



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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Park-and-ride site set for redevelopment

By Kathryn M. Miller

With no discussion, the Economic Development and Arts Subcommittee of the Phoenix City Council on June 10 voted to proceed with the issuance of an RFP to redevelop an existing park-and-ride location at 19th and Montebello avenues, a decision that was approved by the Phoenix City Council on June 17.

The City of Phoenix Public Transit Department owns the approximately 10.2 acres of land that includes a 794-space park-and-ride facility and transit center serving the 19th and Montebello avenues light rail station. The site, which includes multiple parcels, was rezoned at 12.4 acres in 2025 to a Walkable Urban Code, Transect 5:6 District, Transit Solano Character Area. The Walkable Urban Code allows mixed-use, commercial and residential uses; the “Transect 5:6” zoning allows up to 80 feet in height; however, Stipulation No. 2 of the approved rezoning states that “The maximum building height shall not exceed 56 feet, except that the maximum building height may be increased to 80 feet, if a minimum of 30% of the dwelling units are provided as Affordable Housing, as approved by the Planning and Development Department and Housing Department.”

The site was developed as the initial light rail end-of-line park-and-ride location and opened in 2008; however, subsequent light rail system extensions have

please see PARK-AND-RIDE on page 8



Located at the southeast corner of Glenrosa Avenue and 28th Street, The Farm at Los Olivos will bring a 2-acre working farm and associated amenities to the west portion of the 54-year-old park (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

Urban farm inches closer to fruition

By Kathryn M. Miller

A plan to convert 4.5 acres of Los Olivos Park into an urban working farm – complete with a full-service farm-to-table restaurant, market and educational space – received a fresh boost of momentum in May. Some residents, however, still have questions about how the project will benefit the neighborhood.

The project had stalled since the Parks and Recreation Board at its March 22, 2018, meeting approved city staff to enter into lease negotiations with

Greenbelt Development LLC to develop and manage an urban working farm on the west end of the 26.5-acre park at 28th Street and Glenrosa Avenue. It stalled because the park is a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) assisted site – a federal grant program that preserves public outdoor recreation in perpetuity.

LWCF allows assisted sites to be “converted” when a non-recreational use on the site is proposed. The catch is that the converted land needs to be replaced with an alternative. A large parcel in far North Phoenix was approved in 2020, but it has since been sold and developed. It seems, however, that the city has found

a replacement. A May 2026 update on the project website stated that a proposed replacement property has been submitted to the National Park Service (NPS) for review and potential approval.

A spokesperson for the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department said that the replacement property is located near South Mountain, but did not provide any specific details. And while the department waits for a response from NPS, some residents continue to wonder if this project is a good fit for their neighborhood park.

James Mathien has lived across the street from the park for 36 years. The retiree actively uses the park for exercise and engaged in the public meeting process

please see URBAN FARM on page 6

in this issue

- New space focuses on fitness | page 4
- Affordable housing project completed | page 10
- Home sale sets price record | page 16
- Camelback has new interim principle | page 22
- Eatery offers Nashville vibe | page 34

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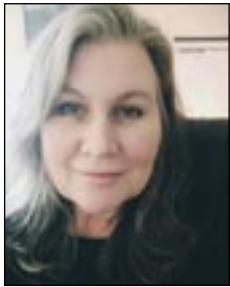
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From the Editor

As America prepares to celebrate the 250th anniversary of its founding, I am reflecting on the preamble of our founding document: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”



Powerful words. The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776, and a new nation was created, with its principles and identity established. Abraham Lincoln called the Declaration “a rebuke and a stumbling-block to tyranny and oppression.” It is a document that has inspired people around the world to fight for freedom and equality.

I write this on Juneteenth, the federal holiday commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans and marks the day in 1865 when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation – issued more than two years prior – and free the last enslaved people in that state.

Nearly 100 years after this nation’s founding, it was clear that “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness” was meant for some, but not others. America’s founding documents declared lofty and worthy ideals. Now, as we celebrate the country’s 250th anniversary, the work towards attaining freedom and equality continues. This Independence Day, I encourage you to explore our history, reflect on how far we have come and how far we need to go to actually realize the ideals upon which we were founded.

We hope you enjoy our July issue, and until next month, all my best,

Kathryn M. Miller
Editor, *North Central News*

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New 'third space' focuses on fitness

By Kathryn M. Miller

After construction and permitting delays slowed its completion, The Beau Collective is finally set to open its second location – right in the heart of North Central at 5115 N. Central Ave. It is something of a homecoming for founder Whitney White Kozlowski, who grew up in the area and, along with fellow Xavier alum and bestie Sarah Duncan, is excited to bring the concept to Phoenix.

Originally founded 10 years ago in Park City, Utah, The Beau Collective combines a boutique fitness and wellness space with a retail shop, but at the heart of the business concept is creating a space for community connection – a third space, “Not your home, not your work, but where you can go and gather,” explained Duncan, who serves as operating partner for the company and will oversee the day-to-day at the Uptown location.

“We heard, across the board, from friends, family, the community, ‘Let’s



The new North Central location of The Beau Collective will feature an exercise space similar to the original Park City location (pictured), but the larger 3,000-square foot room will allow for more diverse community connections (submitted photo).

bring one here. This is what we need.’ Phoenix is such a big city and there are so many strip malls and box stores, but what is missing are little places where we can connect,” Duncan, said.

They reached out to another longtime North Central friend, who hap-

pened to be in real estate, and he had the perfect building, “Right by where we always used to hang out after school at AJs,” Duncan added.

The 1970s medical building was “nothing to write home about,” but Kozlowski saw the potential, Duncan recalled. “She said ‘let’s put some windows on Central.’ I mean, you really cannot beat that location!”

The gym portion is about 3,000-square-feet and will host a variety of classes, including HIIT, strength training, Pilates, yoga and more. And the space can be cleared for community gatherings. The Beau team, which includes community captain Brigette Sebald, is already planning future events.

“We are going to host everything from book clubs to Mahjong,” Duncan said. “We’re doing our Xavier/Brophy class reunion there in September, school fundraisers...so, it will be a fun event space.”

In mid-June, the team was close to the finish line on the build-out, and a July soft opening is planned.

“We’ll do a bunch of complementary classes and have people come in and see the space and get a feel for it. And then we’ll do a grand opening at the beginning of August,” Duncan said.

Residents can connect with the team from The Beau Collective, and stay up to date on opening dates, by visiting them online at www.thebeacollectivephx.com.

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URBAN FARM *continued from page 1*

when the farm was first proposed. He doesn't support The Farm at Los Olivos.

"It is a good project to teach city kids where food comes from, but the wrong location. The proposed farm will take up almost one-fifth of the park," Mathien said. He added that the park serves a diverse social and economic population. "In 2020, the city produced an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the park service area for the National Park Service. The EA noted that 48 percent of the population in the area was minority and that 16 percent of the households earned less than \$15,000 per year."

He added, "The General Plan for the City of Phoenix Land Use Map identifies many nearby and adjacent areas to the park for medium and high-density multifamily housing: townhouses, condos and apartments. Redevelopment has occurred and is continuing to occur in the area with new two-, three- and four-story multifamily units close to the park. These replace former single-family homes and one-story multifamily units built after World War II."

He pointed to one parcel on 32nd Street that had been a single-family home for decades; now it is a 41-unit townhome development.

"All of this new housing does not have lawn areas for play or recreation. So new residents need the park to walk their dogs, toss a Frisbee or teach their young children how to catch. Locating the proposed farm in the park appears contradictory to the city's vision of creating a more dense urban neighborhood. More people with less usable park land does not seem rational."

At this point, however, residents likely won't have an opportunity to collectively air their concerns in a public forum



The Phoenix City Council recently approved revisions to the Phoenix City Code fireworks provision that aligns with state prohibitions on the use, possession and sale of fireworks within the city limits. The changes went into effect June 20.

– the Parks spokesperson said that no further public meetings are scheduled. There are some as yet unanswered questions regarding whether an updated EA was completed and why that process was not made public. But for now, it is just a waiting game to see when and if this nearly decade-long process bears fruit.

Find updates on the project website: www.phoenix.gov/parks/los-olivos-park. Learn more about Greenbelt Development at <https://greenbelt.hospitality.com>.

Phoenix updates fireworks code

Before setting off those celebratory fireworks this year, Phoenix residents who live near mountain preserves need to be aware of a new change in city code that could result in a \$2,500 fine or even jail time for using fireworks.

On May 20, the mayor and city council approved revisions to the Phoenix City Code fireworks provisions

that align the City Code with state law and include every state-allowed prohibition on the use, possession and sale of fireworks within city limits. The ordinance went into effect June 20.

So, what has changed? The ordinance states that no fireworks are allowed on city-owned property, including parks. Also, the use of all fireworks (whether they are legal or not) is banned within one mile of mountain preserves; and a Stage 1 Fire Restriction status triggers a prohibition on the use of all fireworks within one mile of desert and regional parks. The Phoenix Fire Department announced Stage 1 status on June 18.

The update has enforcement written into it to encourage compliance. Violators face civil fines up to \$2,500 or criminal misdemeanor charges punishable by up to six months in jail, and repeat violators could face escalating punishment. In addition, the city can recover costs from violators for emergency response, storage and disposal related to illegal fireworks incidents,

and police have stronger authority to seize and destroy illegal fireworks

Professional firework shows, which require a permit, are still allowed. Visit www.phoenix.gov/celebratesafely for an interactive map showing what fireworks rules apply in that area or to learn more about fireworks legalities and safety.

Industry expert releases third book

Shahe Koulloukian, founder of Mazvo Car Care Center, goes by many titles: master automotive technician and auto-industry ambassador among them. And now, the author of the best-selling "Car Confidential: Insider Secrets About Automobile Ownership, Car Maintenance and Road Safety," is announcing the release of his third book.

