



# north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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## Protect your critters during summer's heat

By Trudy Thompson Shumaker

It's summertime in Phoenix and you wouldn't think of walking down the street barefoot. Or even walking across the patio without shoes. So, why would you expect your dog to do it?

"Sidewalks, streets and parking lots get extremely hot," said Tara Tillotson, DVM. "Dr. T," as her colleagues and patients' owners call her, is a Phoenix native and associate veterinarian at Desert Ark Veterinary Care of Arizona.

"If it's too hot for your feet, it's too hot for your pet. Take walks early in the morning or late in the evening. Put the palm of your bare hand on the surface. If it is uncomfortable to hold it there for five seconds, it is too hot for your animal's bare paws," she said.

Dr. T also cautions about how quickly animals confined to a closed vehicle can suffer fatal consequences. "It happens within minutes in a hot car," she said. "Leaving a pet outside without shade and water can also kill pets. We see it every year, starting in early spring and lasting into the fall."

Here are a few tips provided by veterinarians and the Arizona Humane Society:

- Provide fresh water — and plenty of it — for all pets, whether they are inside or outside.
- If your animal is outside, be sure they have shade throughout the day, and a way to lie down on dirt or

**please see CRITTERS on page 6**



Marion Blake poses with whimsical figures that were created by Grover Thompson and continue to grace the Sunnyslope Rock Garden decades after his death (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

## Preserving the legacy of Grover Thompson

By Kathryn M. Miller

The story of why Grover Thompson created the whimsical Sunnyslope Rock Garden has largely been lost to time, but two area residents, Marion Blake and Julia Taggart, are working to preserve the artistic labor of love for current and future generations.

Grover Cleveland Thompson was born in Fossil, Oregon, on New Year's Day 1892. The oldest of seven children, Thompson remained in Oregon for three decades. During that time, he married his wife Fay and had two children, Lucille and Cloydene, before moving to a suburb of Seattle, Washington, in the early 1930s. Then, in February 1941, tragedy struck — both Thompson's wife and oldest daughter died, just five days apart from one another.

At various times in Thompson's life, he identified himself as a farmer, a service man, a master mechanic, a heavy equipment operator and heavy construction engineer, and according to his 1942 World War II draft registration card, he lost the two center fingers on his right

hand at some point. All of this history and more is what he brought to the Sunnyslope area when he and his second wife, Nancy, moved to Phoenix in the early 1950s. They settled in at 10023 N. 13th Place in March 1954, and Thompson got to work on what has become his lasting legacy.

Said to be inspired by the Petersen Rock Garden in Thompson's native Oregon, and similar in style and construction to the Watts Towers in Los Angeles and reminiscent of Louis Lee's Phoenix garden, the folk art garden was painstakingly created over the course of 20-plus years out of concrete forms, rocks collected from

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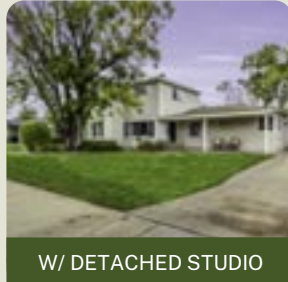
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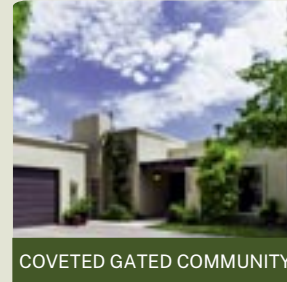
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COMMUNITY

## From the Editor

Hello, North Central neighbors — summer is here and so is our June issue!

For our cover stories, I met with longtime resident Marion Blake and Sunnyslope Historical Society and Museum representative Julia Taggart, who have teamed up to amplify the history behind the Sunnyslope Rock Garden in the hopes of preserving it for future generations. In addition, Trudy Thompson Shumaker spoke with a local veterinarian who has some practical advice on how pet owners can help protect their four-legged family members during the hot summer months.



In Community, we take a look at how Phoenix libraries are helping resi-

dents get out of the heat this summer, break down two development projects that are making their way through the public hearing process, and introduce you to a new citizen-led effort to revitalize Steele Indian School Park.

For this month's Café Chat, Marjorie Rice visited Different Pointe of View to see what is cooking up at the resort. We also have the details on two new North Central restaurants that residents will want to check out. Read all about it in Food for Thought.

As always, you will find other community, business, dining, generational 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 June issue and until next month, please stay safe out there! All my best,

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

## Libraries extend hours for heat relief

By Kathryn M. Miller

There were 645 heat-related deaths reported in Maricopa County in 2023; 71 percent of those occurred on a day when the Weather Service issued an excessive heat warning, and 45 percent of heat related deaths were among people experiencing homelessness. So, this year, when the county launched its annual Heat Relief Network May 1, it had another partner in helping combat heat-related deaths – the Phoenix Public Library system.

Providing relief from summer heat is not new to Phoenix libraries; they have always been open to residents seeking to come in from the heat during operating hours, and many summers have provided water, cooling towels and heat-related safety information.

This year, however they are stepping up their efforts.

For the first time, Phoenix is offering two heat Respite Centers that will be accessible overnight. Burton Barr Central Library will offer a 24-hour respite center and the Senior



Cholla Library, at 10050 Metro Parkway E., is one of four Phoenix libraries offering extended heat relief hours this summer (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

Opportunities West Senior Center at 7th Ave. and Buckeye will offer overnight respite hours daily from 6 p.m. to 5 a.m.

In addition, three library locations will serve as designated Cooling Centers, offering extended hours. Cholla, Harmon and Yucca Libraries will stay

open as Cooling Centers (full library services will not be available during designated extended Cooling Center hours) Mondays through Saturdays until 10 p.m. On Sundays, these three locations will open as designated Cooling Centers only from noon to 10 p.m.

These designated Cooling Centers will remain open for heat relief during city holidays, including Memorial Day, Juneteenth and Independence Day. Respite Centers' holiday hours will be the same and the Cooling Centers' holiday hours at the three other library locations will be noon to 10 p.m.

Libraries are working in tandem with Phoenix Human Services Department, Office of Homeless Solutions, Office of Heat Response and Mitigation and others to provide a coordinated response to residents seeking relief during extended hours.

A library spokesperson said, "During those hours, people can come in out of the heat, they can charge a phone, and they can have access if they want to connect with further resources," and emphasized that this service is available to anyone who needs to get out of the heat.

The regional Heat Relief Network includes an interactive map with more than 124 locations where people can find shade, water and indoor cooling centers, or where those wanting to help can drop off donations, such as bottled water. The network, and the services provided at libraries, will be active through Sept. 30. Residents can find the map at <https://hrn.azmag.gov>, and find additional resources at [www.maricopa.gov/heat](http://www.maricopa.gov/heat), [www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org](http://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org) and [www.phoenix.gov/summer](http://www.phoenix.gov/summer).

## Millan makes council run

Ayensa Millan formally launched her campaign for Phoenix City Council District 3 on May 13.

Millan, a Moon Valley resident, ASU graduate and founder of her own law firm, moved to Phoenix at 16. She is a native of Sonora, Mexico. She says that she has spent a career advocating for diverse communities in the courtroom and is ready to bring that same drive to representing the residents of District 3.



Ayensa Millan

The District 3 incumbent and current vice mayor, Debra Stark, will seek reelection this fall. In Phoenix, the position of mayor and councilmembers in District 1, 3, 5 and 7 will be on the Nov. 5 ballot. Learn more at [www.phoenix.gov/cityclerk/elections](http://www.phoenix.gov/cityclerk/elections).

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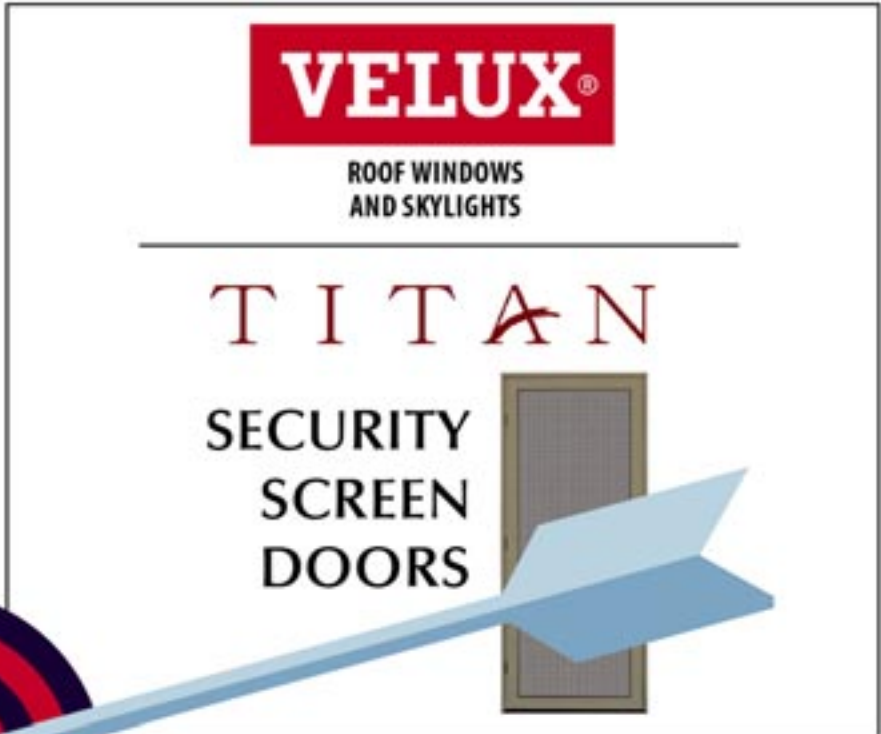
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grass instead of concrete or asphalt.

- Older pets as well as pets that are ill are especially vulnerable to heat. If your pet takes medications, ask your vet or pharmacist if any of their medications make them especially vulnerable to heat and sun.

- Hot, thirsty animals will seek water anywhere they can find it. They may chew on plants that they otherwise would ignore, and some backyard plants are toxic. Among the common ones in Phoenix are oleanders and Mexican Bird of Paradise. Call the Arizona Poison and Drug Information Center at 1-800-222-1222 if you are concerned.

- Sunburn? Yes, pets can get sunburned. Their noses and around their eyes can be burned by exposure to the sun. Don't use sunscreen — they may lick it off. Should you shave a particularly hairy pet in the summertime? If you do, remember that this will expose their skin to possible sunburn.

- Backyard pools are a hazard to children, disabled people and to pets and wild animals. Be sure your pool is secure. For pets, teach them where the steps are so they can get out. Some pool owners affix a door mat to the side of the pool, so that pets as well as other animals can use it as a ladder to get out of the water.

- Teach your children and others in your household to pay special attention to pets in the hot weather. Even the youngest ones can remind adults to fill water bowls.

Susan Fuchs, North Phoenix resident and pet lover, recounts a hard lesson learned.

“My Chocolate Chip, a rescue Lab, got into my pool on a hot summer day. Maybe he fell in — we're not sure. I went home from work at lunch to check on him and he was in the pool, desperate to get out. He had forgotten or didn't know how to use the steps, and in his panic, had clawed at the tile until he was exhausted and all his front nails were gone. I got home just in time to help him.

“Big lesson for us — we immediately started locking his doggie door when he was home alone, to secure the pool and not take a chance that he might be outside by himself. Please learn from our mistake that almost cost Chocolate Chip his life.”

Some veterinary practices offer urgent care services to animals who need immediate help. Experienced pet owners advise that all animal lovers



Tara Tillotson, DVM, says that awareness is key to preventing summertime pet tragedies (photo courtesy of Desert Ark Veterinary Care of Arizona).

identify the closest urgent care center before the need arises. Post the numbers on your fridge or somewhere everyone in the household will see it. Put them into your phone.

“Take the same care of your animals that you do of your children and elders year ‘round,” said an experienced vet tech at a 24-hour emergency care facility in North Central. “It's so very sad to see animals suffering, and their owners are heartbroken when they realize they could have prevented the problem. Teach the little kids by your example, and stay vigilant during these hot days.”

Dr. T said that awareness is key, “But even the most devoted, heat-aware owner can make a mistake. Watch for excessive panting, drooling and being out of it. Prevention is so important, but if your pet starts to act disoriented, off balance, panting, vomiting or having diarrhea, get help immediately.”

