have shared many victories together and many losses also."

"Two out of the fifteen D.I.V.A.s have passed away, Benita Hankinson (our school secretary) and Nancy Frank, who started at Sahuaro way back in the early 1960s. Diane Coffee a founder of the D.I.V.A.s is still a part of the group but is homebound so she cannot attend meetings. Nora Gottschlich moved to Michigan to be with her grandchildren."

When they celebrated their 20th anniversary this year, "way beyond what we could have ever imagined," they asked one another, "Should we keep going?" The answer, a resounding "yes." "Our bond of friendship is lifetime," Jenners-Smith added.

"There are now 11 of us ready to take off on the adventures and knowledge that reading books can add to our lives."

Affordable housing community opens

In mid-June, Housing for Hope, an affiliate of Catholic Charities Community Services, announced the grand opening of Mesquite Terrace Apartments, a 297-unit affordable housing project near 19th Avenue and Camelback Road in Phoenix. The community broke ground in July 2021, and the final phase was recently completed. Residents have begun moving into their new homes, and units are still available for lease.

The \$71 million family-oriented complex sits on a 3.86-acre site with one five-story building and two four-story buildings and features 129 one-bedroom units, 78 two-bedroom units, and 90 three-bedroom units ranging in size from 575 to 1,050 square feet. Accessible units are available with mobility and sensory features, and 11 units are reserved for veterans as part of the city of Phoenix HOME Program requirement.

According to Housing for Hope, "Mesquite Terrace provides a critical resource for families and individuals in need. To qualify, residents must be low-income, which is defined as 60 percent of the area medium income limit (AMI)."

For more information, visit www.catholiccharitiesaz.org or www.housingforhopeaz.org. Those interested in applying for a lease, call 602-726-5515 or email leasing@mesquiteterrace.com.

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COMMUNITY

LOCAL continued from page 1

started investing her time and talents into developing the “hometown pride” that fueled Local First Arizona’s early years and has shot it to the top of the nation’s “local first” movement. Lanning and her staff often are consulted by those in other parts of the nation seeking to develop and strengthen their own local economies.

As she explained it, success starts with small steps anyone can take.

“Shifting even a small amount of our personal spending to local businesses can make a huge difference,” said Lanning. “Studies show that for every \$100 spent at a local business, \$45 stays in the community, while only \$13 stays local when you buy at a chain store. For every two jobs that a big box store creates, three jobs are lost from local businesses.”

North Phoenix resident Sal Stone explained what shopping local means to her. “It’s as easy as purchasing a household item from a local business instead of Amazon. Celebrate your friend’s birthday at a locally owned restaurant. Use a local accountant instead of a national firm. My kids

Indie Week 2024
Celebrated from the last Friday in June through the first week of July (June 28-July 4 this year), during Indie Week Local First Arizona encourages first timers and returning customers to explore the small, independent businesses across Arizona. Visit <https://localfirstaz.com/indie-week> for information.

Independents Bowl 2024
Originally launched in 2008, the Independents Bowl makes a return this year Saturday, July 13. Hosted at Let It Roll Bowl, a locally owned bowling alley at 12th Street and Dunlap (www.letitroll-bowl.com) the ninth somewhat-annual event raises funds and community support for Local First Arizona.

Started by local concert promoter Steve Chilton of Psyko Steve Presents, the event attracts local bands, bowlers and “independent minded citizens.” Participants are guaranteed a “dang good time” and are urged to register their four-person team now at www.phxindiebowl.com.

know where the local eateries are and that’s where they want to go to celebrate their good report cards.”

Alyssa Prewitt, business coalition director at Local First Arizona said “There’s no better way to celebrate Independence Day than by visiting one of your favorite locally owned businesses. Whether you’re stocking up on drinks at Monsoon Market, shopping for a new summer outfit at Cave & Post Trading Co. or treating your pup to a Fourth of July toy from Noble Beast, your dollars circulate through the central Phoenix economy more when you shop locally.”

Shifting even a small amount of personal business to local businesses can make a huge difference, but what defines a local business? The organization’s leadership acknowledges that many Phoenix residents own local franchises of national or regional brands, and that local businesses grow and expand outside of Arizona. Also, national corporations are headquartered in Arizona and do business worldwide. But Local First Arizona defines local businesses as businesses that are locally owned and operated here, within the state.

Leadership of Local First Arizona and its members ask that Arizonans consult its membership directory, its website and its member map when choosing a business to support. Visit www.local-firstaz.com/directory.

“You’ll find some really cool places to eat, shop and explore. You might even find a cool local accountant to do those pesky taxes,” said one.

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COMMUNITY

Museum hosts seed event

The Sunnyslope Historical Society and Museum will host a Sip & Seed event, Saturday, July 13, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Join the organization for wine and refreshments while packaging seeds for charities and getting to know your neighbors and the museum. In addition, Garden Gail with the Mountain View Community Garden will share gardening secrets, and attendees are encouraged to bring their questions.

Seating is limited; donations will be accepted. The Sunnyslope Historical Society & Museum is located at 737 E. Hatcher Road. For more information, call 602-684-1607 or visit www.sunnyslopehistoricalsociety.org.

Courtesy employee receives scholarship

Grand Canyon University transfer student and Phoenix resident Faith Jones is studying behavioral health with a purpose: to change the lives of those recovering from childhood trauma. To



Faith Jones recently celebrated the receipt of a Courtesy Cares scholarship with Scott Gruwell, CEO of Courtesy Automotive Group (submitted photo).

help her complete her education, the North Central Phoenix resident recently received a \$5,000 Courtesy Cares Scholarship from her employer, Courtesy Chevrolet.

In addition to working as a billing clerk for Courtesy Automotive Group's accounting office, Jones sponsors women recovering from codependency

and childhood trauma. She says earning a Courtesy Cares Scholarship this year has alleviated financial stress and motivates her to help others. Courtesy Auto Group established the Courtesy Cares scholarship this year to invest in elevating the education of its employees and their family members.

City ordinance aims to keep tenants cool

As summer temperatures soar, residents who live in rental housing units that are not keeping them cool should be aware that there is a cooling ordinance in the city of Phoenix.

According to the Phoenix City Code, Chapter 39-5: All AC units must cool to 82 degrees or below; All EVAP coolers must cool to 86 degrees or below; Cooling systems need to be maintained and in good working order.

To speak with a landlord/tenant counselor about your rights or to report an AC violation, call 602-262-7210. Para hablar con un consejero de propietarios / inquilinos sobre sus derechos o para informar una violación de aire, llame 602-262-7210.

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COMMUNITY



Salt River Project (SRP) customers can receive up to two free trees through the utility's Shade Tree program this summer (submitted photo).

Shade tree registration opens

Salt River Project's (SRP) popular Shade Tree program returns this summer with three virtual workshops in July and August. After completing one of the online classes, SRP customers can receive up to two free shade trees that, once fully grown, will help cool their homes and reduce energy costs during the summer months.

Before receiving their trees, customers must attend an online workshop to learn how to plant and care for the trees. Customers can then select up to two, 2- to 6-foot-tall tree saplings to be picked up at a later time.

Registration is now open for the next series of virtual workshops: Saturday, July 13, 10-11:15 a.m.; Thursday, August 1, noon to 1:15 p.m.; and Saturday, August 24, 10-11:15 a.m.

SRP distributed more than 5,000 trees to more than 2,500 customers during the Shade Tree program for the spring season. More than 62,000 trees have been distributed through the program since it launched in 2012.

To learn more about program eligibility and to sign up for a free workshop, visit www.srpnet.com/shadetrees.

VPC hears Central and Glenrosa update

At the June 3 meeting of the Encanto Village Planning Committee (VPC), members heard an update by Wendy Riddell, Berry Riddell, LLC, on Phase I of the development located on the 15.61-acre lot on the west side of Central Avenue between Glenrosa and Turney avenues, also known as the Petree Development.

Just one of the dozens of stipulations included in the 2023 rezoning project

approval (Case No. Z-17-22-4), Stipulation 2 requires the developer to return to the VPC for review and comment prior to preliminary site plan review approval so that the neighborhood and committee remain apprised of plans as it moves toward construction.

The project will be developed in four phases. The first is the northwest corner (Parcel 1), the second is the northeast corner (Parcel 2), the third is the southwest corner (Parcel 3), and the fourth is the southeast corner. The plan for the approximately 5-acre Parcel 1 as presented consists of 329 residential units (46 fewer than presented at time of zoning), five stories high (approximately 58 feet), with 447 parking spaces, publicly accessible open space, activation and amenity spaces and a public-facing art element, the last of which will be presented to the VPC prior to certificate of occupancy.

