



# north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

volume 28, issue 6 • june 2026

www.northcentralnews.net

## The thrill of the hunt: Thrifting in Phoenix

By Trudy Thompson Shumaker

Goodwill, Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul are well-known and well-established thrift stores. But today, they are joined by dozens of smaller shops across the Valley.

Nancy Licht has furnished almost all of her vacation rental in North Central with thrifting finds. Mid-century modern is her style, and she has found lamps, tables, artwork, linens, dishes, couches and chairs in stores from Goodwill to White Dove to SEEDS to the Assistance League shops. She knows what day of the week each shop discounts merchandise, and makes her rounds accordingly.

“It’s the thrill of the hunt,” she said of her thrifting adventures. “When I can find a treasure, especially one at a bargain price that I can use or that I can resell, I have had a successful shopping trip. I especially like to buy from shops that support nonprofits, like SEEDS supports programs for young adults on the spectrum. White Dove supports Hospice of the Valley and HALO supports programs for homeless animals.”

Sherrri Williams is a business woman who takes a day off a week to volunteer at Thrift to Thrive, a shop that supports Thrive AZ. Proceeds benefit its Safe Sleep program that provides beds to children and youth in need.

“I come home feeling good about the day’s work,”  
**please see THRIFTING on page 6**



Designed by famed architect Al Beadle and built between 1964 and 1970, owners at the Roman Roads complex will seek to preserve the mid-century property for the next generation as it pursues Historic Preservation Overlay zoning through the city of Phoenix (photo by C. Miller).

## Roman Roads seeks historic preservation

By Kathryn M. Miller

Already recognized on the National Register of Historic Places, Roman Roads is now seeking Historic Preservation Overlay zoning from the city of Phoenix – a move that will help preserve the mid-century property for the next generation.

Why is Roman Roads deserving of preservation? Rachel Simmons, the driving force behind the zoning request and an owner of one of the 24 condominiums, can answer that question with three words: “It is iconic.”

Located on Maryland Avenue, just east of 16th Street, Roman Roads is identified by a dramatic arch and fountain that greets residents and visitors alike. The multi-family project was “masterfully designed by architect Al Beadle to provide all of the privacy of single-family living with the amenities of condominium life,” Simmons wrote in an article for *Modern Phoenix*.

“There were only supposed to be 12 units; the first five were built in 1964, designed by Beadle,” she told us. “Then, in the late ‘60s, they hired Gene Buckley to do a floor plan redesign and the last building was built in 1970.”

Simmons elaborated on some of the

striking architectural features that she feels make Roman Roads iconic.

“The design is Modernism, which is what Beadle did,” she said. “Each unit is about 20 feet tall, and at the center of the interior, it reaches that full ceiling height, with huge windows that look out to a back courtyard. Each unit has its own cocktail pool and a big covered patio that serves as exterior living space – it is so integrated into the interior through the glass. And then he designed privacy screens that extend towards the back of the patio so that nobody can see into each other’s back yard, even if you are upstairs looking through the window.”

The building fronts also have the 18-foot win-  
**please see PRESERVATION on page 8**

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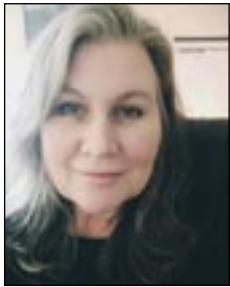
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**SALE PENDING**



COMMUNITY

## From the Editor

It is estimated that the world generates 92 million metric tons of textile waste every year – much of it driven by “fast fashion” – with around 20 percent of the total waste coming from the U.S. The EPA also estimates that 12 million tons of furniture is discarded in the U.S. annually, with roughly 80 percent of it going straight to landfills. With that in mind, Trudy Thompson Shumaker looks at how North Central resale businesses are diverting items from landfills, generating jobs and commerce and, in some cases, supporting local non-profits along the way.



Meanwhile, I caught up with Rachel Simmons at Roman Roads, who is spearheading a zoning application to obtain Historic Preservation Overlay zoning for

the iconic 1964 Al Beadle designed condominium complex. The case will be heard by the Historic Preservation Commission on June 15. At the same meeting, the Acacia Library, 750 E. Townley Ave., will be considered for historic preservation. You can read my story about Acacia Library online in our January 2026 issue.