Find more summer pet safety tips online at [www.azhumane.org/heat-safety-tips-for-pets](http://www.azhumane.org/heat-safety-tips-for-pets).

**Connect with your councilmember**

Vice mayor and District 3 councilwoman Debra Stark will hold a community chat event Tuesday, June 18, at Sunnyslope Community Center, 802 E. Vogel Ave.

The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. and feature a guest speaker from the Phoenix Public Works Department who will make a presentation on the new appointment based bulk trash collection program.

To RSVP, send an email to [council.district.3@phoenix.gov](mailto:council.district.3@phoenix.gov). For additional information, contact Stark's office at 602-262-7441.



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### COMMUNITY

#### LEGACY continued from page 1

around Arizona, seashells, tile, and even colorful shards of Fiestaaware, blue Bromo-Seltzer bottles (provided by a neighbor who was a nurse), and dozens of other unique found objects.

The visionary environment depicts everything from the Seattle Space Needle, Dutch windmills and Native American cliff dwellings to dozens of quirky human forms – many of their faces created by pouring concrete into 1950s Halloween masks – along with dozens of arches, fountains, tables and other forms that themselves house creative figures.

Grover Thompson died Oct. 27, 1977, eight months after Nancy, and his artistic endeavor may well have been destroyed if not for an NYU art history student who happened to be visiting her parents in 1978.

Blake recalled, “When I saw this, oh my gosh! My parents had a little hideaway out in the desert, and while they were building it, they had stayed somewhere around here, and in the evening when they would take a walk, they happened to come by this place. When I came to visit them, they took me here, right from the airport. They said, ‘you have to see this.’ It was for sale, and I was in love with it! I mean, there was no question. If I could possibly afford it, I had to have it.”

From an artistic standpoint, Blake, who is a retired teacher, said, “[Thompson] was very sensitive to color and shape and form, even though he had no artistic training. He was in construction. So, he knew about vertical structures, he could make forms, he could cast the concrete – like those curved supports for the Space Needle – he had great skill to be able to do that.”

Beyond just the personal enjoyment that she derived from the property, from the get-go, she wanted to preserve the garden and hoped that others would recognize its value.

“It really meant a lot to me,” she tearfully reflected. “You know, it’s like a comma. It’s a small place, but in and of itself, it’s a jewel. And there are not a lot of places like this left.”

Blake began her efforts to obtain historic recognition of the garden in the mid-80s, and submitted an application to gain Phoenix historic status for the property in 1992, but the application was rejected by the Historic Preservation Office, mainly because the property was not yet 50 years old.

Now, with the help of Taggart, who is president at the Sunnyslope Historical Society and Museum, another push is being made for not only historic status, which Taggart explains will still not protect the garden from demolition should it change hands, but for a conservation easement.

In Phoenix, a conservation easement, which is tied directly to grant funding, usually ranges from 15 to 40 years, says Helana Ruter, a historic preservation officer with the city of Phoenix, and provides a greater level of oversight of modifications to historic buildings.

Ruter adds that the grants are typically geared towards exterior rehabilitation and maintenance of buildings, although the easement would be recorded on the property as a whole.

“This is an interesting one,” she said. “The significance lies more with the rock garden than the building on the property.”

The application is currently in review with the Historic Preservation office as they conduct a formal determination of eligibility, which should take about 30 days. If accepted, the application will then follow the public process, with neighborhood notification and a three- four-month long schedule of public meetings. While that process unfolds, residents are encouraged to show up at the Historic Preservation Commission meetings (the next one is June 17) or send a letter in support of preserving the Sunnyslope Rock Garden.

“It’s good to start this process ahead of time and make sure that the city knows what we value as well as let developers know what we value here in Phoenix and our communities – before they’re in jeopardy,” Taggart said. “We’re always making history, but sometimes we’re not preserving the history we have.”

Once the weather cools, Taggart hopes to schedule a public tour of the garden so that others can learn about its history. “It’s not just a beautiful art piece,” she said. “There is a memory to it.”

Blake added that the space is deserving of appreciation and preservation, “There’s something very, very precious about it. It’s important and it’s something that is unique.”

In the meantime, Thompson’s artistic endeavor continues to capture the hearts and imagination of Sunnyslope neighbors and out-of-town visitors alike, and if Blake and Taggart are successful, it will continue to do so for many more decades to come.



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A former trailer park lot on Highland Avenue awaits its next incarnation as a mixed-use development with office, commercial and multifamily residential uses (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

## Wonderview moves to planning

By Kathryn M. Miller

At the May 7 meeting of the Camelback East Village Planning Committee, members heard the Wonderview at Highland Planned Unit Development rezoning case (number Z-79-23-4), which they subsequently approved by a vote of 17-0.

The project consists of 2.49 acres located at the southwest corner of 14th Place and Highland Avenue – formerly the 1950s era Wonder View Trailer Park – that will be redeveloped as a mixed-use development with three two-story office and commercial buildings near Highland Avenue and 34 one- and two-story residential units toward the southern portion of the site, which ends at Meadowbrook Avenue. Single-story duplexes will be built along 14th Place, with the two-story residences on the west side of the property. William Allison with Withey, Morris, Baugh, PLC, speaking for the developer, Venue Projects, stated that prospective commercial tenants include a nonprofit, a community bank and a small market or coffee shop.

One resident concern raised was that of an adjacent property owner who requires access to an irrigation ditch along the property's western boundary. VPC chair Jay Swart asked committee member Barry Paceley, who works with SRP, to work with the developer to make certain that the resident maintains the required access as

the development progresses.

The Phoenix Planning Commission will consider the case June 6; it will then go to Council July 1 for final approval.

## New movement to revitalize park

After thousands of new residential units were approved for development along Central Avenue in the last year or two, a new citizen-led effort is underway with the intention of preparing a proactive plan for the revitalization of Steele Indian School Park.

After the May 13 general meeting of the Carnation Association of Neighbors (CAN), area resident Jeremy Thacker presented an outline of possible improvements that would make the park more accessible and functional for current residents, as well as help it grow along with future development. The park is located at 300 E. Indian School Road, and roughly 3,000 new residential units are planned near the park, mostly along Central Avenue between Indian School and Camelback roads.

The presentation was a precursor to the first meeting of CRISP (Coalition to Redesign Steele Indian School Park), which will be held Thursday, June 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the park's Memorial Hall. Area residents who would like to join the conversation are invited to attend the meeting. Visit [strongtowns.phx.org/initiatives/steele-indian-school-park](http://strongtowns.phx.org/initiatives/steele-indian-school-park) to see the May 13 presentation or find additional information.



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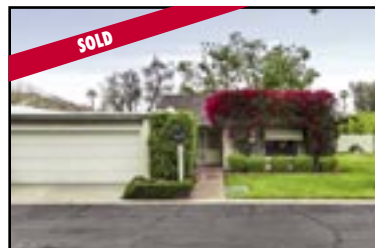
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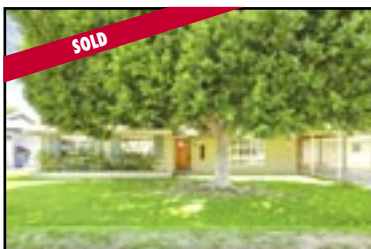
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COMMUNITY

## Bulk trash switches to appointment-based

On May 15, after a presentation at the City Council's Transportation, Infrastructure and Planning Subcommittee meeting, the city of Phoenix Public Works Department announced that it is changing the way bulk trash is collected beginning Sept. 30. The new program will offer residents the ability to schedule their own bulk trash collection using an online portal, rather than waiting for quarterly bulk trash pickup during the dates assigned to their area.

Under the current bulk trash program, Public Works lays out a collection schedule for the entire year for 13 different regions across the city, giving each region four designated collection periods annually.

With the new program, residents will schedule a pickup date online. The portal will offer available collection dates based on the customer's address. Upon selecting a date, customers will get a text confirmation and can then begin to place their bulky items at the edge of their property no more than seven days ahead of their pickup appointment – a change from the previous nine-day window. Customers will be allowed up to 10 cubic yards of trash per collection (approximately 17 ft. x 4 ft. x 4 ft.) – a change from the prior 20 cubic yards allowed.

What else is different? The new program will do away with bulk trash collection in alleys, everything will now be picked up curbside.

A spokesperson for the department said that, "In unique property situations where it's not feasible to place piles at the front edge of the property, Public Works will educate customers on a case-by-case basis on where their pile should be placed."

Residents should also be aware that, currently, placing trash in an alley outside of collection time is considered illegal dumping.

"Once bulk trash alley collection ends, any placement of trash piles in alleys will be considered illegal dumping and enforcement efforts can be made," the spokesperson added. "Residents are always encouraged to call Crime Stop at 602-262-6151 if they see illegal dumping in the act. To report illegal dumping after the fact, they can contact Public Works at 602-262-6251 and we will begin a field investigation."

Residents can begin scheduling

bulk trash appointments online using myPHX311 Friday, Aug. 30, with the first available day of bulk trash by appointment Sept. 30. Residents can also call the Public Works Department at 602-262-6251 up to four weeks in advance to schedule an appointment. For additional information, visit [www.phoenix.gov/publicworks/bulktrash](http://www.phoenix.gov/publicworks/bulktrash).

## Popular trails close on heat warning days

Phoenix hit its first 100-degree milestone on April 21, which is why once again this summer, three popular city of Phoenix hiking trails will close during extremely hot days.

On days when the National Weather Service issues an Excessive Heat Warning, all trails associated with Piestewa Peak Trailhead in the Phoenix Mountains Preserve and Camelback Mountain's Echo and Cholla Trails will close from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

During Excessive Heat Warnings, trail access is limited, parking lot gates will be closed, and signage will be posted. Closure information will be posted on the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department's website and social media accounts, and to local resorts and hotels. Additionally, Phoenix Park Rangers will be visible at those locations to remind and educate trail users about the restrictions.

During the Valley's warm weather months, and regardless of whether an Excessive Heat Watch is in effect, it is recommended that trail users hike during the early morning or evening hours when it is cooler and there is more shade.

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

There are more than 200 miles of open trails within Phoenix. For location information and additional tips on summer hiking safety, visit [www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails](http://www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails).



COMMUNITY

## Shuttered pub makes way for dealership

By Kathryn M. Miller

It had a solid 20-year run, but Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, which closed its doors in September 2022, was reduced to a pile of rubble in May to make way for a Chapman BMW display lot.

At the May 7 meeting of the Camelback East Village Planning Committee (VPC), members were presented with a request to rezone two parcels, located at 901 and 906 E. Camelback Road, to accommodate an expansion of the adjacent BMW display lot (rezoning cases Z-26-24-6 and Z-SP-7-23-6). Chapman purchased the property in June 2023 after the pub's 2022 closure, and a demolition request was posted in February and the permit was issued in April of this year.

At the meeting, no residents spoke in opposition of rezoning the property, but during the rezoning process, representatives from adjacent townhome communities used the opportunity to work with Chapman to address various street parking issues that they have



By May 15, Rosie McCaffrey's Irish Pub, which opened in 2002 and closed in September 2022, was rubble. It will be replaced by an auto display lot (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

encountered. Both representatives and the committee chair praised the Chapman team for their willingness to hear and address the neighborhood's concerns.

After discussion, the VPC unanimously approved the rezoning requests, which will be presented to the Planning

Commission on June 6 and the Phoenix City Council on July 1.

## Center hosts coffee events, more

Located near 7th Street and Thunderbird Road, North Mountain

Visitor Center (NMVC) offers a little bit of everything: hiking and nature information, a gift shop, book shop, snack bar, exhibit hall, and reading room filled with desert-themed children's books and toys. The facility is also an event venue where residents can book a party or meeting.

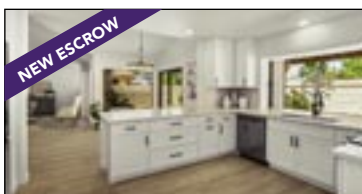
NMVC also hosts regular informational events and Coffee House Saturday events, held once a month and featuring free coffee, now courtesy of sponsor Serafina Coffee Roasters, along with live music. The next Coffee House event will be held Saturday, June 15, 9-11 a.m.

Save Our Mountains Foundation operates NMVC, located at 12950 N. 7th St., in collaboration with the city of Phoenix, Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council and Central Arizona Mountain Rescue Association. The center is open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., seven days a week. The hours are subject to change, depending on volunteer availability.