Titled "Carstrology: When Astrology and Zodiac Gears Align, Horsepower and Driving Habits Shift," the book uses astrology's birth signs as a light lens with the goal of helping drivers understand their habits, impulses, blind spots and emotional triggers so they can become smarter, calmer and more responsible car owners.

"Carstrology is not an astrology manual, and it's not a typical car-buying guide. It's more of a behavioral mirror with humor, real-world experience and a few tire marks on the soul," said Koulloukian of his latest release. "At its heart, this book is an honest, funny and human way to look at ourselves through our car-owning habits. The way we maintain, avoid, overspend, control, panic, delay and justify things with our cars often mirrors how we handle life. And sometimes the car knows too much."

For more information, visit <https://carconfidential.net>.



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The city is moving forward with the redevelopment of the Montebello Park-and-Ride at the southeast corner of 19th and Montebello avenues with the goal of bringing mixed-use residential and commercial to the site (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

PARK-AND-RIDE *continued from page 1*

moved the end-of-line further north and the park-and-ride is now underutilized.

The RFP will seek proposals that provide mixed-use commercial and residential redevelopment supporting transit-oriented land use; capitalize on the site's strategic location adjacent to a light rail station; support the long-term vision established in the Solano Transit-Oriented Development Policy Plan; and incorporate pedestrian-oriented design, public access, and site activation consistent with the Walkable Urban Code.

In the subcommittee report, the city stated that "Some parking spaces may need to be maintained on site, which will be determined by the Public Transit Department before the RFP is issued." The bus loop at the north end of the property will be retained. They added that additional public outreach will be completed prior to releasing the RFP.

Orpheus chorus tours Baltic states

The Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix, Arizona's longest-standing male chorus, are returning from an international concert tour to the Baltic States, which took place June 11–22, in time for a quick break before gearing up for their 2026-27 season.

The 12-day tour brought the chorus to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, where they performed a series of concerts in historic churches and cultural venues, as well as collaborated with

local choirs. The itinerary included performances in cities such as Tallinn, Riga, Kaunas, and Vilnius, offering opportunities for cultural exchange through the shared language of music.

Under the direction of Dr. Brook Larson, artistic director, the chorus presented a dynamic repertoire reflecting both American musical traditions and the rich expressive range of male choral singing. Performances include a mix of Americana, spirituals, classical works and contemporary choral pieces designed to resonate with international audiences.

Founded in 1929, the Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix has a long and distinguished history of touring and cultural diplomacy. Over the decades, the chorus has performed throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia, earning recognition as "Arizona's Cowboy Ambassadors" for their role in representing the United States abroad.

The 2026 Baltic tour continues this tradition, building on recent international performances and reinforcing Orpheus's commitment to sharing music as a means of connection, goodwill, and cultural understanding.

The group will hold open rehearsals and auditions for its 2026-27 season, The Music of Our Lives, Aug. 11-25 at Cross Roads United Methodist Church, 7901 N. Central Ave. Men who enjoy singing and can match pitch are encouraged to participate, even without formal choral experience. For more information, visit www.orpheus.org.



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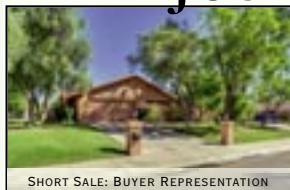


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COMMUNITY

Acacia Heights completes third phase

In late May, Housing for Hope, an affiliate of Catholic Charities Community Services, in partnership with Trinity Housing Development, celebrated the unveiling of the third and final phase of Acacia Heights, an affordable housing complex at 4747 N. 7th Ave., in Phoenix. The community strengthens access to high-quality housing, while supporting broader affordability efforts across the region, the organizations said.

A multi-year, three-phase development project, the most current stage of construction broke ground in 2024 and was completed in April of 2026. The approximately \$31.5 million funding for Acacia Heights phase three is from a variety of sources, including Low Income Housing Tax Credits from the Arizona Department of Housing, ARPA and HOME funds from the city of Phoenix, as well a permanent loan and deferred developer fees. AllThrive 365 (formerly the Foundation for Senior Living) developed phase one, and Trinity Housing Development was also the partner for phase two.



Located just south of Camelback Road on 7th Avenue, affordable housing complex Acacia Heights in May celebrated the completion of its third and final phase, which brings 68 more units to the site (submitted photo).

The latest addition to the apartment complex is a five-story tower that adds 68 units, bringing the total to now 212 units. The new tower features 35 one-bedroom units, 18 two-bedroom units and 15 three-bedroom units, ranging in size from 596 to 1,231 square feet. The modern-aesthetic apartments feature separate living and bedroom areas, plen-

ty of storage, and spacious, well-equipped kitchens. Assisting with lower monthly expenses, the units are energy efficient, LEED certified.

Designed to not only be a safe, comfortable home, the entire development was built with community, connection and well-being in mind. Amenities include covered onsite parking, an all-

purpose room for social gatherings, a teen room, centralized laundry, a fitness center, secure bicycle storage, and an outdoor courtyard with a children’s play area, sport court and community garden boxes. For easy access to transportation, Acacia Heights is steps from a Valley Metro Rail stop, as well as Valley Metro bus routes.

Acacia Heights III is available for lease, and the complex is accessible for families and individuals earning 40% to 60% of the median income (AMI). Rent is based on the household’s income, ranging from \$772 to \$1,193 a month for a one-bedroom, \$926 to \$1,431 for a two-bedroom, and \$1,069 to \$1,652 for a three-bedroom unit.

For more information, visit www.catholiccharitiesaz.org or www.housingforhopeaz.org. Those interested in applying for a lease, contact Biltmore Properties at 480-925-3062 or acaciaheights3leasing@outlook.com.

Give unused items new purpose

When spring cleaning morphs into summer sorting, the question becomes what to do with all of the forgotten flotsam. That stack of books gathering dust? That lamp you no longer love? The kitchen gadget that seemed useful at the time? Before tossing them aside and adding to landfill woes, you may want to consider giving them a new purpose.

Gently used goods that are donated to the Arizona Humane Society’s (AHS) thrift stores do more than make room for summer shopping – they help support the Valley’s most vulnerable animals.

North Central residents can visit the Cave Creek Thrift Store, 13401 N. Cave Creek Road, to drop off donatable items. The items should be in working condition – the store cannot accept broken or overly worn goods. The Sunnyslope Campus on Hatcher also can accept small donated items – leave them in the blue donation bins located in the parking lot on 13th Avenue next to Adoptions.

For those larger items that are challenging to transport, AHS offers free donation pickup for furniture and large items or for a minimum of six bags/boxes in most Valley locations. Their team will even handle the heavy lifting.

Call 602-870-8521, email thriftscheduling@azhumane.org or use the online form to schedule a pickup. Learn more at www.azhumane.org/donate-your-stuff.

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North Central Pet of the Month WINSTON

Owners: David McClue and Randy Shakespeare
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Breed: Goldendoodle
Nickname: Baby Boy
Favorite Treat: Pizza Crust
How does he greet you: Smiles and Booty Wiggles
Favorite place to go: The dog park
Cool Trick/Funny Quirks: Will jump 4 feet in the air to catch a ball but needs help getting into the car...

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COMMUNITY

New affordable homes welcome families

In late May, the city of Phoenix and Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona celebrated the dedication of four new single-family homes in Sunnyslope. The ceremony marked the completion of new affordable homes built on city-owned vacant lots identified through the Housing Phoenix Plan adopted in 2020.

The homes include three bedrooms, a den that can serve as a fourth bedroom, and two and a half bathrooms. Four families began moving into their new homes in the weeks following the dedication.

In addition to the four new homes, Habitat is investing \$200,000 in Sunnyslope through home repair services that supplement the Neighborhood Services Department's neighborhood revitalization efforts. Eight repairs have been completed, with four more underway. Visit www.phoenix.gov/administration/departments/nsd.html to learn more about neighborhood revitalizations programs.

This project supports the Housing Phoenix Plan (HPP), which aimed to

create or preserve 50,000 homes by 2030 – as of March 2026, the city says that they have surpassed that number and are at 67,002 total units. A core strategy of the HPP is redeveloping city owned land to create more affordable options, and three of the four Habitat for Humanity homes were built on parcels identified through that initiative. While earlier projects focused largely on rental housing, the city says that these new homes are the first completed homeownership units produced under the effort, marking an important step in expanding affordable homeownership opportunities in Phoenix.

Visit www.phoenix.gov/administration/departments/housing.html to learn more.

Preservation cases head to planning

At its June 15 meeting, the Historic Preservation Commission unanimously recommended two North Central properties for Historic Preservation Overlay zoning.

The first, case number Z-34-26-3,

is Acacia Library, located at 750 E. Townley Ave. The library was designed by Bennie M. Gonzales Associates and opened to the public on Jan. 5, 1969. The second, case number Z-35-26-6, is Roman Roads, a 24-unit townhome complex located at 1691 E. Maryland Ave. Primarily designed by Alfred Newman Beadle, the first five buildings were built between 1963-1964.

The Roman Roads case will be heard by the Camelback East Village Planning Committee (VPC) on July 7. The Acacia Library case will be heard by the North Mountain VPC on July 15. Both will be presented to the Planning Commission on Aug. 6, and City Council on Sept. 9.

Learn more at www.phoenix.gov/administration/departments/pdd/historic-preservation.html.

Viridian hosts community celebration

Camelot Homes will host a grand opening celebration of Viridian, its new gated community of eight luxury homes at 5944 N. 14th St. in North Central

Phoenix, Thursday, July 30, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Guests are invited to enjoy music, light bites and handcrafted gelato from Allora Gelato while touring its newly completed model home.

Blending mid-century-inspired architecture with thoughtfully designed interiors and outdoor living spaces, Viridian offers an opportunity to own a new home in one of Phoenix's most established and desirable neighborhoods. The community features two floor plans ranging from 2,713 to 3,003 square feet, each offering three bedrooms, three-and-a-half bathrooms, and a two-car garage. Homes are priced from \$1.6 million.