The anticipated timeline presented included a three-week sewer relocation construction (June/July); site plan subdivision process beginning in September 2024 with completion in February 2025, July 2025 permitting and December 2025 groundbreaking. The construction process is expected to take 13-14 months, placing the certificate of occupancy sometime in fall 2027.

Save the date for Metro meeting

In its June Metro Monthly newsletter, the Metro District Community Collaboration announced that a community meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m., Wednesday, July 17. No information on the subject or location of the meeting was available at the time of publication.

To sign up for the newsletter or learn more, visit www.metrodistrictcollaboration.com or follow them on social media for activity updates.

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Avg List Price: \$1,604,590	Avg Days on the Market: 79
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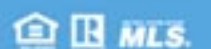
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COMMUNITY

Pet of the Month Beautiful Biscuit offers joy and excitement

Meet Biscuit, an adorable 11-week-old female cattle dog mix looking for her forever home at the Arizona Humane Society. This sweet pup is part of a litter of five that was rescued through AHS' Project Reachout Program from the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation.

After her initial exam at the AHS mobile clinic, Biscuit tested positive for tick fever and went to a loving foster home to recover and gain weight alongside her siblings. According to her foster family, Biscuit is full of playful energy and enjoys interacting with both her littermates and humans.

Despite her early health challenges, this spirited and affectionate puppy is ready to bring joy and excitement to her new family. Don't miss out on the chance to welcome Biscuit into your home and heart. Adopt her today and experience the unconditional love she has to offer.

If Biscuit (pet number 775232) is no longer available when you visit



Biscuit is an 11-week-old bundle of joy ready to offer affection and excitement to her forever family (photo courtesy of Arizona Humane Society).

AHS, there are always dozens of other dogs, cats and critters available to adopt. Visit www.azhumane.org/adopt.

County offers free microchipping

Maricopa County Animal Care & Control says that nearly 13,000 animals have arrived at their shelters so far this year; the majority of those dogs were stray. One of the easiest ways to

prevent shelter overcrowding, the county says, is microchipping pets, which is why they will be offering free microchips at both shelter locations through Dec. 29 in hopes of keeping more dogs with their owners.

The county's East and West shelters are available for this service Monday through Friday between noon and 4 p.m. Other services offered include stray dog turn-in at both shelters, owner surrender at the West shelter and Tails Around Town at the West shelter and coming soon to the East shelter.

To schedule an appointment or learn more, visit www.maricopa.gov/5908/pet-care.

Low-cost vaccines, more available

The Arizona Animal Welfare League (AAWL) offers low-cost vaccines, wellness consults, \$10 nail trims, and \$20 microchips and more every Saturday at the AAWL Community Vet Clinic.

The clinic is located at 30 N. 40th Place, Phoenix, and is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays. Wellness and

preventative service appointments are available from 2 to 6 p.m. For additional information, call 602-358-7267 or visit www.aawl.org/cvc-services.

Grant helps reunite pets, people

In June, the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) announced that it received a \$20,000 grant from national nonprofit Petco Love in support of their life-saving work for sick and injured lost pets. The investment will be an integral part in covering the cost of food and medical care for lost pets who are waiting to be reunited with their families.

AHS' Animal Assistance team reunites hundreds of sick or injured lost pets with their families each year. Last year, AHS' Pet Reunite Program successfully reunified more than 600 lost pets with their families. Sometimes, a pet can be missing for days, weeks, or even years before they make their way to the AHS team. This grant will help the organization continue to care for pets like Skylar, a stray cat who was lost for more than a decade before he was brought to a local emergency animal clinic by a Good Samaritan and then transferred to the Arizona Humane Society.

Skylar had severe matting in his fur indicating he had likely been living on the street for a long time. Luckily, he had a microchip, which let the AHS team know Skylar was adopted from them back in 2008. After contacting Skylar's owner, Monica, AHS learned that he had been lost back in 2009 and his owner had not seen him since. Monica and her brother quickly jumped in the car and came to the AHS Papago Park Campus to be reunited with their long-lost friend.

"Reuniting sick and injured lost pets with their owners is always step one and the best outcome in our effort to help both pets and people," said Francisco Cabello, director of Animal Assistance & Transport Programs at AHS. "Not only does this generous, lifesaving investment from Petco Love allow AHS the opportunity to make more families whole again by reuniting them with their four-legged companions, but it also allows us to continue to care for even more sick, injured and abused pets that come through our doors each and every day."

For more information, visit www.azhumane.org or www.petcolove.org.

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Mother/daughter duo Liz Gengle and Teresa Simmons are bringing a new performing arts program to North Central's young residents this fall (submitted photo).

New arts program builds confidence

By Kathryn M. Miller

As families enjoy the remainder of summer vacation and begin to gear up for the new school year, there will be one more option available for after-school consideration – North Central Performing Arts. The new arts program was founded by Liz Gengle, owner and director, and her mom, Teresa Simmons, who bring almost 40 years of combined experience in education to the table – or stage, if you will.

A North Central resident and teacher for the past 15 years, six of them in theater, Gengle currently teaches theater at Madison Meadows Middle School, and the idea for the program came about rather naturally. “This last year we put on a musical and performed at the Madison Center for the Arts and my mom, Teresa, came in and helped me with it,” Gengle recalled. “That kind of sparked our interest in wanting to start a program in the neighborhood.”

She added, “Our mission for this program is really to use theater to help build confidence in students. I think a lot of times theater can be either confidence building, or it can be kind of soul crushing for kids. So, our goal for the program is to just provide all kids with the opportunity to shine and build confidence.”

The mother/daughter duo hopes that classes, which are offered to young residents based on three progressive age groups ranging from age four through

eight graders, will translate beyond the stage, too.

Simmons, who taught for about 15 years before serving as a school principal for 13 years and is “retired,” added, “We’re teaching skills that can be used outside the classroom. We’re strengthening them with their confidence and their ability to have discussions and stand up for themselves.

“Life can be rough for kids, and this is an opportunity to help build some skills that...they can have fun in the class, but then when they leave, maybe they are a different person, and they can grow in an area that might help them outside the theater class. I just feel so strongly that kids need to believe in themselves,” Simmons said.

That love of helping children and foundation in education are amplified by the love of theater.

“The best thing about theater is that you can really, if you build the setting correctly with students, you are able to help them feel comfortable, and their guard can be let down,” Gengle said. “They are able to be who they truly are, have fun and be silly. That’s something that I love about teaching theater. For some of them, it’s their most fun part of the day because we play games and get to laugh and enjoy each other’s time. That’s kind of a big thing for me.”

Registration is now open for classes, which kick off in August and will be held at Ballet Theatre of Phoenix, 6201 N. 7th St. To learn more about North Central Performing Arts, visit www.northcentralperformingarts.com.

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



A rendering shows the planned development of a 25-story building at the southwest corner of Central Avenue and McDowell Road, which is the northeastern border of the Roosevelt Historic Neighborhood (submitted photo).

Business Briefs

New development coming to Central and McDowell

Avison Young and Cashen Realty Advisors negotiated the \$13 million sale of a 3.29-acre land parcel located at 1500 N. Central Ave. in downtown Phoenix. According to a press release announcing the sale, the parcel is planned for the development of a 25-story building that features 325 apartment units and 17,000 square feet of retail space. The project has commenced development with completion anticipated for 2025.

Avison Young principal and director of Brokerage Services in the Phoenix office, Mark Seale, and principal and managing director Jonathan Larsen and vice resident Sally Zesut, who are in the company's Los Angeles office, represented the seller, Donnelley Financial. The buyer, Scottsdale-based Aspirant Development, was represented by Ray Cashen.

Avison Young initially marketed the property with a vacant two-story "obsolete" office building on the site. The team said that they "advised the seller to clear the site to make it more attractive for a buyer as it was shovel-ready for a new development. Once that occurred [between 2021-2022] the team was able to successfully sell the site above original seller expectations."

"This was a complex transaction and we are pleased that this well-located, downtown site has been sold to a local developer," said Seale. "The buyer has a vision for the property that will serve the local community with much-

needed residential and retail product."

The parcel is situated on the corner of Central Avenue and McDowell Road next door to The Spaghetti Factory and is across the street from the Phoenix Art Museum. It also provides immediate access to the Valley Metro Light Rail stop.

Wealth management seminar planned

Brad Allan, owner and CEO of the Allan Agency, will present a "Discover the Wealth Secrets of the IUL" seminar, Saturday, July 20, at 11 a.m.

A compound interest account with an IUL is a cash value life insurance product, designed to help savers like you accumulate funds for the future while also providing a death benefit for your heirs, Allan says.

The seminar and discussions aim to provide enlightening information for safe and secure ethical investment choices, Allan said, adding, "This powerful package may help meet your future and retirement goals."