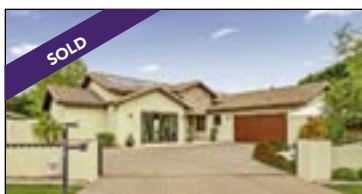
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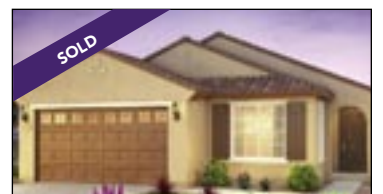
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COMMUNITY



A resident enjoyed fishing in the newly improved lake at Roadrunner Park in May (photo courtesy of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department).

## Roadrunner Park gets upgrade

Just in time for summer recreation, Roadrunner Park, 3502 E. Cactus Road, is boasting some major improvements, which were celebrated by the city of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department at a Friday, May 10, ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The park underwent major renovations to the lake, restrooms and parking lot, staff said. The lake was completely renovated, which included making a more suitable environment for fish, constructing three fishing docks and improving the walkways around the lake. The restrooms were completely renovated and made to be ADA accessible. The basketball and hard volleyball courts were resurfaced, and the sand volleyball court was renovated. In addition, the park received a resurfaced parking lot, there is a new ramada, new lighting and dozens of newly planted trees.

For additional information, visit [www.phoenix.gov/parks](http://www.phoenix.gov/parks).

## Fireworks a nuisance for many

Pretty to look at but potentially terrifying to residents — human and animals alike — fireworks have become an ever-growing bone of contention in Phoenix.

As residents rang in the new year, the boom of aerial fireworks echoed across the city for hours, and many frustrated residents welcomed 2024 looking through the haze of smoke that settled in the Valley. Added to that, the sale and use of many fireworks is illegal in the city of Phoenix, but Arizona

State Law allows both — and that law supersedes municipal code.

Arizona Revised Statutes section 36-1606 (<https://www.azleg.gov/ars/36/01606.htm>) regulates when permissible fireworks can be bought, sold and used in Arizona. The sale of permissible consumer fireworks is allowed April 25-May 6, May 20-July 6, Dec. 10-Jan. 3 and two days before the first day of Diwali through the third day of Diwali, which varies and falls between mid-October and mid-November each year. The use of these fireworks is allowed May 4-6, June 24-July 6, Dec. 26-Jan. 3, and the second and third days of Diwali each year.

In addition, the use of fireworks is prohibited between the hours of 11 p.m. and 8 a.m., except for New Year’s Eve, between 11 p.m. Dec. 31 and 1 a.m. Jan. 1, and between the hours of 11 p.m. on July 4 through 1 a.m. on July 5 of each year.

Beyond the noise, the danger of fire is real. The Phoenix Fire Department reported that the average fire call volume increased 161 percent from Dec. 30, 2023, to Jan. 1, 2024. Before 2010, fireworks were illegal. On July 4, 2009, the Fire Department responded to 17 fire incidents versus 176 fire incidents on July 4, 2023, a 935 percent increase.

A petition was launched in 2019 that calls for a ban of consumer fireworks, citing a variety of issues ([www.change.org/p/doug-ducey-ban-consumer-fireworks-in-az](http://www.change.org/p/doug-ducey-ban-consumer-fireworks-in-az)). Concerned residents can also contact members of the state legislature and ask them to repeal the law allowing the sale and use of fireworks.

Find a list of permissible fireworks at [www.phoenix.gov/fire/safety-information/fire-safety/fireworks](http://www.phoenix.gov/fire/safety-information/fire-safety/fireworks).



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COMMUNITY

## Museum hosts Juneteenth Festival

Valley residents are invited to celebrate Juneteenth at one of Phoenix's only remaining Black historic landmarks, the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, for their inaugural Juneteenth Festival, scheduled for June 15, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Commemorate Juneteenth's legacy of community empowerment through the celebration of Black history, music, culture and tradition. Explore Carver's historic halls and enjoy family-friendly performances, arts and crafts, vendor and community booths and delicious food.

In addition, guests can view a special preview of the museum's newest exhibit, "Jubilee Journey: Celebrating Freedom and Resilience in Arizona." The exhibit explores the rich tapestry of Arizona's civil rights battles and victories, honoring the local heroes whose tireless efforts have shaped shared heritage. Funded by Arizona Humanities, the exhibit pays homage to the myriad individuals who have convened here to pursue freedom and equality and invites viewers to



The George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center will host an inaugural Juneteenth Festival in June (photo courtesy of the museum)

immerse themselves in a journey of exploration, engagement, and reflection on the pivotal role of Juneteenth and Arizona's ongoing quest for civil rights.

Festival admission is free and open to all. Registration is encouraged. The George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center is located at 415 E. Grant St. in Phoenix. For additional information, visit [www.carveraz.org](http://www.carveraz.org).

## Church updates governing language

During the general conference gathering of the United Methodist Church in April, language hindering ministry among LGBTQ+ people was removed from governing documents that have been in place for over 40 years, First United Methodist Church

of Phoenix leadership announced.

Delegates of the lawmaking assembly voted in favor 667 to 54 to remove bans against "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy and the performing of same-sex marriages. One United Methodist minister attending General Conference in North Carolina said, "With the approval and acceptance of these things, we're beginning to see the unwinding, unraveling, dismantling of the heterosexism, the homophobia, the hurt and the harm of the United Methodist Church."

A statement provided by the local church leadership read, "First Church of Phoenix is an open and affirming United Methodist Church that celebrates this landmark move that further supports their vision to be an inclusive community of faith for anyone and invites you to join in their pride of a new day."

First UMC of Phoenix worships Sundays, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., at 5510 N. Central Ave. Learn more at [www.firstchurch.church](http://www.firstchurch.church).

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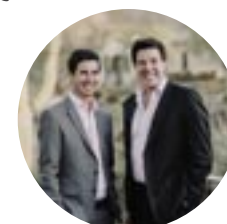
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\* Source of data: ARMLS & The Cromford Report for single-family dwellings.

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As I write this, my youngest son, Carter, will graduate in a few weeks from Brophy College Preparatory. We're looking forward to all the celebrations and are excited for his growth as he moves forward in college.

I am trying to stay present these last few weeks so I can experience all the feelings that come with the ending of one journey and the beginning of another. The Brophy and St. Francis communities have been a constant presence in both of our boys' lives and our family's for the last 22 years. **The community's profound impact on our family can never be understated.** The partnership they provided in helping us raise our boys as "men for others" and the friendships we've made are life-lasting. The gratitude and love we have for all those that impacted us in such wonderful and selfless ways can never be repaid. Thank you for all that you have done for the Herschede Family! **To Carter, we love you, and congrats to all 2024 graduates!**

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COMMUNITY

### Pet of the Month Sweet Snuggles loves a good cuddle

It may come as a huge surprise that adorable little Snuggles got her name due to her huge love of...snuggles. And what may not come as a surprise is that the six-year-young Chihuahua has remained so sweet even after making her way to the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) earlier this year due to being treated cruelly.

Snuggles was rescued by AHS Cruelty Investigators in April of this year after she was sadly abandoned in a park. Just one call out of almost 15,000 that the shelter's field team receives for pets in need of help, this little girl was treated in AHS' trauma hospital for tummy and dental issues.

Now that she has made a full recovery, Snuggles would prefer a home where she is the only pup due to her shy nature and the fact that she prefers all of the attention on her cute self. Though the gray-faced pup needs a little patience at first, she quickly shows how big her heart is by cuddling with her favorite people.



Shy, six-year-old Snuggles is a Chihuahua who has retained her sweetness despite being neglected and abandoned by her previous human (photo courtesy of AHS).

Interested adopters can meet sweet Snuggles (pet number 771530) at AHS' South Mountain location. Her adoption fee includes her spay surgery, current vaccinations, a microchip, and a follow-up wellness exam with a VCA Animal Hospital. Visit [www.azhumane.org/adopt](http://www.azhumane.org/adopt) for more information.

### County's East Valley shelter moves

After years in the works, the new Maricopa County East Valley Shelter opened its doors to the public in May.

The county says that the new shelter is more than just a building. It was designed to put animal health and well-being first and is aligned with the Association of Shelter Veterinarians Standards of Care Guidelines to provide a better overall experience for dogs, staff, volunteers, and the public.

With 346 kennels and 21 play yards, the design features a large, angled layout that prevents overstimulation, keeps dogs relaxed and lowers noise levels. The campus also features a yard with enrichment activities, a state-of-the-art veterinary clinic and a separate clinic isolation area to proactively stop the spread of disease.

"In 2023, MCACC served more than 16,000 pets, and in 2024, we are on track to serve just as many, if not more," said Maricopa County Animal Care and Control (MCACC) director, Debbie McKnight. "This new facility will make a drastic difference in the quality of care our staff and volunteers can provide."

The new facility at 1920 S. Lewis in Mesa replaces the old East Valley shelter location at Loop 101 and Rio

Salado Parkway, which closed its doors permanently in April. For more information, visit [www.maricopa.gov/pets](http://www.maricopa.gov/pets).

### Take a walk for shelter cats

Now through June 30, Valley residents can walk their dog to help feed shelter cats residing at Arizona Humane Society (AHS).

To participate, simply download the WoofTrax app, register and track your walks. With every step, you'll help provide meals for hungry kittens in the AHS's Bottle Baby ICU.

To download the free app, visit [www.wooftrax.com](http://www.wooftrax.com), then select the AHS as the charity of choice. Enter your pet's information (do not skip this step to ensure your walks are counted) and log every walk you take on WoofTrax through June 30 to earn a meal for AHS' Bottle Baby ICU.

The more residents walk, the more homeless pets they can help. If you're a cat owner whose feline friend stays indoors, the program will count both walks with and without a pet as long as they're logged in the app. Also, be sure to consider AHS' summer pet safety tips before heading out with your four-legged family member. Visit [www.azhumane.org/heat-safety-tips-for-pets](http://www.azhumane.org/heat-safety-tips-for-pets).

### Put compassion into action

The Arizona Humane Society's (AHS) new, centrally-located Rob & Melani Walton Papago Park Campus will host summer camp opportunities in June and July for residents ages 5 to 17.

The summer camps aim to inspire young animal enthusiasts by integrating STEAM principles and fostering meaningful interactions with the organization's animal teachers. Whether a child dreams of becoming a veterinarian, animal rescuer, wildlife rehabilitator or champion for all living beings, AHS offers tailored programs to suit their passions.

For neurodivergent youth, consider the fun-filled Pawsitive Service Camp also occurring this summer. During this session, exceptional teens ages 14-17 will have the chance to develop new skills, gain hands-on experience and even accrue service hours to help enhance college applications.

For additional details, visit [www.azhumane.org/youth-camps](http://www.azhumane.org/youth-camps).

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

### District creates space for diverse cultures

By Kathryn M. Miller

In late April, the Arizona Asian Chamber, in partnership with the city of Phoenix and others, celebrated the launch of the International District by bringing back its Night Market event to the Phoenix area. The event, held April 26-27 at the 19th Avenue and Camelback Road Valley Metro Park-and-Ride, was the first of what they hope will be many celebrations of the diverse cultural fabric of the area.

“So many of us come from immigrant families, which has this story of sacrifice and perseverance. As well as working to ensure generational wealth and success and thriving for the next generation,” said Alexa-Rio Osaki, communications director for the chamber. “The reason why any culture or community has these kinds of celebrations is to honor and give thanks to those who came before us, but also to



District 4 Councilwoman Laura Pastor, front row center, joined representatives from the many diverse Asian communities at a Night Market event in late April (photo by J. Miller).

highlight our pride in our cultures.

“I think that we have to be intentional about celebrating every single day. But also, there has to be a space that is dedicated, that reflect the needs and resources of the communities.”

Which is where the International District comes in.

“The vision started with the community,” said District 4 Councilwoman Laura Pastor. “The Urban Land Institute organized a planning session

with District 4 and the community in 2021. One finding of this study was the depth and diversity of the people and businesses that are in that area. They decided the best outcome would be to create the International District to celebrate the diversity present there.”

The purpose of the establishing the district is to highlight local businesses that contribute culturally and economically to Phoenix, Pastor said.

“Establishing this district was incredibly important to me because these businesses have done so much for us — it’s about time we give them the recognition they deserve and potentially bring more business through their doors.”