Representatives from Camelot Homes and Flowing Wells Landscape and Pools will be on hand during the July 30 event to discuss customization opportunities and options, outdoor living concepts and landscape designs available to future homeowners.

To RSVP, visit <https://viridianmodelgrandopening.rsvpify.com>. More information is available at <https://camelothomes.com/community/viridian>.

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Who We Are

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

Location & Meeting

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

Tour Boundaries

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

Join Us!

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

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

<https://northcentraltour.com/>

COMMUNITY



Sweet and curious, Loki loves meeting new people and is extremely cuddly once he opens up to those around him (photo courtesy of Arizona Humane Society).

Pet of the Month Little Loki finally running free

At first glance, no one would guess the strength and resilience sweet Loki possesses to still be here today. A month ago, the four-year-old American Pit Bull Terrier was brought to the Arizona Humane Society after a Good Samaritan found him in dire straits.

Upon arrival at the shelter, it was immediately clear that Loki had been tethered up using a thick plastic wire that he had become entangled in and chewed his way out of. Loki was immediately sedated and taken into the Arizona Humane Society's trauma hospital, where veterinarians found that the plastic-coated wire lead had wrapped twice around his neck along with his nylon collar. Both of which were deeply embedded and encompassed approximately 60 percent of Loki's ventral cervical region.

Loki underwent surgery and subsequent daily medical procedures where his wounds were clipped, cleaned and fresh honey bandages were put on. Luckily, this sweet boy was found and treated in time, but his story serves as a great reminder that tethering is not only dangerous due to the extreme weather of Arizona, but can also be deadly when pets entangle themselves.

Sweet and curious, Loki (pet number 849954) loves meeting new people and is extremely cuddly once he opens up to those around him. Loki's adoption fee includes his neuter surgery, current vaccinations, a microchip and a follow-up wellness exam with a VCA Animal Hospital. Visit this handsome boy at the Arizona Humane Society's Papago Park Campus or learn more at www.azhumane.org/adopt to give him the loving forever home he deserves.

City approves neglect ordinance

The Phoenix City Council approved updates to the city's dog restraint or "tethering" ordinance during its June 17 meeting, strengthening requirements for the humane restraint of dogs and adding protections during extreme weather conditions.

Under the revised ordinance, it is unlawful to confine a dog on private property using a tether, trolley or similar device unless the animal is under the direct supervision or visual observation of its owner or handler. The minimum allowable length of any restraint is six feet; an owner shall not restrain a dog outside by use of a choke collar or pinch collar or any time during extreme weather conditions; and restraints must not unreasonably limit a dog's movement, prevent access to food, water, shade, dry ground or adequate shelter.

Residents can report suspected animal neglect through the City of Phoenix Animal Neglect Online Reporting Portal. Click on the "About Us" link and "Units and Divisions" at www.phoenix.gov/administration/departments/police. Anyone observing an animal in immediate distress should call 911.

Adopt, treat and train pets at AAWL

The Arizona Animal Welfare League (AAWL) rescues, rehabilitates and re-homes more than 4,000 dogs and cats that are abandoned or that have been surrendered by their owners. They do this primarily by rescuing them from other shelters in Maricopa County where they are likely to be euthanized due to the lack of resources.

But AAWL's service does not end there. The organization also runs a low-cost veterinary clinic and a wide variety of dog training services. Residents will find free training guides on the AAWL website that cover a range of topics. Training classes are available and include private training, three levels of Basic Obedience classes and Feisty Fido classes. Information about all of their training programs can be found online at <https://aawl.org/dogtraining>.

If you are looking for a new dog or cat companion, visit the AAWL Sonia Breslow Adoption Center at 25 N. 40th St. or at one of their partner locations. Learn more at <https://aawl.org>.

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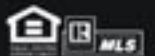
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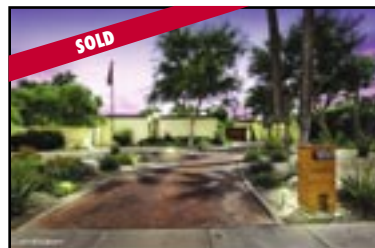
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NEW LISTING



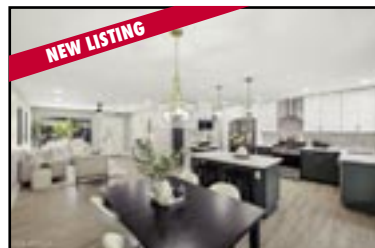
144 E Winter Drive • \$1,550,000
4 bed, 3 bath, 2,470 SF

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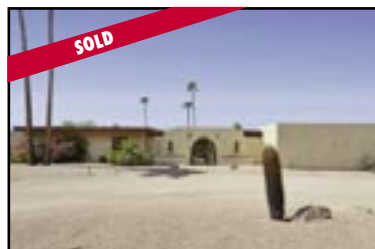
8709 N 11th Ave. • \$1,280,000
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NEW LISTING



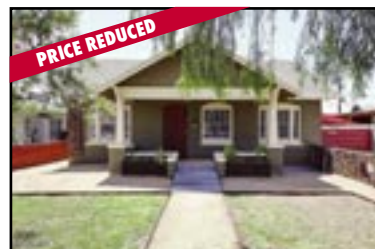
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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Business Briefs

Gelinas closes record sale

A remarkable chapter recently closed in North Central Phoenix with the sale of 5520 N. 4th St. for \$5,125,000, establishing a new benchmark for luxury home sales in the North Central Corridor.

Janeen Gelinas, associate broker with Compass Arizona, recently closed the record-breaking \$5.125 million sale in North Central Phoenix, representing the seller in the significant luxury transaction.

The home, originally envisioned and constructed by its owners, represented years of thoughtful planning, exceptional craftsmanship, and a deep appreciation for the North Central lifestyle. From its striking architectural details and resort-style grounds to its warm and inviting spaces designed for family gatherings, the property became a true legacy residence.

Gelinas guided both the marketing strategy and sale of the property. Through strategic pricing, targeted exposure, and a deep understanding of the luxury marketplace, she successfully connected the property with its ideal buyer. The result was a record-setting sale for the North Central Corridor.

“While record-breaking sales often generate attention because of the num-



A custom home at 5520 N. 4th St. recently sold for \$5.125 million, a record-setting sale for the North Central Corridor that was brokered by Janeen Gelinas (photo courtesy of ARMLS).

bers, the story behind this transaction is ultimately about people,” Gelinas said. “The original owners invested years of vision, passion and attention to detail in creating a home that would become a true legacy property. Today, a new family begins the next chapter, creating memories of their own within this exceptional residence, and I am honored to be a trusted advisor in making that happen.”

North Central Phoenix continues to be one of the Valley’s most desirable neighborhoods, known for its mature tree-lined streets, custom estates, strong sense of community and proximity to

some of Phoenix’s most beloved local destinations, the broker added.

Local florist celebrates Christmas in July

Founded in late 1997, Flowers by Joe Gregory opened its doors to North Central patrons in early 1998.

“The excitement was exhilarating from the local businesses and residential neighbors – to have a local hands-on florist to create not just everyday arrangements but event planning as well,” said owner Joe Miano. The company celebrated “many weddings back in the day and many babies were cele-

brated also. Our first large restaurant account [Durant’s] became a milestone as its familiarity and history captivated the downtown area as ‘The Hot Spot’ for business meetings for the VIPs, local politicians and corporate meeting hangout. This was the place to dine, share and have Martinis.”

For more than two decades, the company created a festive wall-to-wall Christmas Wonderland at the venerable establishment, but with the change in ownership last year, the florist shifted gears and created a Christmas Store in November 2025, sharing the decor that once decorated Durant’s.

“We had so many holiday letters and cards from patrons of Durant’s thanking us over the years for the extra special trees, garlands and wreaths, we thought we should give everyone an opportunity to have a piece of history in their own home or office,” Miano said.

Residents can celebrate Christmas in July at the Christmas Store, where they will find gifts from both the past and the present, including decor, decorated trees, garlands, wreaths, musical snow globes, lighted figurines, mugs, stockings and more. Of course, Miano and floral artist RoseMary still create floral arrangements for all occasions.

Flowers by Joe Gregory is located at 5620 N. 7th St., Suite 2. Contact them at 602-249-7525 or visit www.floral2u.com for additional information.

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The Water Is Getting Deep: Your Car, Your Data, and the Last Stand for Real Ownership



Picture this. You are cruising down the freeway, doing that rare and beautiful thing called driving. Your eyes move to the mirror because, apparently, you are a responsible adult. Then the dashboard lights up like a suspicious parent who just found cologne in a teenager's backpack. A warning appears. The steering wheel nags. Suddenly, your vehicle is no longer just assisting you. It is judging you. Welcome to the part of the future nobody read before clicking "accept terms and conditions."

Let's be clear. I am completely against impaired driving. It destroys families, and the consequences should be serious. This is not about defending bad drivers. It is about asking whether we are ready to hand every new vehicle the power to monitor, interpret, restrict, or possibly limit operation based on systems that are still being studied, tested, debated, and refined.

Inside the federal infrastructure law is a section directing regulators to create a safety standard for advanced drunk- and impaired-driving prevention technology. In plain English, future vehicles may be required to passively detect impairment and prevent or limit operation if impairment is detected. That sounds noble. But execution is where grown adults should start asking uncomfortable questions.

The final rule is not fully written. NHTSA's own reporting has warned that current systems have not yet demonstrated the precision, speed, and reliability needed. It also noted that even a 99.9 percent accuracy rate could still create millions of incorrect outcomes across America's enormous number of driving trips. If your car is wrong one time in a thousand, you may be on the shoulder trying to explain to a camera that you are not impaired. You are just tired, blinking, and trying to survive traffic like the rest of humanity.

The viral version screams "kill switch" and runs around the room knocking over furniture. That may be emotionally satisfying, but it is strategically weak. The stronger truth is this: vehicles are already becoming rolling surveillance machines, and the line between safety features,

data collection, and operational control is getting thinner than the excuses people make for not checking tire pressure.