The event will be held at 2801 E. Camelback Road, Suite 200. To RSVP or for additional information, call 602-770-2121.

Library hosts workforce events

The PHXWorks initiative at Phoenix Public Library is designed to support its customers in their job searches, career development goals, and on their path to becoming career-ready and part of the workforce. The Ocotillo Library and Workforce Literacy Center,

please see EVENTS on page 20

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

EVENTS continued from page 18

located at 102 W. Southern Ave., provides in-person staff dedicated to assisting with jobseeker needs, while Burton Barr Central Library, located at 1221 N. Central Ave., connects customers to significant resources and offers a large computer island on the 2nd floor, along with event space for job fairs and more.

During the month of July, Burton Barr will host an Employment Resource Spotlight with St. Mary's Food Bank Skills Center, July 10, an Employer Spotlight Series with U.S. Postal Service, July 11, 18 and 25, and drop-in employment assistance July 12.

For complete event details, or additional information about the PHXWorks program, call 602-262-4636 or visit www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/phxworks.

Bowden is board president

North Central resident Sheryl Bowden was recently named the 2024 Phoenix REALTORS board president. She brings nearly four decades of experience,

with a wide array of diverse expertise in the Valley.

Bowden holds board positions with Arizona Association of REALTORS and National Association of REALTORS (NAR). Her endorsements from NAR for the "At Home with Diversity" Training and Fairhaven Fair Housing Training reflect her commitment to diversity and fair housing.

She says that her success is "rooted in providing exceptional client service, including open communication, continuous education and skillful negotiation on behalf of her clients." When she's not briefing the media on hot real estate topics or aiding clientele, she breeds Golden Retrievers and Golden Doodles (some of which are show dogs).

Phoenix REALTORS is a real estate membership organization that provides its 11,000-plus members with the industry's most innovative resources.



Sheryl Bowden

For more information, visit www.phoenixrealtors.com.

Kittelson named CEO

The Foundation for Blind Children (FBC) announced that Marc Ashton retired after 17 years as CEO, effective June 30. He will be succeeded by Jared Kittelson, who has been with FBC since 2017, serving as director of Education Services and then as COO beginning in 2021.



Jared Kittelson

Kittelson is a member of the 2019 Allstate Foundation Nonprofit Executive Leadership Program through the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. In 2023, he became a Fellow with the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust.

Founded in 1952, Foundation for Blind Children provides education, tools, and services to allow anyone with vision loss to achieve greater independence.

FBC serves more than 2,000 people who are visually impaired of all ages, from birth to over 100-years-old. The organization is located at 1234 E. Northern Ave. For additional information, call 602-331-1470 or visit www.seeitourway.org.

Head of FSL recognized

Tami Bohannon, president and CEO of Foundation for Senior Living (FSL), received the Award of Honor at Arizona LeadingAge annual conference May 17. She also was elected to the organization's board of directors for 2024-25.

Bohannon has led FSL since 2022, the nonprofit's first female CEO in its 50-year history. Under her leadership, FSL has expanded programs that reach 40,000 Arizonans statewide, tackling critical barriers to quality healthcare and housing.

Her background includes executive roles in organizations such as Catholic Charities Community Services, Boys Hope Girls Hope of Arizona, and the American Cancer Society. Learn more at www.fsl.org.

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HAPPY HOUR WITH HERSCH

Below are my 25 favorite songs of all time. This was much harder than I anticipated; I guarantee if I tried to make this list tomorrow, it would be different. I hope you enjoy!

- 25 **The Prince of Admission**..... Stiff Little Fingers
- 24 **Creep**..... Radiohead
- 23 **All the Wine**..... The National
- 22 **All My Friends**..... LCD Soundsystem
- 21 **Corduroy**..... Pearl Jam
- 20 **American Girl**..... Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers
- 19 **Break Stuff**..... Limp Bizkit
- 18 **Bros**..... Wolf Alice
- 17 **Moment 4 Life**..... Nicki Minaj with Drake
- 16 **The Wall & I**..... Nation of Language
- 15 **Dancing On My Own**..... Robyn
- 14 **Lazy Eye**..... Silversun Pickups
- 13 **Runaway**..... Kanye West with Pusha T
- 12 **Release**..... Pearl Jam
- 11 **Lips Like Sugar**..... Echo & the Bunnymen
- 10 **About Today**..... The National
- 9 **Landslide**..... Fleetwood Mac
- 8 **Novacane**..... Frank Ocean
- 7 **The Angel of 8th Ave**..... Gang of Youth
- 6 **Heroes**..... David Bowie
- 5 **Don't Change**..... INXS
- 4 **She Sells Sanctuary**..... The Cult
- 3 **Under Pressure**..... Queen and David Bowie
- 2 **Tiny Dancer**..... Elton John
- 1 **Bad**..... U2

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Which song just missed the list at 26th?

Hint: It was released in 1983 by a Welsh Band.

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Winner for Last Month – Lisa Kamps | Last Month's Answer – University of Arizona

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Phoenix Housing Market Snapshot as of 6/6/24

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

\$500,000

Monthly median sale price

2,314

Active listings



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July Breaking Records!

Get ready, Phoenix! Last year, our city experienced the hottest month on record for a U.S. city in July 2023. Living here, we know how to manage the heat: stay out of direct sunlight, wear sunscreen, protect your eyes, cover up, be aware of children, pets, and our older community members, drink plenty of water, and add some electrolytes (as recommended by Abby Curtis, our hot yoga instructor).

Arizona infrastructure players are providing resources to combat our urban heat island effect, caused when buildings, roads, and parking lots absorb, trap, and radiate heat at night. Resources include free desert-adapted shade trees from Salt River Project. The City of Phoenix has also debuted its Cool Pavement Pilot Program, which repaves roads to reflect sunlight. In our own North Central neighborhoods, flood-irrigated yards save on water use, allow homeowners to capture the natural watershed, and produce amazing trees and flowers—one of the many reasons we love our Central corridor.

Other ways to combat the heat include fabulous staycations:

- The Hermosa Inn, Paradise Valley
- Royal Palm Resort, Camelback Road
- Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort, 7th Street
- Sanctuary Camelback Mountain Resort and Spa, Paradise Valley
- Arizona Biltmore Hotel, 24th St and Missouri
- The Global Ambassador, 44th St and Camelback

Many have views, spas and fantastic areas to gather for a refreshing beverage and meal. Don't forget about your own pool, which typically increases a home's value by 7% and provides a personal way to cool off.

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7240 N 11TH AVE 5 BEDROOMS 3 BATHROOMS 2,140 SQ FT	\$799,900
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7347 N 8TH ST 4 BEDROOMS 2 BATHROOMS 2,082 SQ FT	\$499,000
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SCHOOL DAYS



Sixty high school seniors and adult learners from around Arizona each received a \$3,000 scholarship, courtesy of Desert Financial Credit Union, including six students from North Central Phoenix (submitted photo).

North Central students earn scholarships

Six North Central Phoenix students each received a \$3,000 scholarship from Desert Financial Credit Union in late May. In all, Desert Financial gave \$192,000 in scholarships to high school seniors and adult learners throughout Arizona at the end of May.

“We are proud to have given away more than \$1 million in scholarships to high school seniors and adult learners in the past eight years,” said Jeff Meshey, Desert Financial Foundation vice-chair. “An educated workforce increases economic opportunity for everyone in our community – which is why supporting education has been a top priority at Desert Financial since its founding 85 years ago.”

The scholarship program includes Community Service Scholarships for high school seniors who volunteer in their communities and Adult Learners Scholarships for adults ages 25 or older who are pursuing certificates or degrees. Nearly 250 Arizona students applied for the 60 available scholarships.

The North Central Community Service Scholarship recipients included Brooklin Curtis, Sunnyslope High School, who will attend Arizona State University in the fall to study civil engineering; Andrew Phillips, Brophy College Preparatory who volunteered 400 hours of his time in 2023 and plans to study aerospace engineering at Arizona State University; Ryleigh Mangundayao, Xavier College Preparatory, who plans to study public

health at Arizona State University; and Daphne Maroney, Sunnyslope High School, who volunteered more than 115 hours in 2023 and plans to study biochemistry at Arizona State University in the fall.

The North Central recipients of the Adult Learners Scholarship included Amber Robinson, who is studying environmental science and sustainability at Phoenix College, and Rika Kuwahara, who is pursuing a master’s in education at Arizona State University.

To learn more about Desert Financial Foundation scholarship programs, visit www.desertfinancial.com/scholarships.