The councilwoman added that the area has historically welcomed a large population of refugees and immigrants, and more than 43 languages are spoken within a three-mile radius of the International District, the boundaries of which run from Campbell Avenue north to Montebello Avenue and from 7th Avenue, west to the I-17.

“The International District is a celebration of all these cultural diversities,” added Osaki. “But also, it’s an opportunity where the community can grow and thrive together. It’s community support and people support, ensuring that we are the ones creating a sustainable economy for ourselves. Even though we are the Asian chamber, we work in harmony with so many other cultures. So really, it’s the reflection of just all these communities coming together.”

District 4 is working with the city of Phoenix Community and Economic Development (CED), Planning and Development and Neighborhood Services departments, and the next step is to work on branding and physical signage for the area, “We are working with CED to see what the brand will look like; physical signage, art, marketing materials, and maps. That effort will officially begin in June and continue over the summer,” Pastor said.

And residents can look forward to more events once temperatures cool down in the fall. Stay up-to-date on social media – on Instagram @internationaldistrictphx, @azasianchamber or @phxdistrict4 – or subscribe to the District 4 newsletter at www.phoenix.gov/district4.

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

## Business Briefs

### Spencers celebrates 4 million customers

In May, Spencers TV & Appliance celebrated a major milestone in its 52-year history: welcoming its four millionth customer. This significant achievement was celebrated between President’s Day and May 10 with a series of events and giveaways at all its Valley locations.

Since opening its doors in downtown Mesa, the retailer has grown to become a trusted name in Arizona for home appliances TV, and Mattresses expanding to 11 locations in the Valley, including the one at 2102 E. Camelback Road. The company says that the growth reflects its “unwavering commitment to customer satisfaction and its dedication to providing high-quality products and exceptional service.”

To commemorate this milestone, the company gave away a \$10,000 GE Cafe Kitchen to one lucky customer. Additionally, other customers who participated in the event had the chance to win prizes, including an 80” Smart TV and a Simmons Beautyrest Mattress.



Rick Biederbeck, president of Spencers TV & Appliance (pictured on far left) joined winners of the retailer’s recent 4-millionth customer giveaway celebration (submitted photo).

“We are incredibly grateful to our loyal customers for their support over the years,” said Rick Biederbeck, president of Spencers, “Reaching four million customers is a testament to our commitment to providing top-notch products and exceptional service. We look forward to continuing to serve our community for many more years to come.”

For more information, visit [www.spencerstv.com](http://www.spencerstv.com).

### Salon under new ownership

Salon Surreal has been a fixture in North Central Phoenix since it first opened in 1992. For the past 30 plus years, the award-winning salon has served the hair and skin care needs of the community, and they will continue to do so in a new location.

The business recently moved from its 16th Street and Glendale Avenue

location to 1259 E. Northern Ave.

“I am the third and most recent owner of Salon Surreal, after purchasing the business in February from previous owner Suzy Noren,” Kristen Hansen said. “We have 15 talented hair stylists who see clients ranging from ages one to 100.”

Hansen says that the team has a variety of specialties – precision cuts for women and men, blonding, creative and traditional hair color, hair extensions, perms and even wig styling. The salon is associated with Uptown Medispa for skin care and medical aesthetics. “We have two incredible licensed aestheticians, and two registered nurse injectors,” Hansen added.

The community can check out the newly remodeled space at a grand reopening open house event, Friday, June 28. Community members can stop by throughout the day and enter to win a free cut, color and home care kit. Raffle ticket proceeds will benefit the Assistance League of Arizona. There will be a ribbon cutting and reception at 7 p.m.

For salon hours and other information, call 602-870-9190 or visit [www.salonsurreal.com](http://www.salonsurreal.com).

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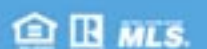
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**TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS**



Kitchen Tune-Up, Central Valley, and its sister franchises in Maricopa County created a new studio kitchen set for Arizona’s Family 3TV and CBS5 (photo courtesy of Kitchen Tune-Up).

**Local remodeler updates TV kitchen set**

When Arizona’s Family 3TV and CBS 5 needed to revamp its studio kitchen set recently, it turned to Kitchen Tune-Up of Phoenix, Central Valley. The local news outlet needed a set that not only looked great on camera but also functioned seamlessly for their daily broadcasts. That’s where Kitchen Tune-Up, in collaboration with its sister franchises in Maricopa County, stepped in to take on the challenge

Known for creating stunning yet practical kitchen spaces, the Kitchen Tune-Up team worked closely with Arizona’s Family in brainstorming ideas and selecting the perfect materials. The updated kitchen design included new countertops and backsplash, the addition of a sink, expanded island cabinetry and modern kitchen cabinet accessories. Whether it’s cooking demonstrations, interviews, or interactive segments, this versatile space is now ready to shine on screen.

"This project presented unique challenges given the nature of remodeling under studio conditions, and we are thrilled with our team’s ability to overcome those challenges and deliver a superior end result," said Eric Warbasse, co-owner of Kitchen Tune-Up of Phoenix, Central Valley, and a North Central resident for more than a decade.

Read the full story and see video segments at [https://www.azfamily.com/sponsored/kitchen-tune-up/arizonas-](https://www.azfamily.com/sponsored/kitchen-tune-up/arizonas-family-is-getting-new-kitchen-set-with-running-water/)

[family-is-getting-new-kitchen-set-with-running-water/](https://www.azfamily.com/sponsored/kitchen-tune-up/arizonas-family-is-getting-new-kitchen-set-with-running-water/).

For more information about their services, contact Kitchen Tune-Up at [kitchentuneup.com](http://kitchentuneup.com) or 602-848-3240

**Chamber opens Athena nominations**

Celebrating its 37th anniversary, the Greater Phoenix Chamber is once again seeking nominations for its ATHENA Awards program.

The program recognizes and celebrates the achievements of businesswomen across the Greater Phoenix region. The ATHENA Award, an internationally prized honor, that each year highlights three women at the top of their field, who demonstrate inspiring leadership within their industry, mentor future women leaders throughout their career, and dedicate themselves to the community.

To nominate the leader or rising star in your company, visit [www.phoenixchamber.com](http://www.phoenixchamber.com) and find a link under “Signature Events.” Nominations are due June 21 by 5 p.m. Over the years, the awards have honored nearly 70 women as ATHENAs. An awards luncheon will be held Thursday, Oct. 25 at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge, where the winners will be celebrated alongside numerous finalists and nominees, showcasing the best in Valley businesswomen.

For more information, send an email to [athena@phoenixchamber.com](mailto:athena@phoenixchamber.com) or call 602-495-6465.



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## HONOR THEIR LEGACY

Reflecting on June, and my deep gratitude for the opportunities my family has realized would be for not – as we owe much recognition to the existence of the courageous men and women of WWII. Their sacrifices, now fading from living memory, shaped the world we inhabit today. My father, Herb Lieb, who landed on Normandy's shores on D-Day, embodied that bravery. Despite the risks, he led his men with valor, ensuring their safety amidst the chaos of battle. I can only imagine the fear and uncertainty he must have faced as he watched boats taking fire and comrades perishing. He mentioned very little about this time to us. Yet, his leadership and quick thinking saved lives, guiding his Higgins Boat to a safer landing closer to the beach. Their triumph on that fateful day marked the beginning of the end for tyranny and oppression. In the face of current global unrest, let's honor their legacy by coming together in gratitude for their selflessness and unity. To those extraordinary heroes, we owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude.

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<b>345 E OCOTILLO RD</b>	<b>\$2,340,000</b>	<b>7117 N 13TH PL</b>	<b>\$825,000*</b>
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SCHOOL DAYS



Art students from Washington High School joined Abrazo Central Campus CEO Greg Pearson in dedicating a new gallery featuring their work at the North Central Phoenix hospital (submitted photo).

### Hospital creates space for student art display

Washington High School recently partnered with Abrazo Health to establish a permanent art display for the student art program at Abrazo Central Campus. Student artists, family members, teachers and hospital officials dedicated the gallery as part of the hospital's ongoing 60th anniversary celebration in May.

"As the longtime community hospital in North Central Phoenix, we strive to have meaningful relationships with our neighbors and support education," said Abrazo Central Campus CEO Greg Pearson. "We look forward to enjoying the art in this gallery for many years to come."

The gallery showcases student art on a rotating basis in collaboration with Washington High School and Glendale Union High School District. The school is located just a few blocks away from the hospital at 2217 W. Glendale Ave.

"We do our best to facilitate the growth of our students, both artistically and as young adults, and having the opportunity to showcase their talents to the wider community is an incredible opportunity," noted Amanda Kinzinger, who teaches 3D Art at Washington High School.

"This new gallery is going to give artistically inclined students a tangible

experience for how their efforts impact community and how that community can, in return, support their pursuits," added Jessica Carroll, who teaches 2D Art at Washington High School.

Hospital officials said they enjoyed meeting the student artists to hear about the inspiration for their art.

"It was nice to meet the artists and hear the stories behind their creations," said Michelle Henderson, chief nursing officer at the Central Campus. "We are blessed to have their artwork displayed in the hallways of the hospital, where now the art of high school students and the art of healthcare intersect."

The Abrazo Central Campus is located at 2000 W. Bethany Home Road. Learn more at [www.abrazo-health.com](http://www.abrazo-health.com) or [www.guhsdaz.org](http://www.guhsdaz.org).

### School Briefs

#### GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT GUHSD schools ranked among Best for 2024

Since 2007, all nine Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) schools have ranked on *U.S. News & World Report* for Best High Schools, and this year is no different.

Nearly 17,660 schools out of 25,000 were ranked on six factors based on their performance on state assess-

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SCHOOL DAYS

ments and how well they prepare students for college. The district congratulated Apollo, Cortez, Glendale, Greenway, Independence, Moon Valley, Sunnyslope, Thunderbird and Washington for their outstanding work.

Senior earns academy appointment

Sunnyslope High School senior Cooper Shillington has earned an appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

This prestigious accomplishment involved review from the selection committee; among the criteria, Shillington had to receive a nomination from his representative from the U.S. House of Representatives. Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ) was allotted only one spot to nominate a candidate for the academy, and Shillington was his choice.



Cooper Shillington

District recognizes retiring employees

Glendale Union High School District 25-Year and Retiree employees, including teachers, administrators, and support staff members, were honored at the district's annual 25-Year and Retiree Recognition Reception.

GUHSD governing board members, Superintendent Brian Capistran, district administrators, and this year's retirees all

gathered at the district office to recognize 34 retirees and 43 25-year employees for their outstanding contributions to their schools and the school community.

Student receives \$100K in scholarships

Washington High School senior Ramsey Thompson has accrued over \$100,000 in scholarships so far.

Thompson is one of only five students in Arizona to win the Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship worth \$40,000, which includes a paid internship with Amazon. In addition, he has received \$64,000 from Arizona State University New American University, \$10,000 from the Horatio Alger Danny Sanford Scholarship for Arizona State University, and \$3,000 from the Team 24 Athlete Scholarship.



Ramsey Thompson

Coaches inducted into Hall of Fame

Sunnyslope High School coaches Sarah Schlesinger and Amber Geer were inducted into the Arizona High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame.

Schlesinger has a career win percentage of 86 percent with four Badminton State Championships, three second place finishes, and 15 region titles. Geer has nine Volleyball

please see COACHES on page 30

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## SCHOOL DAYS



Staff at Madison Rose Lane celebrated being named a “School of the Year” by Discovery Education (photo courtesy of Madison School District).

### COACHES continued from page 29

State Championships, two second place finishes, and 15 region titles. The coaches became the sixth and seventh Sunnyslope coaches to receive the honor at the 40th annual ceremony.

### MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### School receives Discovery award

Madison Rose Lane Elementary School is one of two schools named “School of the Year” by Discovery Education. The Discovery Education awards honor districts, schools and educators who accelerate achievement among students by tapping into their natural curiosity and desire to learn and have impacted student learning by adapting and personalizing instruction to better pique curiosity and engagement.

Recipients were selected through a competitive nomination and application process, which highlighted the participating districts’, schools’ and educators’ commitment to fostering student growth.

Through its “edtech,” Discovery Education helps educators deliver equitable learning experiences engaging all students and supporting higher academic achievement. The company serves approximately 4.5 million educators and 45 million students worldwide.

#### Free meals offered over summer break

This summer, Madison School District will offer the Summer Food Service Program, which provides free

meals to all children ages 18 and under. This program is in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Meals are provided at no charge and are the same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service.