Your modern vehicle is not just a car. It is software wearing tires. It has cameras, sensors, subscriptions, telematics, over-the-air updates, driver monitoring, location history, app permissions, and enough data collection to make a private investigator feel underdressed. It remembers how you drove, how hard you braked, where you parked, and whether you drove like a monk or a caffeinated raccoon.

At the same time, the older vehicle ecosystem is getting squeezed. Parts availability is not what it used to be. Warehouses run dry. Backorders get longer. Aging vehicles may be retired not because they failed, but because the support system around them did.

Most consumers still think car ownership means buying, financing, fueling, and ignoring a warning light until it turns into a Christmas tree. That world is fading. The next chapter is about access. Who owns the data? Who controls the software? Who can repair the system? Who gets the parts? Who has permission? Your grandfather's car needed spark, fuel, compression, and timing. Your future car may need a software handshake, a subscription, a camera calibration, and a corporate blessing from a server farm in a state you have never visited.

They will sell all of this as safety. Always safety. Nobody wants unsafe cars or impaired drivers. But let's not be children at the magic show. Safety can be real and still be used as the sales pitch for control. Seat belts, airbags, and stability control saved lives. But a connected vehicle that watches you, records you, limits you, and depends on permission-based repair is a different animal. Same zoo, sharper teeth.

Technology is not the enemy. Losing ownership while being told it is convenience is the problem. More screens do not fix less privacy. More subscriptions do not fix a lack of control.

So what do you do? You do not panic. Panic is expensive. You prepare.

If you own a good older vehicle, stop treating it like a disposable appliance with cupholder. Maintain it. Fix small problems before they become wallet surgery. Keep records. Use quality parts. Build a relationship with a competent independent repair shop before you need one.

If you are buying a newer vehicle, ask smarter questions. What data does it collect? What connected services are active? Can you opt out? What features require subscriptions? Can independent shops access repair information? What happens when the manufacturer stops supporting the software? These are not paranoid questions. They are ownership questions.

And please, for the love of all things with pistons and dignity, read the owner's manual. It is not a beach novel, but it is your first defense. So are fluid checks, tire pressure, battery health, brake inspections, software awareness, and repair planning. Not sexy. Effective.

Real ownership is no longer just having your name on the title. Real ownership is understanding what you drive, how it works, what it collects, what it needs, what can fail, what can be fixed, and who has the power to fix it. The old flex was horsepower. The new flex is foresight.

Friends, the water is getting deep, but that does not mean you have to drown. Prepare your vehicle. Prepare your habits. Prepare your records. Prepare your buying decisions. Teach the next generation that a car is not jewelry, not therapy, not a personality transplant, and not a rolling subscription altar. It is a tool. A powerful one. A dangerous one. A necessary one.

The future belongs to the owner who pays attention early, maintains wisely, buys intelligently, protects their data, keeps options open, and refuses to confuse comfort with control.

Own the car. Don't let the car, the cloud, the subscription, the algorithm, the parts shortage, or your own bad habits own you.

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TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Change of leadership at HonorHealth

HonorHealth announced in mid-June that chief executive officer Todd LaPorte will transition from his role in March 2027 following more than a decade of leadership. The HonorHealth board of directors has named John Neil, MD, MMM, current executive vice president, chief physician executive and chief strategy officer, as his successor.

As part of a planned leadership transition, Neil will assume the role of president immediately, prior to becoming CEO on March 1, 2027. LaPorte will remain CEO until that date, after which he will serve as a strategic advisor to the CEO.

LaPorte's tenure has been defined by strong growth, innovation and a deep commitment to advancing health-care in the communities HonorHealth serves, the organization said.

"John is a highly respected leader who understands our mission, our people and our communities," said Mike Welborn, HonorHealth board chair. "He has served the medical mission of this community in some capacity for

the past 27 years, and his leadership will ensure continuity while driving continued innovation and growth."

Film festival names managing director

The Greater Phoenix Jewish Film Festival (GPJFF) announced in June that it has appointed Leah Zigmond as its inaugural managing director. The organization said that the hire reflects the festival's evolution from a small gathering of cinephiles into a premier two-week regional event requiring dedicated executive leadership to oversee its expanding slate of Valley-wide screenings and community programs.

The newly created role comes in response to the festival's sustained success and repeated recognition as "Best Community Event" by *Jewish News* readers. As managing director, Zigmond will oversee daily operations, community partnerships, marketing initiatives and long-term sustainability.

"People who know me well know that I love stories and storytelling. Jewish storytelling has always been a powerful way to explore who we are,

where we come from, and how we connect with one another," says Zigmond. "The Jewish Film Festival is about sharing Jewish stories in a meaningful and accessible way. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be part of an organization that brings our community together through these shared experiences."

Former festival co-executive director Tricia Beran returns as acting executive director, providing institutional continuity and guidance for the upcoming festival. Nyles Gradus will continue for a fourth consecutive year as artistic director, leading the year-round film selection process.

Together, the leadership team will focus on expanding community engagement and scaling operations ahead of the 31st annual festival, scheduled for Feb. 18 to March 7, 2027. Learn more at <https://gpjff.org>.

Mend Wellness celebrates grand opening

WDS Integrated Design Build joined MEND Wellness, community leaders, project partners and guests on June 10 to celebrate the grand opening

of its new 7,000-square-foot integrative wellness center at 3601 E. Indian School Road, Suite E.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the completion of a transformative design-build project led by WDS, which brought the owner's vision for a comprehensive wellness destination to life, the company said. The project transformed an existing commercial space into a modern wellness center designed to support whole-person health, recovery and long-term well-being.

The company brings together medical, wellness and holistic practitioners under one roof, offering services including concierge medicine, hormone health, women's health, medical weight management, nutrition counseling, yoga, acupuncture, chiropractic care, massage therapy and IV infusion therapy. The center also offers membership programs that provide personalized access to wellness services and ongoing support for long-term health and well-being.

For more information about MEND Wellness, call 602-428-6363 or visit www.mendwellnesscollective.com.

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Living in North Central Phoenix means enjoying mature trees, irrigated lots, canal paths, and our close proximity to the mountains. It's one of the reasons so many of us love calling this community home. It's also one of the reasons we occasionally have close encounters with the wildlife.

Just recently, I ran into longtime friend, neighbor and our attorney, Ben Green who shared a story that has stayed with me. Ben lost one of his beloved Yorkies after a coyote jumped an eight-foot block wall in broad daylight, entered his backyard, and grabbed the dog while he was just steps away on a work call with the back door open. It happened in seconds. With the help of neighbors, Ben was able to locate the coyote a few houses away and recover his dog, but sadly it was too late. It's a heartbreaking reminder that these encounters aren't just happening along the mountain preserves anymore.

We shared similar stories from clients, friends, and neighbors throughout North Central. My brother, who lives near 32nd Street and Lincoln, said that he regularly sees coyotes, bobcats and javelinas in his neighborhood. As temperatures climb and natural water sources become scarce, wildlife moves into residential areas looking for food and water. The reality is that coyotes are highly adaptable, difficult to predict, and often show very little fear of people.

While there isn't an easy solution, there are practical steps we can all take. Never leave your small pets unattended outdoors, even in a fenced yard. Keep landscaping trimmed so animals have fewer places to hide, and be especially cautious during the early morning and evening hours. Some homeowners have installed coyote rollers, CoyoteRoller.com on top of perimeter walls to prevent coyotes from gaining traction to climb or perch. Ben installed them after his tragedy and recommends calling Jared Bushman, who owns the company. Others use motion lights or deterrent devices, although no single solution is foolproof. The goal is to stay informed and take a few simple steps that can help protect the people and pets we love.

As we celebrate Independence Day and our nation's 250th year, it's also worth remembering that the festivities can be stressful for our four-legged friends. Fireworks often begin days before the Fourth and continue long after. The biggest takeaway is to stay aware. One of the things I enjoy most is walking our Boxer, Libby, through the neighborhood in the early mornings and again after the sun goes down when the weather cools off. It's also the time many of us are outside visiting with neighbors. Have a safe and happy Fourth of July. Enjoy the celebration, look out for one another, keep a close eye on your pets, and I hope to see you around our North Central neighborhoods this summer.

Here's to a great summer,

Bobby Lieb

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6429 N 17TH ST 5 BEDROOMS 3 BATHROOMS 2,393 SQ FT	\$775,000
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6424 N 17TH PL 3 BEDROOMS 2.5 BATHROOMS 2,068 SQ FT	\$660,000
7840 N 7TH ST 1 3 BEDROOMS 2 BATHROOMS 1,684 SQ FT	\$444,000
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1345 E Ocotillo RD	\$2,000,000	6425 N 17TH ST	\$662,000
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SCHOOL DAYS

Rodriguez named interim principal

On May 20, the Phoenix Union High School District (PXU) announced that Angela Rodriguez will serve as the interim principal of Camelback High School for the 2026-27 school year. She replaces James Arndt, beginning on July 1.

Rodriguez has served as the assistant principal of student achievement at Camelback High School for the past four years, while serving PXU students and families since 2011. In this time, she has worked as a math teacher, instructional leader, education mentor and assistant principal of student success.

Her journey as an educator began in her hometown of San Diego, California, in 2005 after finishing her undergraduate degree in mathematics from San Diego State University in 2004. Rodriguez moved to Phoenix in 2011 and joined the Phoenix Union High School District with a desire to help create an environment for all students to thrive. Since joining PXU, she earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Northern Arizona University.

"Ms. Rodriguez is a passionate educator and high-quality leader," PXU Superintendent Thea Andrade said. "Her dedication to students and staff, along with her deep understanding of the successful systems at Camelback High School will ensure the momentum on campus continues moving in a positive direction."

The process to select the next principal of Camelback High School will take place in the 2026-27 school year.