School Briefs

GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Graduates earn \$109 million in scholarships

The 2023-2024 Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) school year ended with excellent measures of success. Three thousand students graduated from all nine of GUHSD’s high schools this year, and the Class of 2024 earned more than \$109 million in scholarships. Sunnyslope High School, Thunderbird High School and Washington High School received a combined total of over \$41 million in scholarships.

The district said, “GUHSD is incredibly proud of the Class of 2024’s achievements and wishes all of the graduates continued success in their future endeavors.”

SCHOOL DAYS

District to host support staff job fair

Join GUHSD on Thursday, July 11, at Moon Valley High School's cafeteria from 4 to 5:30 p.m. for a support staff job fair. Representatives from GUHSD's human resources will be on hand to interview individuals who are interested in working in transportation, clerical positions, food services, and maintenance.

GUHSD employees can expect a comprehensive compensation package for most positions, which includes health insurance, paid holidays, retirement planning and much more. For more information, call 623-435-6000 or visit www.guhsdaz.org/domain/68.

Walk-through registration set for July

Glendale Union High School District's nine high schools will hold Walkthrough Registration for the 2024-25 school year from July 23-25. During this event, students will have their photos taken for IDs and receive their class schedules. For more details, visit your school's website. The first day of school is Aug. 5.

District office is open through summer

The Glendale Union High School District Office will remain open throughout the summer. Summer hours will be in effect through July 12 and are as follows: Monday through Wednesday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Friday through Sunday, closed. The office will be closed on July 4 for Independence Day. For additional information, call 623-435-6000.

MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT Meadows named 'Top New School'

Madison Meadows Middle School recently received the 2023-24 Best Buddies "Top New School" award. The school was selected for its outstanding performance in promoting inclusion and friendship within their community through the Best Buddies program.

Teacher Lauren Robuck and parent Blaire Hinks introduced Madison Meadows' Best Buddies program this past school year. The program promotes inclusion, spreads awareness and acceptance of all individuals and pro-

vides students with the opportunity to form friendships with students with special needs. It empowers people with an IDD (intellectual and developmental disability) to form meaningful friendships with peers and improve communication and advocacy skills.

Volunteers honored at event

Madison School District held its annual recognition event May 7 to honor students, staff and volunteers for their achievements, contributions and dedication over the past year.

Student-athletes were recognized for their performance in the Valley Athletic Conference, with 13 teams placing in the championship competitions and several students receiving individual honors. Sixteen athletic teams were also named Madison Scholar Athlete Teams for having a team average GPA of 3.8 or higher during the first semester.

Madison Simis and Meadows Odyssey of the Mind teams were recognized for their strong performance at this year's regional and state competitions. Eliana Moskowitz and Addison Briggs were recognized as International Baccalaureate Program Students of the Year by the Arizona International Baccalaureate organization. Briggs was also recognized for receiving the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) Outstanding Achievement Award.

OSBORN SCHOOL DISTRICT New principal to serve at Encanto

The Osborn School District announced on June 15 that Kimberly Fernandez will serve as the new principal of Encanto Elementary. Fernandez has 18 years' experience in public education, with 16 as a teacher and the past two as a principal at the Tempe Learning Center of Student Choice High School, an alternative and credit recovery program for students. She holds two master's degrees (curriculum and instruction and educational leadership).

Fernandez's classroom instruction came in grades 2-5 in the Union Elementary School District, where she taught for seven years. She then spent three years as an instructional coach and ELD reading specialist in Dysart Unified. She then spent seven years as a K-5 reading and math specialist in

please see PRINCIPAL on page 26

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SCHOOL DAYS



Bioscience seniors (pictured left to right) Elizabeth Sanchez Castaneda, Juliet Hernandez, Ronald Tran, Adayla Mendoza, Taylor Price and Luis Hernandez Anaya each earned more than \$1 million in scholarships (photo courtesy of Phoenix Union High School District).

PRINCIPAL continued from page 25

Litchfield Elementary School District. She entered administration as a high school principal for the past two years.

Fernandez has worked on a variety of school and district initiatives including new teacher mentors, peer evaluators, and as an RTI coordinator. She has been honored as the Westside Impact Teacher of the Year.

Donations spark imagination

When students return to Clarendon Elementary School in the fall, they will have new opportunities to strut their STEM stuff, thanks in part to the generosity of the Osborn Educational Foundation and Phoenix West Rotary Club.

At an event held at the end of the 2023-24 school year, students and staff showed off the STEM projects and materials that were funded during the school year by the two organizations, including a Knex roller coaster, 3D pen, micro:bit chips, scan markers. The celebratory day was topped off with performances by a cheer and dance team performance, whose uniforms were funded by these groups as well

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Bioscience students receive millions in scholarships

The Bioscience High School Class of 2024 collectively earned more than \$28.5 million and counting in scholarships, including six students who individually earned more than \$1 million.

Juliet Hernandez more than \$2.3 million, Taylor Price earned more than \$2 million, Adayla Mendoza earned more than \$1.6 million, Luis Hernandez Anaya earned more than \$1.3 million, Ronald Tran earned \$1.06 million, and Elizabeth Sanchez Castaneda earned \$1 million in total awarded scholarships.

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Enrollment open for 2024-25 school year

Whether it is free, full-day kindergarten, premiere special education and gifted services, art, music, PE, STEM or online learning, the Washington Elementary School District (WESD) aims to provide a program to meet the individual needs of each child.

With multiple A+ Schools of Excellence, a National Blue Ribbon and a National Title I Distinguished School, WESD also is a Top 20 school district in the country in student growth. Additionally, 84 percent of WESD's nine A-rated schools, four of them are in the North Central corridor – Desert View (K-6), Moon Mountain (K-6), Orangewood (K-8) and Royal Palm (6-8), the first and only middle school in WESD to achieve an "A" letter grade.

The district is currently enrolling kindergarten through eighth grade students for the 2024-25 school year. To start the enrollment process, visit the WESD Welcome and Registration Center, located at 3200 W. Cholla St., in person or enroll online at www.wesdschools.org/registration.

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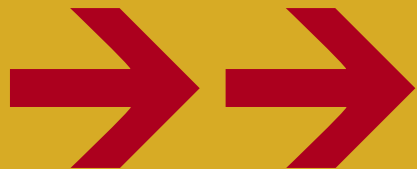
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SCHOOL DAYS

District seeks curriculum feedback

WESD is in the process of reviewing and adopting science materials to support teachers with instruction that is aligned to the K-8 state standards. The standards are based on three core ideas for knowing science: physical science, Earth and space science and life science. The materials also will address the science and engineering practices that provide students with authentic science experiences such as constructing explanations, planning investigations and developing models to make sense of the core ideas of science.

Parents and guardians are invited to visit the community display until July 8 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the WESD Administrative Center, located at 4650 W. Sweetwater Ave., with an option to provide feedback digitally.

WESD has job openings for teachers and staff

WESD currently has several job openings for certified and classified positions including teachers, psychologists, paraprofessionals, custodians,



Incoming Brophy freshmen hit the great outdoors this summer for an enrichment program that included a stop at Red Rock State Park (photo courtesy of Brophy College Prep).

childcare assistants, cafeteria workers, office technicians, bus drivers and much more. The district offers paid holidays and personal leave, vacation time, employer-matched contributions to Arizona State Retirement, insurance benefits for employees working 30 hours a week, discounts on WESD-sponsored childcare, extensive training, and opportunities for advancement.

To apply online, visit

<https://jobs.wesdschools.org>. To learn more, please call 602-347-2622.

CHARTER AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS Incoming class explores nature over summer

In June, incoming Brophy College Prep freshman students embarked on an summer adventure with SHEP (Summer Honors Enrichment Program) Biology.

This five-week experience isn't a typical bio course, the school said in a social media post. So far, they've hit the great outdoors for a week of field biology at Brophy's Manresa retreat in Oak Creek Canyon; at Page Springs Fish Hatchery, they met up with Game and Fish wildlife biologists for a primer on Arizona's trout habitat; and at Red Rock State Park, they conducted water quality and stream flow investigations. They dissected preserved fish and frogs, and explored the backside of the San Francisco Peaks, spending time with a forest ecologist from the Nature Conservancy, and at the Grand Canyon, they studied fossils and experienced a rare sighting of a California Condor.

Cellist to perform at London event

Elliott Lewenstein, a Class of 2024 graduate at Arizona School of the Arts, has been selected for the High School Honors Performance Orchestra, which is scheduled to perform July 29 at London's Royal Festival Hall.

Participation in the Honors Ensembles is limited to the highest-rated young performers from around the world. Lewenstein will be joining approximately 350 performers from the United States, Canada and Guam for a special performance in London, where they will learn from world-renowned conductors, work with other performers, and experience local arts and culture.

Student selected for KEYS internship

Arizona School for the Arts student Eva Luz Pombo ('26) has been selected to participate in The University of Arizona's 2024 "KEYS Research Internship".