Meals will be available at three locations. Madison Rose Lane Elementary School, 1155 E. Rose Lane, will offer breakfast from 7:45 to 8:15 a.m. and lunch from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, June 3-July 26. Madison Traditional Academy, 925 E. Maryland Ave., will offer breakfast from 7:45 to 8:15 a.m. and lunch from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., Monday through Friday, June 3- July 26. Madison Park Middle School, 1431 E. Campbell Ave., will offer breakfast from 7:30 to 7:50 a.m. and lunch from 11 a.m. to noon, Monday through Thursday, June 3-27.

All locations will be closed June 19 and July 4 for the Juneteenth and Independence Day holidays, respectively. Learn more at [www.madisonaz.org](http://www.madisonaz.org).

#### District ranks in Top 10

Madison School District was named number two in the annual “Ranking Arizona” list for the Top 10 Arizona elementary school districts. Each year, AZ Big Media publishes “Ranking Arizona,” the largest business opinion poll in Arizona, to determine the top businesses and organizations that people want to do business with across various industries and categories.

*please see RANKS on page 32*

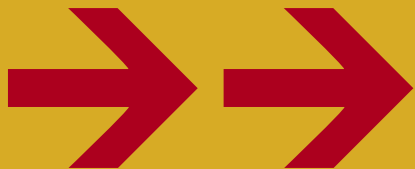


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PHOENIX  
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UNION  
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



SCHOOL DAYS

**RANKS** *continued from page 30*

The district serves students in preschool through eighth grade and offers a variety of signature programs to allow students to explore their interests, learn, grow and succeed.

**OSBORN SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Osborn cultivates green future**

Osborn’s six school campuses got a bit of a glow-up over the last month with more than 100 trees making their debut across the district.

Hundreds of students, staff members, parents and community volunteers came together to bring this project to life under the guidance of the experts at AZ Trees Matter.

**District to offer free summer meals**

The Osborn School District announced the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program for children. Meals will be provided to all



Principal Seth Beute, center, was surprised with an award recognizing his leadership at Phoenix Coding Academy (photo courtesy of PXU).

children, ages 18 and under, without charge and are the same for all children – there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service.

Meals will be provided at Longview School, 1209 E. Indian School Road, June 3-27. Breakfast will be served 8:15-8:45 a.m.; lunch will be served 12:30-1 p.m. For additional information, call 602-707-2000 or visit [www.osbornnet.org](http://www.osbornnet.org).

**PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Coding principal is 'exemplary'**

In May, Seth Beute, principal at Phoenix Coding Academy, was awarded the prestigious Exemplary Principal Award from Steve Watson, Maricopa County School Superintendent.

Watson is recognizing leaders who

understand the connection between a thriving school culture and high levels of student achievement and teacher retention. These leaders intentionally and strategically nurture school environments where teacher and student voices set and realize the school's vision. They lead schools where students achieve academically and emotionally, and teachers are inspired to remain at the school and in the profession.

Award recipients undergo a rigorous evaluation that involves a superintendent nomination, application, teacher survey, video interview, site visit and extensive data review. Awards are then presented during a surprise event.

**Third graders receive college tuition promise**

At a May 7 event, families of the Camelback High School and Crockett Elementary community received some exciting news: the Rosztochy Foundation is promising every third-grade student at Crockett Elementary School that if they attend their local

*please see PROMISE on page 34*



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July 22nd – 25th • 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

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

## ***Women's Volleyball***

July 22nd – 25th • 8:00 am – 11:00 am

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

## ***Football***

July 8th – 25th • 8:00 am – 11:00 am

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

## ***Aerial Drones***

July 8th – 11th • 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

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

## ***Basketball***

July 22nd – 25th • 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

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

## ***VEX Robotics***

July 15th – 25th • 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

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

## ***Soccer***

July 8th – 25th • 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

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

## ***Pep Band***

July 22nd – 25th • 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

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

Registration forms available at [MadisonHighlandPrep.com/summer-camps](https://MadisonHighlandPrep.com/summer-camps)



MADISON  
HIGHLAND PREP  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA



## SCHOOL DAYS

**PROMISE continued from page 32**

public school and finish at Camelback High School, their college tuition will be paid for by the foundation ([www.rosztozyfoundation.com](http://www.rosztozyfoundation.com)).

At the event, more than 90 third graders and their families gathered to hear from Rob Rosztozy about the promise, and to make their commitment to finish high school and head to college. Crockett Principal Sean Hannefin, who helped coordinate the gift and the announcement event, also addressed those gathered.

**WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT****Free summer meals available**

The Washington Elementary School District (WESD) announced in May that it will provide free breakfast and lunch meals for children and teenagers up to 18 years old this summer.

Meals will be available Monday through Thursday until June 20 at all WESD schools including Desert View, Maryland, Moon Mountain, Mountain

View, Orangewood, Richard E. Miller, Royal Palm and Sunnyslope. No application or registration is needed. All meals must be consumed on-site.

To view specific times for each school, visit the WESD website at [www.wesdschools.org](http://www.wesdschools.org). For more information, contact the WESD Nutrition Services Department at 602-896-5235.

**District seeks feedback on curriculum**

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 provide feedback on these materials during the district's community dis-

play, now through July 8 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the WESD Administrative Center, located at 4650 W. Sweetwater Ave.

The Science Curriculum Adoption Committee also will host an open house on Monday, June 17, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the governing board room at the Administrative Center. Committee members will be present to answer questions about the materials. Spanish and Arabic translators will also be on-site.

**Enrollment is open for 2024-25**

Area students entering kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to enroll for the 2024-25 school year at WESD schools.

The district said, "Our dedicated teachers and staff help create learning environments where students are valued and supported. With multiple A+ Schools of Excellence, a National Blue Ribbon and a National Title I Distinguished School, the WESD is also proud to be a Top 20 school district in the country in student growth."

The district also accepts open enroll-

ment for students who live outside its boundaries and who wish to attend a WESD school. To learn more and enroll, visit [www.wesdschools.org/registration](http://www.wesdschools.org/registration).

**Miller Elementary School receives grant**

WESD congratulated Richard E. Miller Elementary School for being named a Play Ball Fund Grant recipient by the Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation.

Stephanie Qualm, speech language pathologist at Richard E. Miller, along with fourth grade student representative, Jeancarlo, accepted the \$1,000 award at a recent Diamondbacks game. Richard E. Miller plans to utilize the funds to begin a soccer program at the school, which Qualm will coach.

**PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS****Brophy honors distinguished seniors**

In April, Brophy College Preparatory honored 16 seniors from the Class of 2024 as spring Distinguished Students at a ceremony held at the school's Harper Great Hall. Brophy's Distinguished Students, also recognized in the fall, are selected by Brophy Prep faculty, coaching staff and counselors based not only on their exceptional academic and service achievements, but also for having grown to be model representatives of the enduring qualities of Brophy Prep's Jesuit-educated graduate at graduation: intellectually competent, open to growth, loving, religious and committed to doing justice.

Principal Jim Bopp and Dean of Student Support Services Austin Pidgeon presented the awards to students Zeid Arekat, Brandon Byrne, Nicolas Carter, Nathaniel Chavez, Connor Furey, Sean Kennedy, Shaan Keole, Minh Luu, Edison Martinez Estrada, Joshua Nunez Sandoval, Connor Oldani, Luke Roe, Leo Roth, Jacob Schoenhals, Juan Pablo Suarez Woolcott and Luis Villalpando.

Bopp told the students, "While your awards as distinguished students are a defining moment of your time here at Brophy, don't allow this to be the end. Your awards mark the beginning and are inspired by the words of St. Ignatius of Loyola, 'Go forth and set the world on fire.'"

# FUN AWAITS



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Honoring our fallen heroes on Memorial Day.

Thanks for the Memorial Day Flag **BLONDIE!**

**WOW!**

**BLONDIE & her Husband, Jacob** - passed out over 3,000 flags for Memorial Day 2024.

Thank you to the residents on East Lawrence Road, for sending me the nice "thank you" email last year. It's was very nice to hear that the flags were appreciated. See ya's next year!

We'll see you next year dear.

To give some background: My Husband, Jacob, served in the Marine Corps and was active duty when we met. Memorial Day is a Day that the Barkstrom-Ternes Household takes time to give thanks and remember the fallen and consider their families who have lost their loved ones in the line of duty. We thank you for accepting our flags. 2024 was the third year that we have been able to take the time to pass out flags to our North Central Neighbors.

If you have received a flag and would like to opt-out of receiving one next year, please send **BLONDIE** an email with your address and the request to opt-out.  
[BlondieRealtor@gmail.com](mailto:BlondieRealtor@gmail.com)

Thanks **BLONDIE!**

See you next year **BLONDIE!**

Hoping you had a nice Memorial Day Weekend!





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*Brian D. Dedinsky, M.D.*

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## SCHOOL DAYS

### Xavier senior named Obama Scholar

Xavier College Preparatory senior Angel Moreno Martin was named as an Obama Scholar – part of Arizona State University (ASU) Advantage Program. The Obama Scholars Program rewards outstanding academic achievement and is committed to making college affordable and accessible.

Martin will receive tuition and fees for up to four years to attend ASU. ASU is committed to providing opportunities for motivated, high-achieving students for whom a lack of financial resources is a barrier to higher education.



Martin is the first generation in her immediate family to attend college. She plans to major in civil engineering. Martin wants to work in the transportation sector when she graduates.

At Xavier, Martin took AutoCAD along with Xavier’s required computer science coding class. She is vice president of Xavier Young Vincentians Club and captain of the eSports team.

### Dorrance scholarship awarded to Xavier student

Xavier senior Ashley Valdivia Ruvalcaba received the distinguished Dorrance Scholarship to attend Arizona State University.

The scholarship is funded by the Dorrance Family Foundation and is a need-based award that aims to instill college-going traditions in future generations of Arizona families, to provide financial assistance and academic support for its recipients, and to enhance college persistence through unique enrichment experiences.



The program includes a \$12,000 scholarship per year for a total of four years. Ruvalcaba will attend a special summer program, and build camaraderie through international travel, innovation experience, and cultural enrichment events. The total program is valued at over \$100,000.

Ruvalcaba is the first generation in her family to attend college. Her counselor encouraged her to apply for the Dorrance Scholarship. She plans to major in biological sciences to become a physician’s assistant (PA). After graduating ASU, she wants to attend Creighton University or University of Arizona PA school.

At Xavier, Ruvalcaba was a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club, Spanish Club, and mountain biking.

### Student receives two engineering scholarships

Xavier College Preparatory senior M. J. Martinez will graduate with scholarships that will pay her entire college tuition and a paid internship with a prestigious technology company.

Martinez is the recipient of two major scholarships from well-known, private technology companies. The first, LinkedIn Possibilities in Tech Scholarship Program, a four-year experience designed to support the pursuit of a degree and a smooth transition into the workforce.



M.J. Martinez

Martinez joins a talented and diverse cohort of future tech leaders at LinkedIn. This is the second year of the program, and Martinez will receive up to \$40,000. She is the only student in Arizona to receive this scholarship.

She also is the recipient of the Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship in recognition of her hard work, resilience and commitment to computer science, engineering and robotics. She will receive a scholarship of up to \$40,000, which the company created to inspire and propel the next generation of innovators. In addition, Amazon offers scholars access to paid internships beginning after her freshman year of college.

Martinez has taken Advanced Placement (AP) computer science classes, is a member of Xavier’s Robotics Club, and the National Computer Science Honor Society. In 2024, she received an Honorable Mention Award from the National Center for Women & Information Technology. Martinez serves as the editor of *XPress*, Xavier’s award-winning student newspaper.





**GENERATIONS**

# Senior Living

## Raising awareness of elder abuse

By 2050, the number of Americans aged 65 and older is expected to see a 45 percent increase from 2022 numbers, which is bringing the health and safety of older adults into sharp focus. Elder abuse can be financial, emotional, physical and sexual. It also includes people who are neglected and those who neglect themselves (self-neglect). Social isolation, financial or emotional stress, and dementia can make a senior vulnerable to abuse.