School Briefs

GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT District gets ready to welcome students

The Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) is preparing to welcome students for the start of the 2026-27 school year on Monday, Aug. 10. Before the first day of school, GUHSD campuses will host Walk-Through Registration during the week of July 27. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend walk-through registration alongside their students to ask questions,



Angela Rodriguez, who has served PXU since 2011, will serve as the interim principal of Camelback High School for the 2026-27 school year (photo courtesy of Phoenix Union High School District).

complete essential back-to-school steps and receive campus information. Because each campus may have different registration schedules, families should continue checking their school's website for specific dates, times and additional details as the school year approaches.

Families seeking enrollment information are encouraged to contact their school beginning July 6, when campus offices reopen for the school year. Glendale Union High School District looks forward to another year of academic achievement, student involvement, and community connection as GUHSD continues its commitment to keeping the promise of every student's potential. To learn more, visit www.guhsdaz.org.

Class of 2026 garners scholarships, awards

The Glendale Union High School District celebrated the Class of 2026 for earning more than \$121 million in scholarships and awards.

"This achievement reflects the dedication, aspirations and opportunities pursued by students across the district as they prepare for their next chapter after graduation," the district said. "As the Class of 2026 takes its next steps into college, career and life, this milestone highlights the value of supporting student growth, expanding access to

SCHOOL DAYS

opportunities, and preparing students for future success. Their accomplishments reflect the Glendale Union High School District’s continued commitment to ensuring every student graduates ready for what comes next.”

GUHSD to host job fair in July

Glendale Union High School District will host the Support Staff Job Fair on Thursday, July 16, at Moon Valley High School, with in-person screening interviews from 3 to 5 p.m. for applicants interested in joining the district ahead of the 2026-27 school year.

At GUHSD, every role is important, the district said, and employees are encouraged to grow within their current position or pursue new opportunities across the district while building meaningful careers. GUHSD supports thousands of students across Glendale and Phoenix and is hiring across all nine schools for the new school year, with current openings including bus drivers, food service employees, custodians, maintenance staff, clerical staff and instructional assistants.

Positions offer competitive pay and benefits, including health, dental, and life insurance; paid time off; participation in the Arizona State Retirement System; and short-term disability coverage. Interested candidates can apply online via the Employment tab on the GUHSD website: www.guhzdaz.org. For more information or to RSVP, call 623-435-6010.



The Madison No.1 coed varsity flag football team celebrated a championship season during the 2026-27 school year (photo courtesy of Madison School District).

Student joins exchange program

A Washington High School student is representing both her school and the city of Phoenix this summer in Grenoble, France, through the Phoenix Sister Cities Youth Ambassador Exchange Program.

Nina Whaley was selected as one of only 17 Phoenix high school students chosen to participate in the international exchange experience, which provides students with the opportunity to build global connections through cultural immersion. In the Youth Ambassador Exchange Program, stu-



Nina Whaley

dents develop leadership skills, expand their global awareness, and gain experiences that encourage connection across communities and cultures.

MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT District celebrates student, staff accomplishments

On May 13, the Madison School District held its annual recognition event, honoring students, staff and volunteers for their achievements, contributions and dedication during the school year.

Student-athletes were recognized for their championship-winning performance in the Valley Athletic Conference, including Madison No.1’s coed varsity flag football team; Madison Park’s boys varsity soccer, girls varsity soccer, girls varsity softball and boys varsity track & field 4x4 relay

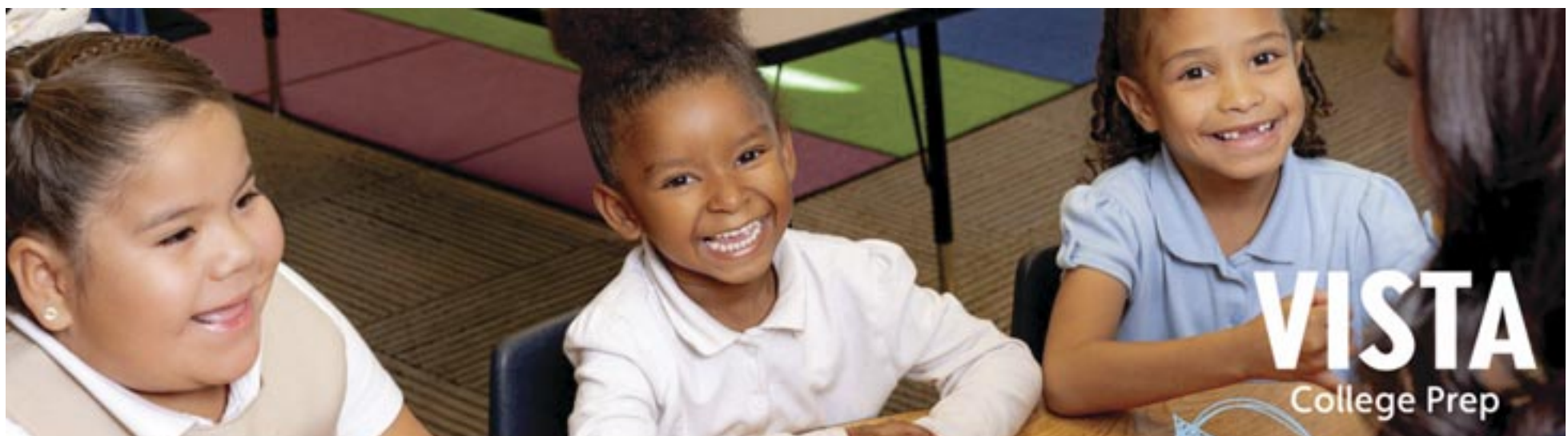
teams; and Madison Meadows’ boys and girls varsity cross country, coed varsity cheer, girls varsity soccer, boys varsity volleyball, girls varsity track & field, girls varsity softball, boys varsity baseball, and girls varsity track & field 4x400 relay teams.

Madison Simis and Meadows Odyssey of the Mind teams were recognized for their strong performances at the regional and state competitions, with six teams from Madison Meadows qualifying for the World Finals competition.

Student artists from across the district were showcased for their work during the school year. Student Mattias Pulido from Madison Meadows was recognized for his first-place win at the Invention Convention state competition and Meadows student Ella Basham was recognized for receiving the National Junior Honor Society Outstanding Achievement Award.

Community Education Site Coordinator Bianca Byrd was recognized for being awarded the National Afterschool Association Next Generation of Afterschool Leaders Award and nine individuals were awarded the district’s highest recognition, the Truly Extraordinary award, for their commitment and contributions to the students, district and their school communities.

Parents and community members were thanked and honored for their volunteer and service hours during the school year, and retiring staff members were celebrated for their years of service to the district and its students.



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Records scheduled for destruction are those of students who:

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- Graduated, withdrew, transferred, or exited special education services during or prior to the 2021-2022 school year.

These records may include, but are not limited to, special education eligibility documentation, evaluation reports, individualized education programs (IEPs), related service records, and other personally identifiable information maintained as part of the student's special education file.

Parents/guardians or eligible former students (18 years of age or older) may request copies of these records prior to destruction. Requests must be submitted no later than July 14, 2026.

Please contact:
Arizona School for the Arts
 Exceptional Student Services Director
 602-257-1444
 essrecords@goasa.org

SCHOOL DAYS

Madison hosts hiring fair

Madison School District will host a job fair on Wednesday, July 15. Individuals will have the opportunity to meet with school and district leaders to learn about available positions, benefits and more.

Madison is hiring a variety of positions, including teachers, guest teachers, bus drivers, before and after school program staff, custodians as well as other school and student support positions.

The hiring fair will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. in the boardroom at the Madison district office, 5601 N. 16th St. More information about working for Madison School District is available at www.madisonaz.org/jobs.

OSBORN SCHOOL DISTRICT Montessori microforest continues to thrive

Since planting the Montecito Montessori microforest in November 2025 through a grant partnership with the Lifetime Foundation and SUGI,

there has been remarkable growth and transformation.

Created using the Miyawaki method, this innovative approach to reforestation has proven highly successful, with many of the native plants growing at nearly ten times their typical rate.

The microforest has become a living classroom for students. Like the Monarch butterflies that visit the forest, this outdoor learning environment continues to metamorphize and includes plans to add seating areas and a shade canopy where students can learn both about and within the forest itself.

The growth of the microforest mirrors the changes taking place at Montecito. Construction on school expansion continues to move forward, with phase one scheduled to open during the upcoming school year. Phases two and three will follow over the course of the 2026–27 school year with completion scheduled for spring 2027, further enhancing the learning environment and supporting the future of Montecito Montessori.

Montecito Montessori is located at

715 E. Montecito Ave. Learn more about the school by visiting <https://montecito.osbornschools.org>.

New superintendent begins role on July 1

After its May 19 board meeting, the Osborn School District announced that Felipe Carranza will serve as the next superintendent of the district.

Carranza is an educational leader with more than 26 years of experience serving students, families and school communities in Arizona, the district said. He most recently served as principal of Solano Elementary in the Osborn School District, where he led school turnaround efforts focused on academic achievement, instructional leadership, positive school culture and student support systems.



Felipe Carranza

Prior to that role, he served as the district's director of Leadership and School Improvement, supporting principals and school leaders in strengthening instructional systems, developing leadership capacity and improving student outcomes across the district. Throughout his career, Carranza has served as a teacher, instructional coach, behavior interventionist, assistant principal, principal and district leader, bringing a broad and comprehensive understanding of public education systems and school improvement.

Carranza currently is pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership at Northern Arizona University, where his research focuses on school and district leadership and organizational improvement. He will commence his duties on July 1.

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Camelback welcomes incoming Spartans

Families of incoming ninth graders, now is the time to enroll at Camelback High School for the 2026-27 school year. Students who enroll early have the best access to classes, sports, clubs and programs, the school said.

To learn more about the school, visit www.pxu.org/o/chs. Families who need enrollment assistance can stop by



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SCHOOL DAYS

the campus, 4612 N. 28th St., Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The first day of school is Aug. 3. For more information, call 602-764-7000.

Student excels at SkillsUSA event

Juan Viveros, a recent graduate of Metro Tech, placed first at the SkillsUSA National Conference in June in the Internet of Things (IOT) Smart Home category.