Pombo and the other interns will contribute to interdisciplinary bio-science research using biotechnology and data analysis techniques, develop science literacy skills and learn how to communicate their research.

Leading up to this summer internship, interns were provided weekly assignments preparing them for the research they would participate in with their labs. Interns also were paired with their assigned lab based on their scientific interests and skills determined through their application and interview with KEYS staff. Pombo is focusing on neurology and research on Parkinson's Disease.

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SCHOOL DAYS

Students earn STEM internships

Twenty-five students from Madison Highland Prep have been accepted into one of more STEM summer internships, the school announced. These competitive programs offer hands-on learning, research and innovation opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math fields.

Students accepted into STEM summer internships include Joel Alarcon, Monique Aragon, Julitza Arriaga, Thomas Clyne, Nathan Garcia, Angel Gomez, Brandol Licano, Joseph Lungo, German Melendez, Philip Norris, Faenna Nosova, Miguel Reyes, Abraham Rico, Alexis Ring, Sophie Romero, Johnathan Sanchez, Maria Sebzvari, Sierra Sotack, Liam Steindler, Etta Thesing, Isaac Timmerman, Delilah Tsang, Anikin Ulibarri, Mia Urbano and Aidan Zuber.

These students will participate in internships at renowned institutions, including the Burton Family Foundation Summer Health Institute, Cesar Chavez Leadership Institute and top universities. The students will work alongside experts in their fields, gaining practical experience and building their professional networks.

Graduating senior is 'Good Citizen'

The Paradise Valley Chapter, National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, recently awarded the chapter's first Good Citizen Award to Wendy Bell, a Phoenix resident and graduating senior at the Paradise Valley Christian Preparatory School.

Bell read her essay, "Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It," to meeting attendees. The chapter's chair of the DAR Good Citizen award, Anne Enos, presented Bell with a certificate, pin, wallet card, rose and a red, white, and blue graduation cord. In addition, she received a check for \$250 for her future education. She is co-valedictorian of her class and will begin pre-medical studies at Gordon College in Massachusetts. Her career goal is to earn a MD/PhD and become a pediatrician.

As an "A" student, Bell served most recently as president of the school's National Honor Society. She also worked as a teacher's assistant in a childcare program and has spearheaded volunteer projects in the community.



Students from Madison Highland Prep will work alongside experts in their fields during summer STEM internships (submitted photo).

Student recognized for 'Heat Islands' video

Harper Higgs, who graduated from Xavier in the spring, is among 18 winners from around the world who earned top spots in the 13th annual "World of 8 Billion" student video contest sponsored by Population Connection. Over 3,100 videos from 58 countries and 46 U.S. states and territories were created.

The 60-second pieces explore population growth as it relates to one of three challenges: Climate Migration, Health, and Invasive Species.

Higgs earned honorable mention with her video Urban Heat Islands, which suggests cool pavement and green roofs to help curb higher temperatures in cities worldwide. The video can be viewed at www.worldof8billion.org/video-winner/urban-heat-islands.

Higgs has also earned an honorable mention for the High School NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Awards and was a winner in the Junior Achievement of Arizona's 18 Under 18 in 2023. In the fall, Harper will begin studying bioinformatics at the University of San Diego, where she plans on using her prize money for textbooks.

Higgs suggests that future contest participants "pick a topic that interests you because you will spend a lot of time learning about it." She was pleasantly surprised to find out how many rules and regulations are already in place to combat urban heat and that many people are passionate about finding solutions to this issue.

In addition to educating viewers about their chosen topic and how it relates to human population growth, students had to include at least one idea for a sustainable answer to the issue. The winning pieces presented innovative solutions to problems including coastal flooding, health disparities, and the spread of invasive species. Solutions included utilizing new technology, sustainable agriculture practices, regenerative shorelines, and more.



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**Senior Living
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The 2023-24 school year is in the rear-view mirror, but Valley nonprofit Duet: Partners in Health & Aging is already looking ahead to next school year, hoping to give grandparents raising their grandchildren a much-needed boost when it comes to making sure students have all the supplies they need to succeed.

According to Duet, in Arizona, 62,433 grandparents are responsible for their grandchildren, and for every one child raised by kin in foster care, there are eight being raised by kin outside of the system (that's 87 percent ineligible to receive assistance awarded to foster families). And with some studies suggesting that back-to-school costs are expected to hit \$890 per household this year, Duet is trying to equip 200 grandchildren, grades K-12, with backpacks, school supplies, clothing and shoes this summer.



The nonprofit created an Amazon Wishlist to make donating as easy as the click of a button: www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/F7F6G7AIK0M4. In addition to the Amazon Wishlist, donated school supplies and retail gift cards in \$25-\$50

increments to help with buying shoes, clothing or haircuts are also much appreciated.

Donations can also be dropped off at the Duet office through July 8, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., 10000 N. 31st Ave., Suite D200

The Duet back-to-school donation drive will offer a much-needed helping hand to many Valley grandparents who are raising their grandkids – and North Central residents can help (submitted photo).

(closed July 4). For additional information or questions, contact Lisa McCormick at 602-274-5022, ext. 114, mccormick@duetaz.org. Learn more at www.duetaz.org.

Events highlight senior services

North Central's older adult residents are invited to two events at the CenterWell Senior Primary Care Clinic Alhambra location this month.

First up, get in the Independence Day spirit Tuesday, July 2, from 10 a.m. to noon. Guests can enjoy this indoor event that will include an open hot dog bar, light refreshments and the chance to win an indoor grill to take home. During the event, take an exclusive tour of the clinic to learn more about its services. Then, on Wednesday, July 17, a "Meet your local provider" event will be held from 10 a.m. to noon. The event will showcase the center's personalized healthcare options for seniors,

please see SERVICES on page 12

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GENERATIONS

SERVICES continued from page 30

provide the opportunity to meet the team and receive a complimentary bag of fresh produce, while supplies last.

CenterWell Alhambra is located at 702 W. Camelback Road. To reserve a spot, call 480-808-9215. For additional information, visit www.centerwell-primarycare.com.

Beatitudes hosts lunch event

Beatitudes Campus will celebrate independent living with a panel of residents Friday, July 12, beginning at 11 a.m.

Older residents are invited to attend the event and enjoy a meal while the residents who lead a variety of clubs, committees and groups talk about their activities.

Beatitudes Campus, a retirement community offering independent living, assisted living and more, is located at 1610 W. Glendale Ave. To attend the July 12 event, RSVP by Tuesday, July 9, by calling 602-755-3400 or visiting www.beatitudescampus.org/events.

Air travel workshop offered

For those who are planning summer or fall travel with an older adult, on Wednesday, July 17, from 10 a.m. to noon, the Aviation Department will host a Dementia Friendly Air Travel Workshop at 2485 E. Buckeye Road.

This Q&A will bring together representatives from the airport, airlines, and TSA to share information and tips. For more information, contact skyharbor@phoenix.gov, with subject line “Dementia Friendly Air Travel Workshop Registration.”

Kids & Family City offers

summer recreation

With another long month-plus before school is back in session, many families may be looking for low-cost ways to keep kids (and adults) active and entertained, which is where the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Pass comes in. The pass allows families to access amenities and programs citywide.

An annual pass is good for 12

months from the date of purchase and costs \$20 for Phoenix residents aged 18 and older and \$5 for residents aged 17 and younger. Day passes are also available for \$2/adult; \$1/youth.

Pass holders can gain access to the city’s Community Centers and Neighborhood Recreation Centers, participate in open gymnasiums and other open recreation opportunities, access to facility lobby and game room areas, access to fitness room and health amenities at selected sites (additional fees may apply; limited sites offer free fitness room access), gain registration access to classes and programs, enjoy hundreds of free classes and programs, as well as thousands of paid classes and programs.

In the North Central area, families can visit the Sunnyslope Community Center, 802 E. Vogel Ave.; the Sunnyslope Youth Center, 1702 W. Peoria Ave.; and the Washington Activity Center. Older residents may want to check out the Devonshire Senior Center, 2802 E. Devonshire Ave., or the Sunnyslope Senior Center, adjacent to the Community Center.

Get your Phoenix Parks and

Recreation Pass online or visit a local recreation facility to get more information on specific amenities and program offerings available in the area. Learn more at www.phoenix.gov/parks/classes-and-programs.

Summer piano lessons offered

Summer piano lessons at Music Works Community (also known as the Piano Place) offer the perfect opportunity for adults to escape from the pressures of work, and for kids to enjoy a productive time away from video games and screentime.

Piano lessons and preschool classes are offered during the Music Works Community Summer Session, which runs through Aug. 2. In addition, enrollment is currently open for fall lessons. The fall schedule begins Aug. 5.