The consequences of elder abuse are grave: older adults who are abused are twice as likely to be hospitalized, four times as likely to go into nursing homes, and three times as likely to die. While studies show that 60 percent of abusers are family members, abuse can happen in any setting: in the older adult's own home or a senior living community.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, or WEAAD, is an annual initiative launched June 15, 2006, by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization. WEAAD aims to provide opportunities for communities around the world to improve their understanding of the abuses experienced by older people by raising awareness of cultural, social, and economic processes and the demographics that affect them. Elder abuse is one of the least investigated types of violence and is not addressed in national action plans as often as other important social issues.

The United Nation's International Plan of Action has described elder abuse as a public health and human rights problem. Globally, the number of elderly people in the world is expected to be 1.4 billion by 2030. Research shows that four to six percent of older people suffer from some type of abuse, most of which go unreported. June 15 is a day to ensure that we stay focused on our elders, ensuring they lead a life of high quality and dignity.

If you suspect that a vulnerable adult is in danger of abuse, document the signs; call law enforcement at 9-1-1 if the abuse is severe or you suspect the person may be in danger of more harm;



The Valley's older residents can find answers and assistance by calling the Area Agency on Aging 24-hour help line (submitted photo).

and contact Adult Protective Services at 1-877-767-2385 or TDD: 1-877-815-8390 or report online at [www.azdes.gov/reportadultabuse](http://www.azdes.gov/reportadultabuse).

If you suspect abuse in a nursing home or other long-term care facility,

contact the Area Agency on Aging Long-Term Care Ombudsman at the 24-Hour Senior Help Line 602-264-4357 (HELP). For additional information and assistance, call the help line or visit [www.aaaphx.org](http://www.aaaphx.org).

### This month at city senior centers

City of Phoenix senior centers offer programming each month for the Valley's older residents. An annual membership fee of \$20 provides access to all 15 Phoenix senior centers for those who live in Phoenix. Non-residents can access the centers for \$40 per year.

At the Sunnyslope Senior Center, located at 802 E. Vogel, members will enjoy a Father's Day party June 5 at 10:30 a.m., a trip to Phoenix Art Museum at 10:45 a.m. June 12, and a special Mandarin buffet at 11 a.m. June 26. These activities are in addition to the center's robust calendar of regular events. Contact the center at 602-262-7572 for questions about programming or transportation options.

In addition, both the Sunnyslope location and the Devonshire Senior Center, located at 2802 E. Devonshire Ave., (602-262-7807) offer the city of

*please see CENTERS on page 38*



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## GENERATIONS

**CENTERS continued from page 37**

Phoenix Memory Café program. The program offers a welcoming place for persons living with early to moderate dementia, a safe place to socialize and participate in activities facilitated by professionals to stimulate and support brain health. Memory Café's include care partners for a shared experience. Advance registration is required; there is no fee to attend. Call 602-534-5750 or email [memory.cafe@phoenix.gov](mailto:memory.cafe@phoenix.gov).

Learn more at [www.phoenix.gov/humanservices/programs/older/senior-centers](http://www.phoenix.gov/humanservices/programs/older/senior-centers).

**Stay active over summer months**

As the temperatures rise outside, Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS) offers opportunities for older residents to stay cool and active — both at home on Zoom and in the community at Congregation Beth Israel.

Online exercise and movement classes have expanded with opportunities in the morning and afternoon to meet participants' needs. Whether

interested in belly dancing, Israeli dancing, Pilates, chair yoga or Tai Chi, residents will find ways to stay active. To keep minds stimulated, engage in lectures about Shakespeare, a history of the TV talk or the golden age of music.

In-person classes offered at Beth Israel include acting, Tai Chi, Israeli folk dancing and more. To learn more, visit [www.jfcsclasses.org](http://www.jfcsclasses.org) or contact Jennifer Brauner, director of the Center for Senior Enrichment, at 480-670-8073.

**Get crafty at the library**

Yucca Library, located at 5648 N. 15th Ave., will host two opportunities for adults to get crafty this month.

The Adult Crafternoon program offers the opportunity to explore different craft projects that participants can create and take home to enjoy. The events will be held Saturday, June 15, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., and Saturday, June 29, also from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

In addition, the Summer Reading Program kicks off June 1 and runs through Aug. 1, encouraging residents

of all ages to read 20 minutes per day. Programming surrounding the reading challenge will be offered at all 17 Phoenix Public Library branches. To register for the game, visit the library website or stop in a branch. Then, grab a gameboard, read, read, read, and log your minutes to earn prizes and enter grand prize drawings.

Learn more about these and other summer library programs at [www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org](http://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org).

**Volunteers needed to help homebound adults**

As many of their regular volunteers leave the Valley for cooler climates, Duet: Partners In Health & Aging is looking for volunteers this summer.

Volunteers are paired with homebound adults who can no longer drive, affectionately referred to as "neighbors," and provide vital services such as grocery shopping and rides to medical appointments. It is difficult for the neighbors to access public transportation in the summer heat, making it even more challenging. Duet is putting out the call for volunteers to help this

summer in the following ways.

"This time of year, we always need volunteers," said Ricardo Samano, Homebound Services manager. "We need volunteers to help drive homebound adults to their medical appointments and trips to the grocery store. It's about more than just transportation though; it's about connecting with isolated adults and seniors who often share with us that the time they spend with their Duet volunteer is the highlight of their week. You can volunteer as little or as often as you'd like, we'll work with your schedule."

Right now, there are more than 105 homebound adults waiting to be matched with compassionate volunteers. Duet is looking for caring volunteers in six Valley cities, including Phoenix ZIP codes 85012 and 85013.

The first step to becoming a Duet volunteer is to attend an orientation. Upcoming orientations are June 11 at the Duet offices, 10000 N. 31st Ave., Suite D200, from 2 to 4 p.m., or June 20 in Phoenix at the Orangewood Presbyterian Church, 7321 N. 10th St.

*please see VOLUNTEERS on page 40*

## Helping aging adults live well at *home*.

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## GENERATIONS

**VOLUNTEERS** *continued from page 38*

Contact Duet to RSVP for an orientation at 602-274-5022 or visit [www.duetaz.org/help-a-homebound-adult](http://www.duetaz.org/help-a-homebound-adult) for more information.

## Kids & Families Handbook takes on talk

North Central Phoenix resident Christine Muldoon has written and published a handbook focusing on face-to-face communication concepts and behaviors for kids of all ages.

For 40 years, Muldoon has taught and coached professionals in the art of persuasive communication. But she says that as social media became more popular, she also observed that kids were beginning to develop deficiencies in their face-to-face communication. In restaurants, airports and parks they were glued to their phones from the time they sat down until they left. They even walked looking at their phone.

This inspired the handbook, “Let’s Talk, The A-Z Handbook for Kids...of

all ages!” She uses each letter of the alphabet to easily explain and visually illustrate important communication behaviors or concepts, (eye contact, feelings, smile.) Two characters, best friends Terry and Ellie, discuss each concept or behavior (along with Lola the smiling dog.) At the end of each page is a “practice time.” At the end of the entire handbook is an interactive communication quiz.

Learn more about the publication at [www.letstalkhandbook.com](http://www.letstalkhandbook.com).

## Solve real life issues at tech event

At Arizona Science Center’s Teen Tech IRL, students in grades nine through 12 will discover the cutting-edge tech that’s shaping the future of the state.

At a June 8 “Help Solve Housing Challenges Impacting Arizona” event, teens can investigate the challenges and opportunities to rethink the housing issues facing the state as its population continues to grow.

During this Teen Tech IRL session, teens will engage with local experts to

explore the current issues affecting housing in a growing city. After exploring, participants will be challenged to take action, and will have the opportunity to dream up solutions — with no limits to the inventions they can imagine. At the end of the day, teams will pitch their creative solutions to a panel for a chance to win prizes.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$15 and includes lunch. For information or to register, visit [www.azscience.org/events-programs/teen-programs](http://www.azscience.org/events-programs/teen-programs).

## Summer fitness programs offered

Summer is here and Back Alley CrossFit, located off of 12th Street and Northern in Phoenix, wants to help keep kids active, healthy and engaged. Which is why they have designed two dynamic and fun-filled programs specifically tailored for kids aged 5-15 years old.

The Back Alley Kids Summer Training Program aims to introduce children to the fundamentals of fitness in a safe and supportive environment.

Led by experienced coaches, the program will incorporate a variety of activities, including Crossfit Basics, Team Building Exercises, Functional Fitness and Fun and Games.

Class options include Back Alley Kid’s Camp, June 3-7, and Teen Summer Training, Mondays and Wednesdays only, June 3-26 or July 8-31.

Back Alley CrossFit is located at 7816 N 12th Street. Email [katy@backalleycrossfit.com](mailto:katy@backalleycrossfit.com) for information about the summer programs or visit [www.backalleycrossfit.com](http://www.backalleycrossfit.com) to learn more.

## Church to host ‘Kiddz Camp’

Desert Christian Fellowship Church is taking reservations now for its summer Kidz Camp, offered to young residents ages 4 years old through fifth grade. The free camp runs July 15-19, from 5 to 8 p.m. The camp theme is SCUBA.

Desert Christian Fellowship Church is located at 1445 W. Northern Ave. For additional information, call 602-861-4008.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



The Heard Museum invites families to explore art this summer through its new Heardlings program (submitted photo).

### Explore the Heard through 'Heardlings'

Just in time for summer break, the Heard Museum is rolling out Heardlings, a fun way for kids and grown-ups to explore art together. Guests will meet Archie the Jackrabbit, named after the museum's iconic arches, who will be their guide to summer exploration.

Heardlings get their own special room for activities, an art cart full of creative surprises, and a cool map to find their favorite museum treasures. In addition, family events are planned, like the Heardlings Celebration on June 8, a child-friendly menu at the Courtyard Café, and T-shirts and toys at Books & More.

Upon entering the Heard Museum campus, families will be welcomed by Archie and the mobile art cart. Here, children and their parents can get oriented for their museum visit, pick up materials designed just for them, and participate in a hands-on activity.

Inside the museum, families are encouraged to spend time in the Heardlings Family Activity Room. Created in collaboration with several contemporary Native American artists, this innovative experiential family space features include Artist Spot-Lite, Illustration Station, Story Circle, Word Play and a spray paint mural by Zachary Justin (Akimel O'odham

Komadk/Komatke Gila River Indian Community), on which kids can find the sunset, plants and animals in the Sonoran Desert.

Located at 2301 North Central Ave., Heard Museum is all about deepening its commitment to promoting discovery, appreciation, learning, creativity, empathy, and community building, as inspired by Native American art and artists. For additional information, call 602-252-8840 or visit [www.heard.org](http://www.heard.org).

### SVM offers kids' summer storytime

The S'edav Va'aki Museum (SVM) invites families to enjoy children's story time and hands-on crafts in this year's installment of Summer Storytime for Kids. This June, SVM will be offering two methods to join the summer storytime program. For \$5 per child, families can visit in-person at 10 a.m. June 8 and June 22 for on-site storytime. The fee includes program admission, snacks, a fun story related craft, and free museum admission for the participating child.

SVM also has options for free virtual storytimes June 1 and June 29. The links to each of the free videos will be available on the museum's website and through Activenet (<https://apm.activecommunities.com/phoenix/Home>). These free videos will only be available for three

*please see STORYTIME on page 42*

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

**STORYTIME** continued from page 41

months. Crafts for these virtual sessions will also be available to order online through Activenet for \$5 but will need to be picked up in-person at SVM. Each week features a different story and unique craft.

In-person book presentations include “Quincy the Quail and The Mysterious Egg” by Barbara Renner, and “Cate and the Garden Bandits” by Betsy Coffeen. Virtual presentations include “Night Watchers, Nocturnal Creatures of North America” by Conrad J. Storad, and “The Remarkable Story of Willie the Crow: A Hickory Doc’s Tale” by Linda Harkey.

Located at 4619 E. Washington St., S’edav Va’aki Museum (formerly Pueblo Grande) is a 1,500-year-old archaeological site once inhabited by the Ancestral Sonoran Desert People. For more information, call (602) 495-0901 or visit [www.phoenix.gov/sedav-vaaki](http://www.phoenix.gov/sedav-vaaki).

## Artists invited to apply for exhibit

The Herberger Theater Center invites Valley artists to apply for its upcoming photography exhibit, which will be shown in the center’s galleries Aug. 2 to Sept. 29.

The theme of the exhibit is “What inspires you?” Whether it is a person, a place or an experience, artists are encouraged to explore where the inspiration for their art comes from. This exhibit focuses on works of photography only using photographic processes: analog or digital, color or black and white, alternative processes and mixed media. The deadline to apply is June 17.