Viveros equipped with his own tools, had to set up various devices for a Smart Home, doing all of the wiring and mounting himself. He is mainly self-taught, but credits the Computer Maintenance and Cybersecurity and the Software Development CTE programs at Metro Tech for supporting his skillset.

In the fall, he will attend Carleton College in Minnesota to study Computer Science. He hopes to have a career as a repair technician because he loves working with hardware.



Juan Viveros

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Schools selected for USDA program

WESD announced that 16 schools have been selected to participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Fresh

Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) for the 2026-27 school year, including four within the North Central Phoenix corridor – Desert View Elementary School, Moon Mountain Elementary School, Richard E. Miller Elementary School and Sunnyslope School.

Thanks to the program, the WESD Nutrition Services Department will provide students at these campuses with free fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the school year. The program not only encourages healthy choices, but also helps students develop a greater appreciation for nutritious foods while supporting their present and future health.

The FFVP is designed to promote healthier school environments by encouraging nutrition education and increasing students’ access to fresh, unprocessed fruits and vegetables. Through the program, students are introduced to a variety of nutritious produce options that help build healthy eating habits and support lifelong wellness.

Enrollment is open for 2026-27

Whether it’s free, full-day kindergarten, premier special education and gifted services, or engaging programs in art, music, PE, STEM and online learning, the WESD says that it offers opportunities designed to meet the individual needs of every student.

With multiple A+ Schools of Excellence, a National Blue Ribbon School and a National Title I Distinguished School, WESD continues to be recognized for excellence. The

district is also a top 20 school district in the country in student growth and has been named a top 10 elementary school district in Arizona by AZ Big Media. Additionally, 87 percent of WESD schools earn an “A” or “B” rating.

The district currently is enrolling kindergarten through eighth grade students for the 2026-27 school year. To begin the enrollment process, visit the WESD Welcome and Registration Center at 3200 W. Cholla St., or enroll online at www.wesdschools.org/families/registration.

PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS Valley Lutheran seniors serve, earn scholarships

Students at Valley Lutheran High School completed more than 3,000 hours of community service during the 2025-26 school year. Research from colleges and universities continues to show that admissions teams are looking beyond grades and test scores to identify students who demonstrate leadership, initiative, compassion, and long-term community involvement.

Students completed service hours through Valley Lutheran’s two annual Giving Days, National Honor Society (NHS), Hearts to Serve Club and the school’s Interim Program, which provides hands-on learning and service opportunities throughout Arizona and beyond. School leaders note that colleges are often more interested in sustained involvement and meaningful

impact than simply accumulating volunteer hours.

The impact extends beyond admissions. Valley Lutheran’s Class of 2026 was offered more than \$5 million in college scholarships, with school leaders noting that meaningful service and leadership experiences often help students stand out in both admissions and scholarship reviews.

For more information, visit www.vlhs.org.

Tolar to lead swim and dive

Robert Tolar has been named the head swimming and diving coach at Brophy College Prep, athletic director Josh Garcia announced in June. He replaces recently retired Patrick O’Neill.

Tolar assisted O’Neill during the 2025 season, leading the Broncos to the AIA Division I State Championship and a state-record point total. He is in his second season on the Brophy faculty in the mathematics department.

Brophy gears up for back to school

At the end of June, Brophy sent out a special back-to-school newsletter with detailed information about the first few weeks of school, including important dates for the next school year: Monday, July 27 – school offices open; Wednesday, Aug 5 – mandatory student orientation; and Thursday, Aug 6 – classes begin.

please see BACK TO SCHOOL on page 26

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SCHOOL DAYS



Class of 2026 Arizona School for the Arts graduate Colin W. earned his Eagle Scout rank by revitalizing the garden space at his school. The new Eagle Scout planned the project, raised more than \$1,700 in donations, gathered community support and led volunteers to rebuild the garden beds and restore irrigation (photo courtesy of ASA).

BACK TO SCHOOL continued from page 25

In addition, Brophy will host a Back-to-School Boutique Shopping Event on Saturday, Aug. 8, 6-8 p.m., at the Varsity Shop. Support the 2026 Brophy Auction by attending a moms-only party to kick off the school year – enjoy food, drinks and shopping. This will be a first chance to shop new gear in the Varsity Shop and check out the limited number of auction special sales items. All proceeds from this event will benefit the auction’s fundraising efforts. Visit the school website to RSVP: www.brophyprep.org.

reflects the extraordinary dedication of our student-athletes, coaches and the entire Xavier community. Our mission is not simply to win championships, but to develop confident young women who lead with integrity, compete with character and excel in every aspect of their lives.”

The national recognition comes on the heels of another exceptional year for Xavier athletics, which has continued its legacy of success across multiple sports while maintaining the school’s longstanding commitment to academic achievement and the holistic development of its students.

Learn more at www.xcp.org.

School ranked first for student-athletes

In June, Xavier College Preparatory announced that the school has been named the No. 1 high school for student-athletes in Arizona and No. 5 in the United States by Niche.com.

The ranking places Xavier among the country’s elite athletic programs while competing against all public and private schools, including coed schools. Niche evaluates schools using a combination of student and parent surveys, athletic participation and data from the U.S. Department of Education.

“For decades, Xavier has built a tradition of excellence that extends well beyond the playing field,” the school said. “Today, the school offers 26 interscholastic sports and has captured 166 Arizona state championships, while emphasizing leadership, teamwork, perseverance, and academic success.”

Tui Selvaratnam, athletic director at Xavier, added, “This recognition

Student updates school garden

As part of earning the Eagle Scout rank, the highest achievement in Scouting America, Class of 2026 Arizona School for the Arts (ASA) graduate Colin W. led a project to revitalize the ASA garden.

The school said that after seeing the garden space every day for years, the student wanted to create a place that students and staff could enjoy again. He planned the project, raised more than \$1,700 in donations, gathered community support and led volunteers to rebuild the garden beds and restore irrigation.

The project was completed in April, and the student officially earned the rank of Eagle Scout in May.

In a social media post, the school said, “We are proud of Colin’s leadership, hard work, and thankful for this lasting gift to the ASA community.”

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GENERATIONS



PAC team members are gearing up to provide a fun, supportive educational place at schools across the Valley schools where youth can spend their afterschool hours when classes resume in August (photo courtesy of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department).

Kids & Families

Enrollment is open for PAC sessions

Enrollment opened June 18 for families to join the Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department’s Phoenix Afterschool Center (PAC) when school resumes this fall. PAC offers a fun, supportive and educational place for youth ages 6 to 13 to spend critical afterschool hours at school sites citywide. Experienced recreation staff lead structured activities and supervised free-play.

What can attendees expect at PAC? Youth will have a dedicated time to complete homework assignments with assistance from PAC staff on a daily basis, and books are provided for all levels of readers to enjoy once homework is finished. Twice a month, participants will engage in fun, interesting and hands-on STEM projects, and enrichment presentations are given by a variety of kid-friendly partners, and organized games, sports and activities designed to promote health and wellness are available. Additionally, weekly nutrition workshops are provided to educate about the importance of healthy eating. Supervised free time allows youths to play, socialize and develop important interaction skills, and they will have the opportunity to expand their creative abilities through a variety art projects.

Programs are available at many North Central schools, including in the Osborn and Washington Elementary school districts. To contact the PAC team, call 602-262-7370 or send an email to pac@phoenix.gov. For in-person registration, visit a Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department communi-

ty center. Find information online at www.phoenix.gov/parks/pac.

Check out the library in July

The Summer Reading Game continues through July 20 at Phoenix Public Library branches, but regardless of whether young residents have signed up to participate in the reading challenge, they can still enjoy themed programming at local libraries.

At Yucca Library, 5648 N. 15th Ave., families can enjoy The Up-ROAR-ious Dinosaur puppet show, Wednesday, July 8, from 2 to 3 p.m. Stick around afterwards to decorate dinosaur puppets and stage and then use your imagination to create your own puppet shows to entertain your family and friends. Supplies are limited and participation is first come, first served.

On Wednesday, July 15, Zoo to You brings participants up close and personal with captivating creatures as expert staff share stories and information that are sure to leave an impression. The Live on Location program captivates learners of all ages. Space is limited.

Over at Cholla Library, 10050 Metro Parkway E., librarians have a full calendar of July events ready for patrons – from visits by the Phoenix Herpetological Society (July 2) and Great Arizona Puppet Theatre (July 9) to Summer S.T.E.A.M. Sundays (July 5, 12 and 19) and family-friendly dinosaur-centric film screenings (July 10 and 31).

For complete event descriptions and programming offered at other Phoenix libraries, visit www.phoenix-publiclibrary.org.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Visitors to the Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix this month will find an escape from the summer heat and a bonus summer pass for a free return (photo by Andrew Pielage).

Garden launches pass program

The Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix (RoHoEn) is launching a Summer Pass program designed to give every visitor more opportunities to experience the garden's beauty, tranquility and restorative benefits this summer. From June 15 through Aug. 31, every admission ticket purchased includes a bonus Summer Pass good for one free return visit before the end of August.

"Science has since proven what Japanese Gardeners have understood for 2,000 years: Time in nature reduces stress, supports physical recovery and improves emotional wellbeing," said Ben Schrepf, executive director and Garden curator. "With our seasonal hours and the new Summer Pass, we're making sure those benefits are within reach for everyone in Phoenix, even in

the heat of summer."

The garden's summer schedule provides access during morning and evening hours, when visitors can most comfortably enjoy the grounds. Summer hours are 8 to 11:30 a.m. (last admission 11 a.m.) and 4 to 7:30 p.m. (last admission 7 p.m.).

The promotion is ticket-based: each ticket purchased receives one Summer Pass, regardless of party size. A family purchasing four tickets receives four passes. Passes are valid for any future visit within the program period and cannot be applied to the same-day transaction. Visitors who purchase tickets online in advance may collect their Summer Passes at the admission window.

The Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix is located at 1125 N. 3rd Ave. in downtown Phoenix. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Museum receives major gift

In June, Phoenix Art Museum announced the addition of 185 works by Indigenous artists to its collection. The gift from The William P. Healey Collection of Native American Art marks the single largest gift of Native art to the Museum in its more than 65-year history and strengthens the Museum's Art of the Americas Collection by providing a major infusion of modern and contemporary works by 99 artists representing 44 tribal nations.

The museum says that the acquisition furthers its efforts to expand its Art of the Americas holdings and better represent the complex and layered histories of the Americas in its galleries. Drawing from this significant gift, the museum will premiere "The Way We Came: A Century of Indigenous Art" (The William P. Healey Collection at Phoenix Art Museum), an examination of modernity in Native American art and the numerous ways Indigenous artists from the 20th century through today have sustained, adapted and



Tony Abeyta's "Celebration from the Underworld" (1998-1999; oil on canvas) is one of more than 100 gifted works by Indigenous artists that will be included in "The Way We Came: A Century of Indigenous Art" at Phoenix Art Museum in August (photo by Davin Lavikka).

reimagined cultural knowledge.

PhxArt's Art of the Americas Collection spans the 16th century to the present, with strengths in historical art of the American West, pre-modern American art and Viceregal Latin American Art. The addition of the Healey Collection will bring paintings, drawings, photographs and sculptures that explore a wide range of cultural traditions and stories and demonstrate myriad forms of artistic expression.

Curated by Tony Abeyta (Navajo) and JoAnna Reyes, the museum's adjunct curator of art of the Americas, and featuring more than 100 of the gift-

ed works, "The Way We Came" will be on view from Aug. 26 through July 11, 2027. Learn more at www.phxart.org.

Home and landscape show returns

The Maricopa County Home & Landscape Show, the largest home show in the Southwest, returns to the air-conditioned State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Friday, July 17, through Sunday, July 19. The Home Show brings the latest ideas for outdoor living and summer-ready homes, including home cooling, misting and shade

solutions, patio furniture, pool remodeling, artificial turf, home décor and more. This family-friendly show is indoors and includes free parking.

"New at the Home Show is The Taste Elevated Cooking Stage where guests can enjoy food workshops and live culinary demos. We also have more than 900 exhibit booths, DIY workshops, seminars, a living greenhouse, kids' activities, and more – we are proud to offer something for everyone," said Katie Jones, show director. "We are very fortunate to host our 12th annual backpack drive with the Maricopa County Office of Superintendent to collect school backpacks and supplies for Valley students in need."

Attendees can help local students and get free admission to the Home Show by donating school supplies or backpacks. Donate one new backpack with tags attached and receive two free tickets or donate five school supplies to receive one free ticket. Drop off donations at the Backpack Drive tent near Gate 2. To date, Home Show attendees have donated over 5,000 backpacks and tens of thousands of school supplies.

please see SHOW on page 32



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SHOW continued from page 31

General admission is \$10 daily for adults, kids ages 5-12 are \$3 and 0-4 are free. Discounts will be offered on various customer appreciation days. Find additional information at www.mchomeshows.com.

Enjoy yoga in Dorrance DOME

Valley residents are invited to flow into a yoga experience like no other within the Dorrance DOME at Arizona Science Center, 600 E. Washington St.

Surrounded by breathtaking immersive visuals and sound, this class blends movement, breath and atmosphere to ground your body and expand your mind. Designed for all levels, it is a practice that invites participants to reset, connect and discover a new sense of balance in an unforgettable setting. Each session is led by Sharon Ducati from Sharon Rose Yoga.

Sessions will be held at 8:30 a.m., Saturday, July 25, and 4:30 p.m., Sunday, July 26. A limited number of yoga mats are available. Guests are welcome to bring their own mats and water.

To register or find additional information, call 602-716-2000 or visit www.azscience.org.

Choir seeks new works

Phoenix Boys Choir announced its Fifth Annual New Works Rising Choral Composition Competition. Composers of all ages and nationalities are invited to submit innovative, imaginative, and accessible choral repertoire for boys and young men.

Compositions should reflect the choir's 2026-27 season theme, "Pathways," an exploration of growth, transformation and forward motion – both personal and collective.

"We are especially interested in works that illuminate how such pathways are shaped by perseverance, mentorship and discipline, and by the ongoing pursuit of purpose, connection, and possibility as we grow into who we are becoming," choir leadership said on their website.

The submission deadline is Aug. 15. Additional information is available online at www.boyschoir.org/newworksrisingcompetition.

On the Town

It's hot outside, but the Valley's venues, museums and gardens have you covered with cool things to see and do. Enjoy family-friendly events, free First Friday happenings, live bands, farmers' markets, the Phoenix Fabulous 4th and more. See you on the town in July!

First Friday: Rhys Montanarello Plays Pat Metheny

July 3
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

First Friday: Carving with James Johnson

July 3
Heard Museum
<https://heard.org>; 602-252-8840

First Fridays in the Garden

July 3
Japanese Friendship Garden
www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org;
602-274-8700

Phoenix Fabulous 4th

July 4
Steele Indian School Park
www.phoenix.gov/fabphx4

Rattlesnake Garage

July 4
North Mountain Visitor Center
www.northmountainvisitorcenter.org;
602-343-5125

Saturday Uptown Farmers Market

July 4-25
North Phoenix Baptist Church
www.uptownmarketaz.com

Saturday Downtown Phoenix Farmers Market

July 4-25
Arizona Center
www.downtownphoenixfarmersmarket.org

Tanabata, the Festival of the Stars

July 5
Japanese Friendship Garden
www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org;
602-274-8700

Tesoro

July 9
Valley Bar
www.valleybarphx.com

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Acoustic Open Stage Thursdays

July 9
Fiddler’s Dream Coffeehouse
www.fiddlersdream.org; 602-997-9795

Happy Hour Tour

July 10
The Square at Heritage and Science Park
www.thesquarephx.org; 602-258-0048

Phoenix Old Time Music Society

July 10
North Mountain Visitor Center
www.northmountainvisitorcenter.org; 602-343-5125

Lucas Albuquerque and Friends

July 11
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

Candlelight: Vivaldi’s Four Seasons

July 11
Madison Center for the Arts
www.themadison.org; 602-664-7777

Jeremiah Franks

July 11
Fiddler’s Dream Coffeehouse
www.fiddlersdream.org; 602-997-9795

‘Rapunzel’

Thru July 12
Great Arizona Puppet Theater
www.azpuppets.org; 602-262-2050

Summer Lecture Series: Temperance & Trapdoors

July 12
The Square at Heritage and Science Park
www.thesquarephx.org; 602-258-0048

Chinese American Bear

July 14
The Rebel Lounge
www.therebellounge.com

‘Les Misérables’

July 15 – Aug. 30
The Phoenix Theatre Company
www.phoenixtheatre.com; 602-254-2151

Third Friday Ceili

July 17
Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library
www.azirish.org; 602-258-0109

Live From Laurel Canyon

July 17
The Van Buren
www.thevanburenphx.com; 480-659-1641

Summer Lecture Series: Beneath the Petticoats

July 19
The Square at Heritage and Science Park
www.thesquarephx.org; 602-258-0048

Acoustic Open Stage Thursdays

July 23
Fiddler’s Dream Coffeehouse
www.fiddlersdream.org; 602-997-9795

School of Rock Allstars

July 25
Valley Bar
www.valleybarphx.com

Candlelight: Mozart vs. Beethoven

July 25
Madison Center for the Arts
www.themadison.org; 602-664-7777

Riff Wood

July 27
Crescent Ballroom
www.crescentphx.com; 602-716-2222

Meet Me @ The Altar

July 31
The Rebel Lounge
www.therebellounge.com

8-Bit Mammoth

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

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.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Scott Hibler digs into a pulled pork sandwich – smoked pork on Hawaiian buns with crispy onion strips served with vinegar slaw and pickles – at Uptown’s Horse & Hyde (photo by Darryl Webb for North Central News).

Café Chat Find shades of Nashville at Horse & Hyde

By Marjorie Rice

At Horse & Hyde, you get the Nashville vibe as soon as you walk in the door. There’s a stage upfront, with “For the Love of Country” spelled out in big letters on the wall. A local artist is playing country songs – their own or popular favorites.

Guests are chowing down on smokehouse sandwiches, barbecue platters, beer and signature cocktails, and the aroma of smoked meats lingers as servers bring plates of food to tables.

Black matte walls back up a compact dining area with tables and banquette seating, watched over by a large, mirror-encrusted steer skull. There’s a long bar with more seating, as well as a few tables in front and a patio just outside the big open front window.

The setting encourages cross-table conversation. And that’s exactly the way Scott Hibler and his partner Korey Boals, who opened Horse & Hyde a year and a half ago in Uptown Plaza, want it.

“We love country music and we love homestyle barbecue,” Hibler said. “It’s a special, unique place. If you’ve ever gone to Nashville and seen the changes that have happened up there, that vibe and that energy has really blown up around the country.”

While some of those Nashville

venues can be sprawling, “we wanted something that’s smaller, more intimate, with great food, amazing drinks and high energy,” Hibler said. “We try to make it comfortable with a modern flair. You can’t help but talk to the people next to you. We’ve designed this place to be more of a family-friendly place. We get a ton of families with kids here.”

The idea behind Horse & Hyde was to focus on young artists who are up-and-coming, Hibler said. “My fear when we opened was that we weren’t going to have enough talent but there are so many musicians in town who love country music.”

Open-mic nights encourage unknowns, he said. “We want to bring that new artist in, give them a venue and a chance to master their craft while at the same time they bring their family and friends in for food and drinks. It’s a win-win for everyone.”

Hibler and Boals have a decade of experience in the Valley bar scene, including the original Arcadia Tavern and working with The Porch restaurant group. When the original Horse & Hyde opened in Arcadia, Hibler and Boals invested. While they remain as part owners of the original, they decided to open and operate their own, in North Central Phoenix. They also own and operate the Phoenix location of Dirtbag’s.