The Prelude Piano Program classes for preschool through first grade students include “Shining Stars” for preschoolers, pre-kindergarten and junior kindergarten, and “Leap Frogs” for kindergarten and first grade students. Interested students may also take introductory summer lessons and join a fall semester class.

For more information, call the studio at 602-796-1592 or visit www.musicworkscommunity.com.

Museum hosts summer events

Phoenix Art Museum’s fashion exhibitions “Barbie: A Cultural Icon Exhibition” and “The Power of Pink,” will close to the public Sunday, July 7.

“Barbie: A Cultural Icon” showcases the Barbie brand’s 65-plus year history and the doll’s global impact on pop culture and fashion through more than 250 vintage dolls, various historical objects, video interviews, and a life-sized Barbie Mirror-Pink Corvette. “The Power of Pink” celebrates the complex history of the color pink, tracing its evolution from status symbol to gender marker to contemporary fashion statement.

Other events this month include the museum’s first family studio art-making workshop. In addition, Pay-What-You-Wish Wednesdays are offered every Wednesday from 3 to 9 p.m.

Phoenix Art Museum is located at 1625 N. Central Ave. For more information, call 602-257-1880 or visit www.phxart.org.



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Residents will find a beautiful retreat from the summer heat, this month at the Japanese Friendship Garden (submitted photo).

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Summer hours, special events at garden

The Japanese Friendship Garden offers a cool and tranquil retreat to its visitors during the hot summer months, but guests will have to take advantage of morning and evening hours while the garden's summer hours are in effect.

Now through Aug. 31, the garden will be open from 8 a.m. to noon, Tuesday through Thursday, and from 8 a.m. to noon and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday through Sunday. The garden is closed on Mondays.

In addition, on July 6-7, residents are invited to celebrate Japan's Star

Festival by attending a summer matsuri at Let's Go to Tanabata. Dress in traditional attire such as a kimono, yukata, or even opt for a light cosplay (please keep it family-friendly and prop-free) and delve into the vibrant atmosphere of a real nighttime Japanese summer festival. Explore the lively corridors adorned with colorful lanterns, bustling with an array of vendors offering delectable food, refreshing shaved ice, and unique merchandise.

The Japanese Friendship Garden is located at 1125 N. 3rd Ave. in downtown Phoenix. For additional information, call 602-274-8700 or visit www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org.

Joyful July



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July 7: Jazzy July | July 14: Baseball Days of Summer

July 21: School Days, including Summer Birthday Party | July 28: Christmas in July

Saturday Evenings after 5pm Service: July 13: Trivia | July 20: Movie | July 27: Karaoke

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Just South of Maryland / Just North of Bethany Home **602.279.5539**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Fabulous Phoenix 4th to light up the sky

Fireworks will once again light up the sky over Steele Indian School Park as the city of Phoenix celebrates Independence Day in style. Billed as one of the largest fireworks displays in the Southwest, the annual Fabulous Phoenix 4th event will take place Thursday, July 4, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. This free, non-alcoholic family event attracts thousands of attendees each year.

There will be free rides, inflatables and other activities for young residents to enjoy, and vendors will be selling a variety of items, including food and beverage, arts and crafts, and promotional items. ATMs will not be available for this year's event, however. Attendees are encouraged to bring plenty of water and personal shade devices are allowed and encouraged; however, at sunset all standing shade devices must be lowered and safely put away. Coolers are allowed but alcohol and glass bottles are prohibited. All carry-in items are subject to search by event security.

The dog park will be closed July 1-5, and on July 3, the entire park will be closed for event load-in until 6 p.m. event time on July 4.

Attendees should allow ample time for travel near, parking, arrival at the event site and entrance into the event. Traveling by light rail is recommended as public parking is not available at the event site. A rideshare/taxi area will be located on 2nd Street just south of Indian School Road. There are three pedestrian entrances: Central Avenue and Glenrosa Avenue, 3rd Street and Indian School Road, and 7th Street just north of Turney Ave.

Steele Indian School Park is located at 300 E. Indian School Road. For more information, call 602-534-3378 or visit www.phoenix.gov/parks/special-events/fabphx4.

Shemer Art Center accepting entries

The Shemer Art Center is now accepting entries from Arizona artists who create work that showcases landscapes ranging from natural settings to urban city life. The work will be showcased in "Light of Day," which will be shown at Shemer Aug. 28 to Oct. 24.

Selected works will be from all mediums, including, but not limited to, painting, drawing, printmaking, pho-



Fireworks will light up the sky during the annual Fabulous Phoenix 4th event, which will take place Thursday, July 4, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.(submitted photos).

tography, ceramics, sculpture, wood, metal, fiber, and glass. The entry deadline is 5 p.m., Aug. 2.

In addition, the 2024 Shemer Arizona Arts Festival will take place this fall, Nov. 2-3, and works of art created in a variety of mediums by more than 40 Arizona artists will be included in the event. The event also will feature art demonstrations, Arizona authors, an interactive \$5 Art Zone, live music,

food and beverage vendors and a silent auction. Additional activities planned include an interactive Blacksmith Village, and the return of the Shemer's signature Sidewalk Chalk Festival.

To read the prospectus and submit a piece of work for either event, visit https://shemerartcenter.org/opportunities/artist_opps. Shemer Art Center is located at 5005 E. Camelback Road. For more information, call 602-262-4727.

On the Town

The heat is on in Phoenix, but there are plenty of ways to celebrate summer and the arts in cool style this month. Join your neighbors for an Independence Day celebration, and enjoy live local music and touring acts, theater performances, art exhibits, film screenings, family-friendly experiences and more. See you on the town in July!

Surely Tempo

July 2
The Rebel Lounge
www.therebellounge.com;
602-296-7013

Iron & Wine

July 2
The Van Buren
www.thevanburenphx.com;
480-659-1641

Tom Oren

July 6
The Nash @ Venue 122
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

please see ON THE TOWN on page 36

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JULY 21

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JULY 14
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CHRISTMAS IN JULY
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JULY 28

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ON THE TOWN continued from page 35

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Vintage & Vinyl Night Market

July 11
Crescent Ballroom
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Carolyn Wonderland

July 12
The Rhythm Room
www.rhythmroom.com; 602-612-4981



Infinity Song

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

'All Eyes On You II'

Thru July 14
Eye Lounge & Modified Arts
www.eyelounge.com/exhibitions/all
eyesonyouii

Bethany Home

July 18
The Rebel Lounge
www.therebellounge.com;
602-296-7013

Raúl Yañez

July 19
The Nash @ Venue 122
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

Third Friday Ceili

July 19
Irish Cultural Center
www.azirish.org; 602-258-0109

The McCharmlys

July 19
The Rhythm Room
www.rhythmroom.com; 602-612-4981



The Decemberists

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

Arms Akimbo

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

Coffee House Saturdays

July 20
North Mountain Visitor Center
www.northmountainvisitorcenter.org;
602-343-5125

Flashlight Nights

July 20, 27
Desert Botanical Garden
www.dbg.org; 480-941-1225

Sarah Shook & The Disarmers

July 23
The Rebel Lounge
www.therebellounge.com;
602-296-7013

Jermaine Lockhart

July 26
The Nash @ Venue 122
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

Lo Moon

July 26
Valley Bar
www.valleybarphx.com; 602-716-2222

Brijean

July 29
Valley Bar
www.valleybarphx.com; 602-716-2222

Hermanos Gutiérrez

July 30
The Van Buren
www.thevanburenphx.com;
480-659-1641

All event dates are current at the 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



Chef Mark Tarbell is passionate about promoting “local” at his Tarbell’s restaurant, located at 32nd Street and Camelback Road (photo by Darryl Webb for North Central News).

Café Chat

To market, to market with Mark Tarbell

By Marjorie Rice

Mark Tarbell is getting ready for a photo, standing in front of a large, colorful painting in his Tarbell’s restaurant on Camelback. He takes time to pull on a Roger Clyne and the Peacemakers T-shirt, but doesn’t bother to comb his hair, ruffled from an hour of absent-mindedly running his hands through it as he talks about food, wine and culinary careers.

Promoting “local” – whether it’s produce, chickens or rock bands – seems paramount to the renowned chef, more so than polishing his own image.

On this day, he’s talking about his passion for local foods that end up center-plate at Tarbell’s and other notable Valley restaurants. These quality ingredients are grown and produced in all corners of the state – and, happily for North Central residents, are available in local farmer’s markets, including Tarbell’s favorite, Uptown Farmer’s Market at Central Avenue and Bethany Home Road.

The proliferating markets are part of Arizona’s blossoming food scene, a process that has taken the state to a position of prominence in the country’s culinary pantheon.