Herberger Theater Center is located at 222 E. Monroe St. For additional information or to complete an application, visit [www.herbergertheater.org/artistic-opportunities](http://www.herbergertheater.org/artistic-opportunities).

## Summer movies return to Harkins

This summer, Harkins will continue its nearly 50-year tradition of bringing popular family fun films back to the big screen, while keeping kids entertained and cool during the hot summer months.

The Harkins Summer Movie Fun program begins Monday, June 3, and kids can enjoy a movie a week for eight weeks for just \$8 with the Summer



Popular family movies will return to the big screen at reduced prices during Harkins’ summer movie program (submitted photo).

Movie Fun season pass. Individual tickets are available the day of the show for just \$2 at the box office.

All shows begin at 9:45 a.m. with movies running each weekday through Friday, July 26. Moviegoers 13 years old and under can look forward to enjoying a variety of films all summer at Harkins, including *Trolls Band Together*, *Sonic the Hedgehog*, *PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie*, *Leo*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem*, *Paddington 2*, *Migration* and *Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget*.

Season ticket holders will also receive a voucher for 50 percent off one Kids Combo that includes popcorn, fruit snacks and a drink, valid from June 3 to July 26. Parents can visit [www.harkins.com/smf](http://www.harkins.com/smf) for more information about the program.

## Ballet company has new artistic director

Ballet Arizona announced in May that Daniela Cardim will serve as its new artistic director. The internationally acclaimed dancer, choreographer, director, and arts leader will assume the appointment beginning July 1. Cardim will be the first woman to hold the position and the fourth artistic director for the organization, succeeding Ib Andersen’s 24 years of leadership.

“The company has an incredible pool of talent and I cannot wait to start working with its wonderful artists and staff,” Cardim said.

Learn more about Ballet Arizona and its upcoming performances [www.balletaz.org](http://www.balletaz.org).

## On the Town

Summer is the perfect time to step out of the heat into one of the many cool Valley museums and performance venues. Coming up this month are plenty of live local music, dance and theater performances, art exhibits, film screenings, family-friendly experiences and more. See you on the town in June!

### Carmela y Más

June 1  
The Nash  
[www.thenash.org](http://www.thenash.org); 602-795-0464

### Sarah McLachlan

June 4  
Arizona Financial Theatre  
[www.arizonafinancialtheatre.com](http://www.arizonafinancialtheatre.com);  
602-379-2888



### ‘The Table’

June 6-8  
Scorpius Dance Theatre  
at Herberger Theater Center  
[www.herbergertheater.org](http://www.herbergertheater.org);  
602-252-8497

### Roald Dahl’s ‘Willy Wonka’

June 7-23  
Valley Youth Theatre  
at Herberger Theater Center

[www.herbergertheater.org](http://www.herbergertheater.org);  
602-252-8497

### ‘Dancing Through Life’

June 8, 15  
Madison Center for the Arts  
[www.themadison.org](http://www.themadison.org); 602-664-7777

### Darrell Grant’s MJ New

June 8  
The Nash  
[www.thenash.org](http://www.thenash.org); 602-795-0464



(photo by Tim Fuller)

### ‘True West’

Thru June 9  
Arizona Theatre Company  
[www.arizonatheatre.org](http://www.arizonatheatre.org);  
1-833-282-7328

### James McMurtry with Betty Soo

June 9  
Crescent Ballroom  
[www.crescentphx.com](http://www.crescentphx.com); 602-716-2222

### Vampire Weekend

June 9  
Arizona Financial Theatre  
[www.arizonafinancialtheatre.com](http://www.arizonafinancialtheatre.com);  
602-379-2888



### Metalachi

June 9  
The Rhythm Room  
[www.rhythmroom.com](http://www.rhythmroom.com); 602-612-4981

### Tedeschi Trucks Band

June 11  
Arizona Financial Theatre  
[www.arizonafinancialtheatre.com](http://www.arizonafinancialtheatre.com);  
602-379-2888

### Camera Obscura

June 12  
Crescent Ballroom  
[www.crescentphx.com](http://www.crescentphx.com); 602-716-2222



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

**Third Space Dance Festival**

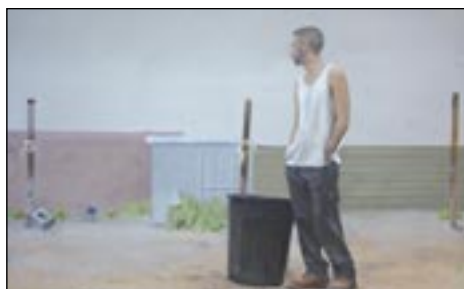
June 12-14  
Herberger Theater Center  
www.herbergertheater.org;  
602-252-8497

**Echo & The Bunnymen**

June 13  
The Van Buren  
www.thevanburenphx.com;  
480-659-1641

**Save Ferris**

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



**George Strasburger:  
'Any One of Us'**

Thru June 14  
Modified Arts  
www.modifiedarts.org;  
602-312-4203

**Todd Rundgren**

June 19  
Celebrity Theatre  
www.celebritytheatre.com;  
602-267-1600



**Dave Henning's Isotope**

June 22  
The Nash  
www.thenash.org;  
602-795-0464

**Roald Dahl's  
'Matilda the Musical, Jr.'**

Jun 22, 29  
Madison Center for the Arts  
www.themadison.org;  
602-664-7777



**Drive-By Truckers**

June 23  
The Van Buren  
www.thevanburenphx.com;  
480-659-1641

**Badlands**

June 23  
Valley Bar  
www.valleybarphx.com;  
602-716-2222

**José Madero**

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

**'Moonlight'**

June 26  
Phoenix Art Museum  
www.phxart.org; 602-257-1880

**'Fiddler on the Roof'**

Thru July 7  
The Phoenix Theatre Company  
www.phoenixtheatre.com;  
602-254-2151

**'Maria & Modernism'**

Thru July 28  
Heard Museum  
www.heard.org; 602-252-8840



**'OceanXperience'**

Thru Sept. 2  
Arizona Science Center  
www.azscience.org; 602-716-2000

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](http://www.northcentralnews.net/events).

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

## Café Chat

### Serving dinner with a view for more than 40 years

By Marjorie Rice

Forty-two years ago, the Different Pointe of View restaurant opened as the crown jewel of a new resort sprawling along 7th Street on the site of a former quarry that sliced through the middle of what is now the North Mountain Preserve.

From the 14-foot-tall dining room windows, 1,800 feet above the Valley floor, visitors could take in a spectacular swath, or step out onto expansive patios paved with flagstone mined from the Tapatio hills around them to toast the sunset and growing shadows below them.

Today, in what is now known as the Hilton Phoenix Tapatio Cliffs Resort, evidence of that rugged foundation greets guests at the entrance, the restaurant seeming to spring from the jagged stone walls.



Chef Alex Knezevic showcases the Angus Tomahawk steak for two with mushroom demiglace, grilled asparagus and fingerling potatoes roasted in duck fat, served on the patio at Different Pointe of View (photo by Darryl Webb for North Central News).

Some evenings, as the sun goes down and the moon rises over Piestewa Peak, you can hear the yipping of coyotes – a quintessential desert moment that has drawn visitors for more than four decades to its main dining room,

terrace lounge and patios below.

It was a special-occasion spot, where locals bring visitors to soak in the view and desert ambience. The terrace and connecting patios are popular wedding venues, and the romance

doesn't end there. "Sometimes we get two or three proposals a night," said Kelly Henderson, director of sales and marketing for Hilton Phoenix Tapatio Cliffs Resort.

Over the four decades, the view sometimes outstripped the quality of the cuisine, but management has been on a path to change that. Chef Alex Knezevic, who came aboard in 2022, and his team are continuing a process begun several years ago to offer innovative dishes that have elevated the cuisine to new heights, giving the view a run for its money.

Knezevic's culinary career began at 14 years old, when he would help out at his Rochester, Mich., church, setting up the hall for dining events and eventually working in the kitchen as a cook. He tried a spell in college but found classrooms boring.

"I opened up my first restaurant when I was 20," he said. "I had no idea what I was doing, and it failed miserably. I decided to go to culinary school, Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Michigan. They have the highest number of certified master chefs outside of the CIA (Culinary Institute of America) in New York, without the CIA price tag."

He graduated in 2004 and moved to Tampa, Fla., working four years with Fabrizio Schenardi, "the first chef to bring a Michelin star to a Florida restaurant," Knezevic said. In the traditional career path of learning world cuisines and trends under a series of chefs, he worked at several Tampa-area hotels and restaurants before making the move back home to Michigan.

He moved back home to Michigan for family reasons and opened up a highly-regarded restaurant called Vertical Detroit, this time earning top rankings from local and national food publications.

"Then COVID hit," he said, and in 2020 the restaurant closed. Friends and family encouraged him, now divorced with two young children, to move to Phoenix to be near them. "I did a couple of smaller events – catering and house parties – and in 2022 a recruiter reached out to me with this position."

"When I came here, I took the existing menu and tried to improve on that," Knezevic said. "My task was to

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

make it more modern, and we try to go local as much as possible. Noble Bread, Crow's Dairy, locally-grown micro-greens, olive oil from Queen Creek. And we grow our own herbs here on the property."

Knezevic describes today's menu as American, with European influences. Guests want food that tastes great without being intimidating, he said.

Offerings include Iberico pork belly over black fried rice, with banana-tamarind emulsion; and roasted bone marrow with pickled red onion, Maille mustard chimichurri and caperberries, a luscious blend to spread over grilled baguette slices. They're among the dishes served in the main dining room as well as the terrace lounge, a step up for guests who want to stop in for a few special bites with their sunset cocktail.

"It's such a great experience coming to the patio just for drinks and small plates," Henderson said. "We're so fortunate to have such an outstanding property and a chef like Alex."

Some of Knezevic's innovations: compressed watermelon salad, where the melon is compressed with a cryovac; olive oil powder dusting the crab



At Pizza to the Rescue, 25 percent of all pizza sales help support the moms and pups at Almost There rescue find new forever homes (submitted photo).

cake, served with Marcona almond romesco; and a 63-degree (Centigrade) egg served with grilled asparagus – "little things, introducing new techniques like molecular gastronomy," he said. "The yolk is almost like Hollandaise."

The menu also includes favorites like fried rice, steak, and roasted chicken with mashed potatoes.

"As long as it tastes good, that's the

main point," Knezevic said. "It's all about making it a little different, but still approachable and enjoyable."

Different Pointe of View, at 11111 N. 7th St., is open 5 to 9 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. Reservations are recommended. Call ahead for terrace/lounge availability. For more information, call 602-866-6350, or visit [www.tapatiociffshilton.com/dining](http://www.tapatiociffshilton.com/dining).

## Pizza and pups is a winning combination

By Kathryn M. Miller

Hunter Rodgers may have some impressive mentors in the world of restaurateurs, but with the opening of his first restaurant, Pizza to the Rescue at 26th Street and Indian School Road, he aims to make his own mark on Phoenix's culinary landscape, while at the same time making a positive impact in his community.

A Phoenix native, Rodgers loved cooking growing up, so much so that he spent his summers during high school and college volunteering in the kitchen of family friend Vincent Guerithault at his Vincent on Camelback restaurant.

"I worked in his kitchen and learned a foundation of French classic cooking. I really loved it," Rodgers recalled.

After college, he moved to Los Angeles and pursued investment banking and finance for six years, then came back home in 2017-2018. Not long after that, between 2018-2019, he and long-time girlfriend Geri Hormel, founder of Almost There, a mom and pups rescue,

*please see PIZZA on page 46*



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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**PIZZA** continued from page 45

(www.almosttherescue.org) were looking at a group of buildings for sale on the corner of 26th Street and Indian School Road, and the front building just felt right for a restaurant.

“There’s some sort of energy in here that really felt like it was begging to become a restaurant,” Rodgers said, “Street frontage on Indian School, a big sign, room for a patio. So, the idea was to create something that we both love. I love cooking and she could run the dog rescue from the opposite building. We figured that combining the two – pizza and puppies – couldn’t be a bad thing.”

Although the rescue has been operating at 2611 E. Indian School Road for a few years now, after starting work on the restaurant in July 2020 and facing plenty of setbacks, Pizza to the Rescue finally opened April 4 of this year, and the reception from the neighborhood has been overwhelmingly positive.