Neither of the partners had culinary experience before they took the plunge

please see NASHVILLE on page 36

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AVG SALE PRICE/SQFT
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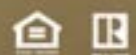
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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

NASHVILLE continued from page 34

into taverns. “I was in the signage and real estate development business, and Korey was a CPA, and we evolved into taking this on,” Hibler said. “You learn a lot.”

Hibler credits some of their success to others who shared their expertise and experiences. “As soon as we bought Arcadia Tavern, we got calls from all the other big bar owners in town. You become friends with them and learn from them. It’s a cool network to be a part of.”

And he credits Chef Damien Johnson, who goes by “Shark,” who developed the menu. The focus is on barbecue, including meat smoked offsite. That will allow the partners to select locations as they expand over the next few years, without a need for traditional restaurant-size kitchens, Hibler said.

“What Korey and I are good at is we know our roles,” he said. “We let our chef make the food and we let our beverage manager, Charles Malone, come up with our cocktails. We wanted them light, not heavy or syrupy. We wanted some color and of course, a great old fashioned.”

What Malone came up with was cocktails with good scents, Hibler said. A case in point is the Lavender French 75, with Empress gin, lavender and prosecco, garnished with a sprig of lavender. “Right before you drink it, the lavender notes hit you. It’s refreshing.”

For the old fashioned, Hibler said a twist of orange is swirled around the rim. “The scent of that sweet citrus right before you taste a really good whiskey elevates it, makes you want to sip it.”

Key to the menu is a variety of choices.

“What we wanted is every time you come here to be a different experience,” Hibler said, “so we have barbecue sauces from four different regions of the country: our house sauce, Texas, Memphis and Carolina. You can come in and have the brisket, pork or chicken and try it with a different sauce. Every time you come it’s something unique and new.”

Cowboy caviar – peppers, corn, onions, tomatoes and beans, chopped to consistent size – shows up on several dishes including a cobb salad and the smokehouse quesadilla.

It’s cowboy/country comfort food, and it blends well with the atmosphere at Horse & Hyde.

“We’ve tried to create that comfort, home feeling,” Hibler said. “It’s so intimate that it invites you to make new friends. You



Styled to reflect Arizona history and provide a respite from the world outside, Dust Cutter at the Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel invites residents to explore their summer menu and uncover local flavors (submitted photo).

feel like you’re in your house, and then the live country music comes on.”

Bringing that to life wasn’t without roadblocks, Hibler said. Initially, there was resistance to live music, that it would be too loud for the neighborhood. “The biggest fear we had was whether they were going to accept us,” Hibler, who lives in the neighborhood, lobbied for acceptance, and they got permission to open.

“The people here at Uptown, and North Central in particular, have embraced us and love what we brought to this neighborhood,” he said. “If they haven’t been here, I want them to come and experience it.”

Horse & Hyde, 100 E. Camelback Road, is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 3 to 10 p.m.; Thursday, 3 to 11 p.m.; Friday 3 p.m. to midnight; Saturday, 11 a.m. to midnight; and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. For information, call 480-914-4868 or visit www.hhuptown.com.

Dining Briefs

Shake off the dust of the day

Named for the first strong drink after a long, dusty day, Dust Cutter, at 50 E Adams St. in downtown Phoenix, is a restaurant and bar focused on “quality ingredients, local partnerships and well crafted cocktails,” the establishment says. From Schreiner’s bacon and sausage, K4 Ranch beef patties, and Crow’s Dairy cheese to Queen Creek olives, Mrs. Klein’s pickles, and house made finishes featuring Copper City Bourbon, the menus reflect Arizona.

At the center of it all sits a 15 foot Post & Perch table, made from a live-edge redwood slab. Pull up a barstool or lean into the iron foot rail while sipping something shaken (or stirred). Above the table, five lights – held in place by vintage style gold construction clamps – hang at their own carefree angles, “setting a mood that’s relaxed, confident and unmistakably Phoenix.”

One corner of Dust Cutter, the Tenderfoot Corral, sits beside garage style openings. The opposite corner – Jimmy Crack Corner – offers a more intimate hideaway, decorated with vintage cowboy pieces such as Buffalo Chaps and silver bridles once owned by Bill Tull, the renowned local architect behind so many Southwestern icons. At the heart of the bar, a 25 foot Urban Fireplace opens to both the inside and the patio.

Located inside the Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel, Dust Cutter launched a new summer menu in June. Patrons also can enjoy Renaissance Discovery Hour every Monday through Thursday at 6 p.m. Discovery Hour invites residents to sip complimentary craft beverages and uncover local flavors. Learn more at www.dustcutterphx.com.

Sierra Bonita offers summer pick-up

Sierra Bonita Catering has brought back its take-and-reheat meals, available for pick-up every Thursday through the end of August.

The company says that they brought the meals back due to customer demand. Served in individual portion sizes and featuring “all scratch-made

fare using only the highest quality ingredients,” the catering company’s culinary team creates a weekly changing selection of soups, salads, sandwiches, sweets and heartier entrees. The menus showcase a variety of culinary influences. Recent items include French onion meatloaf, served with mashed potatoes and French green beans, charred street corn shrimp pasta with a smoked chile cream sauce, and an Asian ahi salad with a miso vinaigrette.

For the weekly meals, new menus go live Friday at 6 a.m., and orders must be placed by Monday at 2 p.m. The pick-up window is Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. at Sierra Bonita Catering, located at 8522 N. 7th Street. For menus and online ordering, visit <https://sierra-bonita-catering.square.site>. For catering inquiries, call 602-573-2367 or email kim@sbgcatering.com.

Summer (dining) in the city

Summer in Phoenix may be hot, but it does have its perks, including dining deals at Valley restaurants. Here are just a few spots to sip, dine and save this season.

At The Mexicano’s two Valley locations, guests can enjoy the return of Street Taco Summer. Available all day every Tuesday and Thursday in the bar area, the promotion features \$2 street tacos filled with options like carnitas, chicken tinga, beef and Americano-style grilled steak, offering a flavorful and budget-friendly way to experience the restaurant’s signature Mexican flavors. Visit www.themexicano.com for details.

Eat Up Drive In in Arcadia is helping guests stay cool this summer with its daily “Hydration Happy Hour,” offering half-off all beverages from 3 to 5 p.m. every day. Guests can sip and save on refreshing favorites, including lemonade, frozen lemonade, iced tea, and Arnold Palmers, making it an easy and affordable way to beat the Arizona heat. Find more information at www.eatupdrivein.com.

Finally, Over Easy is making summer lunches more affordable with its Weekday Social, available Monday through Friday from noon to 2 p.m. Guests can enjoy \$12 lunch items, \$2 off select appetizers and \$5 mimosas, brunch punch and Salty Dogs. Diners can also take advantage of discounted bites, making it easy to enjoy brunch favorites without breaking the bank. Learn more at www.eatovereasy.com.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Summer of Salads Returns to Gladly

Summer in Arizona means a few things: triple-digit temps, sizzling sidewalks and, at The Gladly, the return of a customer-favorite culinary tradition – The Summer of Salads. Continuing through August, diners who enjoy the eatery’s Original Chopped Salad can indulge in the dish that started it all for just \$15 every Monday.

Typically a slower season for Valley restaurants, the summer special is a way to entice diners to step out of the heat and support local eateries over the next couple of months. It also serves to celebrate the chef who created the salad, which in May 2025 was officially recognized as an iconic dish of Arizona by the state itself – “cementing its rightful place in the culinary history books (and our hearts),” the restaurant said.

The proclamation reads: “The Original Chopped Salad [is recognized] as a celebrated culinary staple of Arizona and commends the contributions of Chef Bernie Kankak and The Gladly for its role in preserving and sharing this iconic dish, and expresses its appreciation for the chefs, restaurateurs and culinary professionals who continue to enrich our city’s cultural landscape.”



Summer in Phoenix brings lighter fare to the table at many Valley eateries, including The Gladly’s Original Chopped Salad, which is available now through the end of August at the neighborhood spot (submitted photo).

Created by Kankak in 1997, the perfect rows of smoked salmon, couscous, arugula, freeze dried corn, pepitas, asiago, black currants and creamy buttermilk dressing offer a lighter way to enjoy dining out during the hot summer months in Phoenix. The dish is available Mondays through Aug. 31, all day: dine-in, delivery or takeout.

The Gladly is located on 22nd Street and Camelback Road. For more information, visit www.thegladly.com.

Coffee brand hits shelves nationwide

Locally owned PRESS Coffee announced in June that the company has secured placement in over 440 Sprouts Farmers Market stores nationwide, featuring select products such as Twitch Espresso, Four Corners and Evergreen Organic.

The company has opened seven cafes inside Sprouts locations throughout the Valley, and now this partner-

ship has expanded its reach to shelves nationwide.

“We’ve partnered with Sprouts for years, providing certain products in specific locations, and now we’re extremely excited to make them available across the country,” said Steve Kraus, owner and founder of PRESS Coffee. “This is another step toward delivering specialty coffee to consumers outside of Arizona.”

The coffee company sources the unique coffees from around the world, including from its own farm located in Volcan Valley in Western Panama. The green coffee beans are roasted daily at the Roastery, located in Phoenix, to ensure the freshest cup possible. Operating cafes inside select store locations, the company says that it brings the same high-quality specialty coffee and seasonal roasts found at its standalone locations.

In North Central, visit Sprouts Osborn at 3320 N. 7th Ave. Nearby standalone locations include Biltmore, at 2390 E. Camelback Road, and The Roastery, at 10443 N. 32nd St. For more information, visit www.press-coffee.com or www.sprouts.com.

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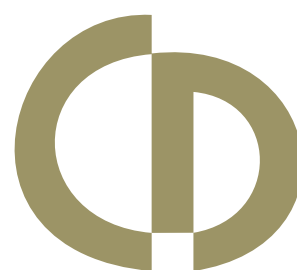
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