“It’s growing and changing and getting better all the time,” Tarbell said, and while he wouldn’t make that claim for himself, the renowned chef is

one reason that is so.

His passion for fresh, local produce comes from his roots in New England, Tarbell said. “I remember the beauty of strawberries and wild raspberries and blueberries in Maine, and native Maine shrimp. As kids we’d steal tomatoes out of Mom’s garden and eat them like apples, with the juice running down our arms. We had apple trees that grew wild around us – all of that was how it started.”

It continued with his training in France, including École de Cuisine La Varenne and Steven Spurrier’s Academie du Vin.

“I am a taste and flavor person,” Tarbell said. “I’ve always been that way, even before I became a chef.” He looks at a bottle of water on the table before him. “Right now, I’m analyzing the taste of this water, the texture, flavor balance, minerality.”

It’s about economics as well, he said. “To me, if it was grown here, by a farmer – organic or not but who had some good practices – it was going to be fresh and taste better. And it keeps the money in the community. As a small business that had value to me, and that’s why I started 30 years ago, trying to find people who were growing.

“This is a very agricultural valley,” Tarbell said. But that produce didn’t always end up on local tables. “Years ago, organic lettuces grown here were sent to California’s wholesale markets. I remember RoxSand and I saying, ‘Can’t we just take a little for here?’ and them

please see MARKET on page 38



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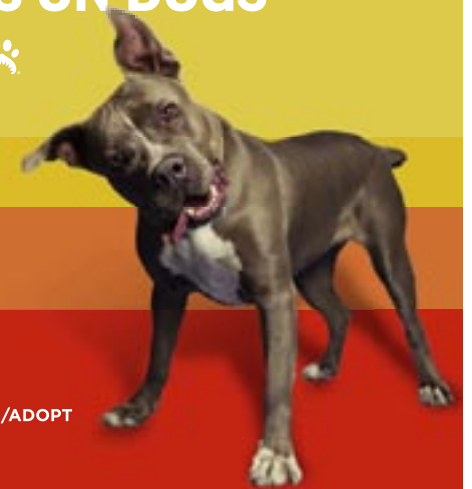
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Who We Are

We are a more-than-175-member-strong group of actively selling agents who have a vested interest in the community, the real estate market and North Central Phoenix. This tour is a cooperative effort among the active REALTORS of the Central Corridor. The tour has been in existence for more than 35 years and is an all-volunteer organization.

Location & Meeting

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

Tour Boundaries

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

Join Us!

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

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

<https://northcentraltour.com/>

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

MARKET continued from page 37

saying, 'No, we don't want to do retail or sell to restaurants.' Eventually we won, and the Duncan family was important in that effort." (Duncan Family Farms, originally in Goodyear, now grows a wide variety of certified-organic produce in Maricopa, Oregon and Upstate New York.)

RoxSand Scocos McCreary is the former chef of RoxSand in Biltmore Fashion Park, one of a long list of Arizona culinary lights – many of them James Beard Award winners – Tarbell credits as early adopters who helped elevate the state's cuisine while promoting locally grown and produced foodstuffs.

"They were leading the way when I came to Camelback," he said. "They were out there trying to make things happen."

The list includes Robert McGrath (Market Street Kitchen), Christopher Gross (Christopher's), Vincent Guerithault (Vincent's), and Eddie Matney (Eddie's House) and Charleen Badman (FnB).

"Chris Bianco (Pizzeria Bianco) has always been passionate about this," Tarbell said. "He and Bob McClendon (an organic farmer with fields in Peoria and Goodyear) have a great relationship."

Bianco also has supported expansion of Arizona-grown flour varieties, working with producers like the Zimmerman family and their Hayden Mills.

Demand spiked for high-quality, locally grown ingredients, leading to the proliferation of small producers and farmers and an abundance that chefs only dreamed of in the '90s.

"Now there are lots of small and medium-size growers in established businesses all over the state and here in the Valley – people doing mushrooms and all kinds of crazy fun stuff, like lambs, and very specially produced cattle like Moon River," Tarbell said

Noble Bread's Jason Raducha is an example. Raducha started the bakery in his North Phoenix home in 2012. "I remember he would ask me, 'Can you buy my stuff? I'm making it in my garage,'" Tarbell said. "It was cool stuff!"

Chefs weren't the only ones to benefit. Much of this bounty is on farmer's market tables, even in the summer months when markets like Uptown head indoors. McClendon's produce, Noble breads and Moon River beef and eggs all are available there.

"I think it's a natural evolution,"

Tarbell said. "A lot of the farmer's markets were more for show and less for go at the beginning. Today, there's more interest in it, and people are figuring out how to be better at it and more efficient. It's going really well. The Uptown market is probably the best one that I'm aware of. There's a really great one at Roadrunner Park too."

Being a parent means Tarbell spends most Saturday mornings chauffeuring his kids to games and other events – and he's fine with that because his team, led by chef Adrian de Leon, takes on the shopping.

"We're looking for anything we can feature, any vegetable or produce, because to me, all of those things deserve to be on the center of the plate and highlighted," he said.

"I've always been interested in vegetables. They take on a whole different feel if you caramelize them or sauté them or put them in a wood oven or an air-dryer. They're so diverse.

"Right from the beginning I've always as a chef and a restaurateur been interested in getting the best of the world to Arizona, to us here in Tarbell's."

Some of his favorite local products are McClendon's greenhouse tomatoes, poultry and eggs from Two Wash Ranch in New River, mushrooms from Hypha Farms and goat cheese from Crow's Dairy in Buckeye, all of which are available at the Uptown Farmer's Market.

Ranch owner Dave Jordan "is the best guy for chicken on the planet," Tarbell said.

Wendell Crow's goat cheeses appear on more than 100 restaurant menus throughout the Valley. "I'm a cheese snob," Tarbell said. "When I lived in France I was obsessed with it. In my view, the Loire Valley – especially the eastern end of it – has probably the best goat cheese in the world, and I thought, Arizona cheese? Not going to work. Then I tasted it and thought, oh my gosh, he nails it."

As a member of the board of C-Cap Arizona, a division of the national Careers through Culinary Arts program, Tarbell supports and promotes another local "crop" – young people entering the culinary industry. The program is in more than 60 Arizona high schools, teaching culinary skills along with teamwork, math and life skills.

"I have a lifelong passion for learning and helping and mentoring and teaching," Tarbell said. "I've lived my

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

life in two modes: being very curious and a lifelong learner and also wanting to mentor, help and share and give back.”

These days, in addition to his numerous other businesses – Tarbell’s Restaurant, T’s Tavern & Wine Bar, The Wine Store, T’s Catering ‘n Special Events, NG Hospitality, Cultivate Wine Bar, and at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport, The Tavern in Terminal 3 and T’s Express in Terminal 4 – Tarbell is planning to open The Vault Speakeasy later this year. And he’s focusing on a new project, Tarbell’s Cha Cha Mouche, a subscription wine club.

“I couldn’t do it without a fantastic team,” he said. “I have the greatest team ever.”

“I always wanted to make wine in California and France,” he said. Today, he leases organic vineyards in both areas and makes wine in facilities rented from established wineries, a traditional path for start-ups.

“I’m doing Char/Cap/Pinot (Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Noir) in a very Euro, naturally produced, French-style. What I’m really excited about is Carignan, Pic Poul, Petit Verdot. Pic Poul is usually used in blending, but I make a sparkling Pic Poul in true Champagne style. The Carignan is from vines planted in the 1890s.”

Cha Cha Mouche launched in 14 states in January, sending wine direct to subscribers’ homes. “It’s been a five-year project,” Tarbell said. “It’s a lot of fun, like a dance party in a bottle.”

Tarbell’s, at 3213 E. Camelback Road, is open from 5 to 10 p.m., daily. For more information, call 602-955-8100, or visit www.tarbells.com.

The Uptown Farmer’s Market, 5757 N. Central Ave., is open during summer from 7 to 11 a.m., Saturday. For information, call or text 602-859-5648, or visit www.uptownmarketaz.com.

Dining Briefs

Phoenix selects official cocktail

Phoenix celebrated its inaugural 602 Day in grand fashion June 2 by crowning Nicole Long of Santo Arcadia as the winner of the Spirit of Phoenix Cocktail Competition.

“We recognize how imperative it is to honor our storied culinary and cocktail footprint,” said Ron Price, president and CEO of Visit Phoenix. “The city cocktail transcends mere mixology; it captures the vibrant energy of our com-



Santo Arcadia’s Nicole Long was joined by Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego on 602 Day to celebrate winning the Spirit of Phoenix Cocktail Competition (photo courtesy of Visit Phoenix).

munity and the unparalleled creativity and commitment to innovation that define our city’s exceptional food and beverage scene – a celebration of the flavors and stories that make Phoenix a true gastronomic destination.”