“It’s really exciting to see a lot of people from the neighborhood coming in here telling us how long they’ve been waiting for this to open,” Rodgers said. “They kind of watched our progress over the last few years.”

He describes the vibe as super cool and very eclectic, “The design itself is a little bit of Moroccan and Mediterranean and Spanish and Mexican with a little bit of mid-century modern and contemporary, all kind of smashed together with found light fixtures and found finishes on the floor and tiles on the wall.”

He also credits another Valley culinary icon and friend of many years, Chef Christopher Gross, with mentoring him through the process of opening a restaurant. The menu, however, is one of his own creation. It is based on dishes that he likes to make at home, meatballs that he perfected in college, and borrowing from recipes that his mom created (the Cesare salad that she’s been making for family since he was a kid) and drawing inspiration from meals with family and friends over the years. “It’s a combination of all the things – just a lot of things that I love making and knew that I wanted to share with our guests.”

The restaurant focuses on sourcing small and local whenever it can, and from Italy when it cannot. And everything is cooked over live fire utilizing a woodfired pizza oven and grill. Rodgers recommends the Margarita pizza (try



Phoenix diners can chill out with new frozen margaritas and happy hour specials at Joyride Taco House (submitted photo).

adding pepperoni, jalapeños or anchovies), the Mexican chorizo pizza or the mushroom pizza, featuring mushrooms from a local cultivator. He adds that everything is made fresh, including the bread, and never frozen. They also boast an innovative cocktail menu and an extensive wine list, with a focus on Italian wines.

From the beginning, the restaurant concept was connected to the rescue (thus the name) and 25 percent of all pizza sales goes directly towards providing shelter, care and love for rescued dogs on their journey to finding forever homes. The rescue even brings pups to the patio on certain nights to help boost adoptions and it has brought increased exposure for the work they do.

But at the end of the day, he wanted to create a space where guests to feel like they are being entertained by family.

“That’s what we know how to do,” said Rodgers. “We don’t know how to run a restaurant. We just know how to hang out at our house and serve our friends and family and make some good food.”

Pizza to the Rescue is located at 2601 E. Indian School Road. For more information, call 602-314-4832 or visit [www.pizzatotherescuephx.com](http://www.pizzatotherescuephx.com).

## Dining Briefs

### Taco bout a good time

Joyride Taco House is celebrating summer with an expanded daily happy hour menu, which debuted May 5.

Now offered every day from open to 6 p.m. at the Phoenix or Gilbert location, guests can enjoy \$6 margaritas,

ranch waters, draft pitchers and wines, all paired with chef-crafted bar bites and more. Plus, beat the heat with Joyride’s first-ever frozen margarita, The Tropic Chill Margarita, a blend of 400 Conejos mezcal with pineapple amaro, guava, and ginger, among other rotating seasonal flavors. Also, all-new at Joyride are happy hour dishes such as The T.O.D (taco of the day), Cactus + Crinkle Fries, Tuna Tostada, Chilaquiles-style Nachitos and Shrimp Ceviche.

New, heartier offerings on the regular menu include Birria Torta (slow cooked beef, crinkle fried, melted cheese, guac, Fresno peppers, tomatillo salsa and mayo), and Mexican Chop Salad (romaine, cilantro, pico gringo, corn, tortilla crisps, Cholula, queso fresco, tomatillo ranch).

Joyride Taco House Phoenix, located at 5202 N. Central Ave., is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11a.m. to midnight and Sunday 11 a.m. to 10pm. Visit [www.joyridetacohouse.com](http://www.joyridetacohouse.com) for more information.

### Growing dinner for yourself and others

Valley residents who are considering stepping up their gardening game into the realm of small-scale farming are invited to join the University of Arizona’s Cooperative Extension for Urban Ag Hour, presented virtually from 10-11 a.m., June 26.

The Urban Ag Hour is a monthly initiative hosted by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension’s Urban Agriculture Production, Small-Scale, and Beginning Farmer Program in collaboration with the Natural Resources

Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency.

The June event will feature a talk by NRCS’s natural resource specialist, Kayla McClendon on the integration of cover crops on small farms. Participants will gain knowledge specific to small-scale and urban farming while having an opportunity to connect with service providers, Extension expertise and other farmers in attendance.

The free event will be held via Zoom; registration is required. For more information, visit <https://extension.arizona.edu/calendar>.

### Restaurant serves up a classic for Dad’s day

Father’s Day is Sunday, June 16, and 32 Shea wants to make sure that Valley dads feel treated on their day.

The Phoenix eatery will feature a Father’s Day biscuits and gravy special on June 16 for only \$8. And as an added “thank you” to fathers, for the entire day, they can order a drip coffee for free at the coffee bar.

Operating out of what used to be a 1980s drive thru photo retailer, and open for patio and indoor dining, drive thru and carry out, 32 Shea is a popular neighborhood spot located at 10626 N. 32nd St. For more information, call 602-867-7432 or visit [www.32shea.com](http://www.32shea.com).

### Eatery introduces new meals

Eat Up Drive In has partnered this season with center fielder Corbin Carroll to bring guests of the neighborhood eatery two new Corbin Carroll meals. The meals are available now and can be enjoyed (while cheering on the home team) by dine-in, take-out, curbside, drive-thru and through online ordering.

The meals include the Corbin Home Run Chicken Meal (wood-grilled citrus chicken served with basmati rice, mixed veggies, Hawaiian teriyaki sauce and iced tea in Carroll’s limited-edition commemorative cup) and the Corbin Little Leagues (kid’s wood-grilled burger served with mixed fries, a gluten-free chocolate chip cookie, small lemonade in a commemorative cup). Guests can also upgrade any large drink to the commemorative cup for an additional \$1.50.

Eat Up is located at 4001 E. Indian School Road. For additional information, call 602-441-4750 or visit [www.eatupdrivein.com](http://www.eatupdrivein.com).



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## Treat kids at The Vig

Sunday, June 9, is National Kid's Day, and The Vig is celebrating by offering one free kids' meal per entrée purchased.

Items on the kid's menu include sliders and fries, chicken strips, mac and cheese and salad. The special is available only on June 9 at all Vig locations.

In North Central, head to 8729 N. Central Ave. In Arcadia, find them at 4041 N. 40th Street. For additional information, visit [www.thevig.us](http://www.thevig.us).

## Tesota opens in former Rail space

Phoenix chef/restaurateur Doug Robson opened an all-new restaurant, Tesota, Friday, May 17, in the heart of Uptown Phoenix. Open daily for lunch, dinner and happy hour, the eatery (300 W. Camelback Road) is the newest creation from Robson, the chef/partner behind Gallo Blanco and Otro Café in Phoenix.

Nestled inside the indoor-outdoor space that previously housed Southern Rail, which closed its doors after nine-and-a-half years Dec. 23, 2023, and was also the longtime home of the historic Beefeater's Steakhouse, the new restaurant expands upon Robson's Latin-centric menus with a globe-straddling approach to ingredient-focused dishes, ranging from premium steaks and seafoods, to Mediterranean, Asian and South American fare. Tesota, which is the Spanish word for "desert ironwood tree," will also offer an ever-changing menu of craft cocktails and beers, plus a premium wine list, highlighted by an extensive selection of Arizona wines.

"Having previously focused on Mexican and Latin fare, I was excited to expand our boundaries, literally," Robson said. "Tesota is as much a neighborhood restaurant as it is destination restaurant, with a chef-driven, seasonal menu with lots of fun ingredients that explore different culinary traditions across borders."

For example, the restaurant incorporates the existing pizza oven to make fold-over sandwiches, starting with fresh-baked pizza dough that's split apart and stuffed with delicious ingredients such as an Argentinean Choripan, which is made with Phoenix's own Schreiner's sausage and chimichurri sauce. The restaurant also



The ambiance at Tesota offers a comfortable, eclectic neighborhood vibe (submitted photo).

offers a seasonal menu of Pizzettas, or individual pizzas, including chorizo, asparagus, margarita and an Iberian Salumi. In addition,

Robson partnered with the property's executive chef, Jared Porter, to incorporate Asian elements, including fresh seafood and crudo dishes. As a nod to Beefeater's, the restaurant will also offer premium cuts of steak, from prime ribeye to flatiron steak and a Wagyu burger.

For more information, visit [www.tesotaphx.com](http://www.tesotaphx.com).

## Sip, stroll and shop at Fashion Park

In May, Biltmore Fashion Park launched "Shopping with a Twist," a program that allows shoppers ages 21 and older to purchase alcoholic beverages from participating restaurants, stroll through the designated pedestrian walkway of the center and shop at most stores while enjoying their beverage. The program will be available Thursday to Sunday between 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

"Our goal with this program is to bring a new level of excitement and elevate our shoppers' experience," said Victoria Buscher, general manager of Biltmore Fashion Park. "Through Shopping with a Twist, we're fostering a sense of community and connection, inviting our shoppers not just to shop but to unwind, socialize and indulge in leisurely discovery, all while enjoying a refreshing beverage."

Guests can purchase a to-go alcoholic beverage from participating restaurants, including Blanco Cocina + Cantina, Breakfast Club, Pomo Pizza,

Seasons 52, True Food Kitchen, Zinburger and the newly opened Ambrogio15.

Participants must wear a wristband that will be provided by the restaurant before entering the pedestrian walkway. Alcoholic beverages will be served in disposable clear plastic cups with the logo of the participating restaurant. Only drinks purchased from the participating restaurants are allowed in the designated areas, and no outside alcohol is permitted. All beverages must remain in their original logo-branded cups.

For additional information, visit [www.shopbiltmore.com/shoppingwithatwist](http://www.shopbiltmore.com/shoppingwithatwist).

## Chompie's offers summer special

Valley Chompie's locations are embracing summertime with a delicious deal Beginning Tuesday, June 11, diners can take advantage of restaurant's "Buy \$20 and Get 20% Off" seasonal special.

When guests show their dine-in receipt of \$20 or more, they will receive 20 percent off their purchase of bakery or deli items. This special is available through Monday, Sept. 30.

In Phoenix, stop in at 3212 E. Cactus Road. Contact the location at 602-710-2910. For additional information, visit [www.chompies.com](http://www.chompies.com).

## Summer grill packs offered

Cold Beers & Cheeseburgers is bringing back its Summer Grill Packs, available now through Labor Day Weekend.

Residents can skip the grocery store, enjoy an extra day off and break out the BBQ with a four-pack of the restaurant's signature ground chuck patties, hot dogs, condiments and sides. Pick up and take home a Summer Grill Pack from any local Cold Beers & Cheeseburgers for \$32.95.

For locations and details, visit [www.coldbeers.com](http://www.coldbeers.com).

## 'Big Daddy' bids farewell

After nearly four decades of serving the Sunnyslope area, Dave "Big Daddy" Smith, owner of Big Daddy's Sports Lounge, is selling the bar and finally eyeing retirement.

The family owned watering hole first opened its doors on April 1, 1986. Back then, it was located at 7th Street and Dunlap Avenue. In July 2007, it moved to its current location on Cave Creek Road. The spot became known for its extensive menu that included pizzas and wings, burgers, sandwiches, hot dogs and Wisconsin cheese curds, as well as its dozens of televisions and off-track betting (OTB).

This isn't the first time that Smith has stepped away from the bar. He almost retired in 2018, turning ownership of the bar over to other partners. But the deal and the business went south, and he took Big Daddy's back in 2019, restoring its beloved sports lounge status. This time, while Smith says he will be around to help the new owner with the transition, he is selling for keeps, but the sports bar will retain a lot of the flavor that Smith has imbued over the years.

"As far as I know, everything else stays the same," Smith said. "I know he plans on shutting down for a period of time to remodel the inside, but everything else, I think the menu and everything else, the sports theme, OTB, will all stay the same."

To the neighborhood patrons who kept coming back over the years, Smith says a hearty "Thanks! Without them, I wouldn't have been here," he added.

Those patrons will have time to say their own farewells in June before ownership changes hands on June 24, including at a farewell bash, Sunday, June 23, beginning at 1 p.m.

Big Daddy's Sports Lounge is located at 10618 N. Cave Creek Road in Phoenix. For additional information, call 602-932-6718 or visit [www.bigdaddyssportslounge.com](http://www.bigdaddyssportslounge.com).



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