The first-of-its-kind competition brought together mixologists from across the city to showcase their imagination

and passion for mixology. Dozens of recipes were sent in during the submission period; from there the field was shaped down to 20 by a panel of judges, then down to four for Phoenix residents to vote on in round one, then to the final two for round two of voting – all culminating in the announcement of the winner on 602 Day.

Long’s winning creation, aptly named The Phoenix, embodies the essence of the city and pays homage to Phoenix’s rich agricultural heritage. It features a blend of locally sourced ingredients, including homemade chiltepin mesquite honey syrup, prickly pear fruit, and lemons freshly picked from her own garden, all infused with Milagro tequila. Participants who rounded out the final four were William Johnson, Huss Brewing Company; Arlene Maganda, Merc Bar & Highball; and Spencer Pendergrass, Arizona Wilderness Brewing Company.

The Phoenix will hit menus at restaurants and bars throughout Greater Phoenix. Learn more at www.phxcocktail.com.

Firecreek opens Roastery

The Roastery at 1618 E. McDowell Road is now open. The new spot is just minutes away from the first coffee concept by founder and coffee connoisseur Mike Funk, of Firecreek Coffee Company, which opened in the mid-1990s and supplies wholesale coffee to *please see ROASTERY on page 40*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

ROASTERY continued from page 39

grocery stores, cafes and other businesses throughout the state. The Phoenix Roastery serves as an additional facility to complement the Roastery in Flagstaff as well as a café and training center.

“We are excited to be open and ready to help support the coffee industry in Phoenix,” said Funk. “The Roastery is a state-of-the-art facility that was built to help develop and grow the local wholesale coffee industry. We are now roasting for customers and have the equipment and experience to offer first-class training based on my nearly 30 years of helping people get started in the coffee industry.”

Funk adds that having two roasteries will also allow the company to lessen its carbon footprint. In addition to roasting and serving local coffee, Funk believes strongly in the local food movement. The Phoenix Roastery is accredited by the Specialty Coffee Association and boasts a training facility to educate baristas. Menu items are currently being added to the café portion of The Roastery.

In the mid-1990s, Funk moved to Phoenix to open Café Tech at 5th Street and McDowell Road, and in the early 2000s, he was at the forefront of third wave coffee, a superior, high-quality coffee that is scored like grapes in the wine industry.

In 2008, Funk started Firecreek Coffee Company with his flagship café in the heart of downtown Flagstaff. He then began supplying AJ’s Fine Foods and Whole Foods with his specialty coffee, which is currently available for consumer purchase. Currently, he owns and operates four Firecreek Coffee Company locations around the state including a coffee café that opened in the Arcadia neighborhood in 2021.

For more, visit www.firecreekcoffee.com.

Industry Standard to open in Carly’s space

After 19 years in business, the beloved Carly’s Bistro on Roosevelt Row closed its doors on May 3. The owners, Carla and John Logan, have passed the torch to three local hospitality industry veterans — Mike Cheatham of Scapegoat Beer & Wine, DashTrack founder Jordan Hudgens and restaurateur Michael Bodow. Together, they will reopen the space,



Industry Standard co-founders (from left) Michael Bodow, Mike Cheatham and Jordan Hudgens will bring a new concept to the former site of Carly’s Bistro on Roosevelt Row, which closed in May (photo courtesy of Mike Cheatham).

located at 128 E. Roosevelt St., as Industry Standard this fall.

“I went to ASU; Mike and Jordan are both born and raised in the Valley,” said Bodow. “This is a dream coming true in real time for all three of us.”

The Industry Standard co-founders, who are not only locals but enthusiasts of the neighborhood drinking and dining scene, say that they will offer an “elevated yet approachable menu that features seasonally focused dishes highlighting great diversity.”

“It’s an honor to take over this space, which holds so many memories for the residents of the neighborhood,” said Hudgens. “We intend to preserve the essence and legacy of Carly’s while introducing a menu featuring eclectic versions of classic dishes and local favorites with a twist.”

The team says that diners can expect to find hints of cuisines from around the globe prepared and presented in a relatable way along with a vibrant beverage menu. Cocktail recipes will be developed by Keifer Gilbert, who has created cocktail menus for the likes of UnderTow and Bitter & Twisted Cocktail Parlour. Guests can expect Cheatham’s expertise to be showcased throughout the wine list and craft beer selections.

“We’re constantly eating out, we love the food and cocktail scene in our city, and we love being part of it,” said Hudgens. “Industry Standard is for the neighborhood diners, and we can’t wait to showcase the very best of what the ‘industry standard’ should be —

through exceptional food, beverage and, most of all, customer service.”

Industry Standard will remain open late to serve as the after-work venue for local hospitality professionals. Plans for events and industry-centered specials are already in the works. For more information, visit www.industrystandardaz.com.

Wrigley announces new sommelier

In late May, Wrigley Mansion announced the appointment of Jodi Bronchtein as its new wine director. She will lead an all-female wine team, setting a new standard for inclusivity and diversity within the wine industry while delivering extraordinary wine experiences at Arizona’s most prestigious destination.

The team at the landmark destination says that Bronchtein brings a wealth of expertise and passion to her role, cultivated over a decade in the wine industry and complemented by a deep-rooted commitment to hospitality. Her journey began in 2011 at Sean Brock’s McCrady’s in Charleston, SC, where she discovered the profound connection between wine and gastronomy. As wine director at Wrigley, Bronchtein will draw upon her extensive wine mastery and innate under-



Jodi Bronchtein

standing of hospitality. She will oversee the property’s illustrious award-winning wine cellar, the largest in Arizona.

“I am thrilled to embark on this journey with the esteemed team at Wrigley Mansion,” said Bronchtein. “Together, we will provide elevated and focused hospitality for guests while creating dynamic and fun pairings that feature the amazing wine and food at Geordie’s, Jamie’s Wine Bar, and Christopher’s at Wrigley Mansion.”

Wrigley Mansion is located at 2501 E. Telawa Trail, Phoenix. For additional information, call 602-955-4079 or visit www.wrigleymansion.com.

Full Speed now open

A new concept developed by Little Miss BBQ founders Scott and Bekke Holmes, is now open at 513 E. Roosevelt St. Full Speed Chicken and Ribs focuses on Southern and Nashville hot fried chicken and biscuits as well as pecan-smoked pork ribs and pulled pork, and the concept is already set for expansion in 2025.

The seed for Full Speed Chicken and Ribs was planted at the height of COVID, during which time the Holmeses purchased a fryer and began testing recipes at home, focusing primarily on Nashville hot chicken, smoked ribs and pulled pork and house-made buttermilk biscuits. With a purposefully small menu, the company says that the focus is on exceptional quality and a superior guest experience.

The menu begins with fried chicken offerings from tenders to leg, fried to a golden perfection and served with guests’ choice of Southern, medium or “hottie hot hot” flavors. Pork ribs are available by the half or full rack; diners can even order a single rib. Sides include crunchy crinkle-cut fries, crispy coleslaw, thick and rich BBQ pork and beans and creamy mac and cheese.

Sandwiches include pulled pork and chicken options as well as The Roosevelt Chicken Biscuit featuring a fried chicken breast, comeback sauce and pickles piled high on a house-made buttermilk biscuit. Other items include Pimento Cheese and Crackers, the Southwest Salad, “This & That Fries,” loaded with pulled pork or fried chicken, and the Strawberry Shortcake Biscuit for dessert.

For more information, visit www.eatfullspeed.com.

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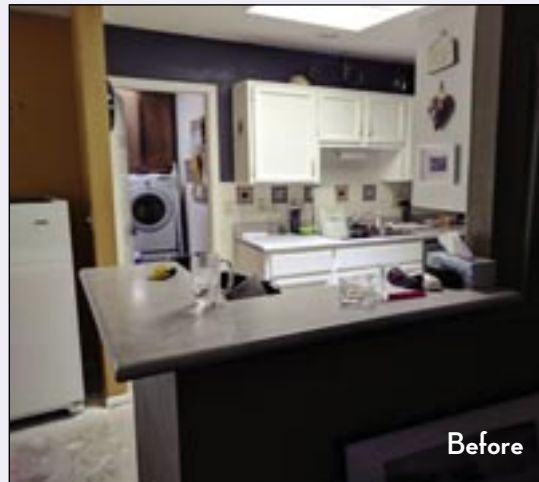
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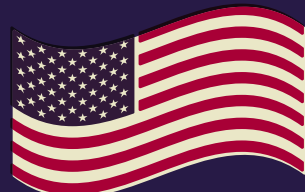
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