Also in this month’s issue, you will find stories about ways for both humans and pets to stay safe as we head into summer, along with other neighborhood news in Community; our round up of North Central school news in School Days; things to do in Phoenix in Arts & Entertainment; and in Food for Thought, Marjorie Rice pays a visit to Vincent on Camelback in Café Chat, and we highlight other places to eat and drink in North Central and beyond.

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

Kathryn M. Miller

Editor, *North Central News*  
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With the April reopening of Arizona Humane Society's Marge Wright Veterinary Clinic in Sunnyslope, twice as many owned pets are expected to receive affordable veterinary care in the community each year (photo courtesy of AHS).

## AHS campus expands veterinary services

At an April 24 event, the Sunnyslope community celebrated the grand reopening of Arizona Humane Society's (AHS) Marge Wright Veterinary Clinic, located at 9226 N. 13th Ave. The renovation of the clinic was completed thanks in part to \$1.3 million in grants from PetSmart Charities®. This grant supported the expansion of the clinic at AHS' Sunnyslope Campus into a full-service clinic, which is expected to help twice as many owned pets receive affordable veterinary care in the community each year.

This year, AHS says that it expects more than 22,000 owned pets will receive lifesaving care including spay/neuter, vaccination and microchip services at this veterinary clinic location. As the cost of living continues to rise, the expanded, full-service offered at a lower cost will fill appointments, filling an incredible need according to a 2025 PetSmart Charities-Gallup Report.

According to the report, 94 percent of veterinarians surveyed listed clients' financial considerations often limited their ability to give pets the care they need. In turn, pet parents' inability to afford accessible veterinary care is taking a huge toll on shelters as more families are forced to make the difficult decision to surrender their pets.

When pets can't get affordable care – such as wellness exams, vaccinations, spay/neuter surgeries, dental cleanings, treatments for illness and care for injuries – families can face impossible decisions, AHS said. The Sunnyslope clinic transformation ensures affordable, high-quality pet care remains accessible to the growing community

for decades to come.

“Over the last few years, the Arizona Humane Society has been able to make critical improvements to continue helping even more pets in need here in our community by increasing access to affordable veterinary care,” said Dr. Steven Hansen, Arizona Humane Society president and CEO. “Thanks to PetSmart Charities' incredible generosity, our new state-of-the-art veterinary clinic offers expanded equipment, technology, staffing and more to help us keep pets in their loving homes where they belong and out of already overcrowded shelters.”

The Sunnyslope Veterinary Clinic is open Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed between noon and 1 p.m.). For additional information, call 602-997-7585 or visit [www.azhumane.org/sunnyslope-veterinary-clinic](http://www.azhumane.org/sunnyslope-veterinary-clinic).

## P.E.O. chapter hosts monthly events

Chapter D, Phoenix, P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization), invites area members to join its regular monthly meeting.

The group meets year-round on the third Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at The Beatitudes, 1650 W. Glendale Ave., in Elaine's Meeting Room. Social time is at 9:30 a.m., followed by a program at 10 a.m. and business meeting at 11 a.m. Lunch follows at the Bistro for those who wish to join the group for lunch.

Those looking to join or visit the group should RSVP to Judy Rollins by calling 602-418-5455. Learn more by visiting [www.azpeo.org](http://www.azpeo.org).



Stop by and see what's trending now. Showroom at 4454 E. Thomas Road, Phoenix. (Lasting Impressions/Submitted)

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By Mark Jacobson

Lasting Impressions Owner

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COMMUNITY

**THRIFTING** *continued from page 1*

Williams said. “The shopper, the other volunteers, those who bring in donations, all are working together not only to give unwanted items a second life, but to show children and teens that someone cares about them.”

Besides thrifting for a good cause, the Valley is home to dozens of thrift stores that are owned by savvy business people who rely on them to support themselves and their families.

Avery Greey is a Gen Z entrepreneur who saw an opportunity and jumped on it. During COVID, “Ewie Vintage” started out as a pop-up store under a tree in parking lot of a friend’s office. Social distancing was part of the vibe, as were carefully chosen classics, individual styles, Y2K and disco. Her Indian School shop is tiny, friendly and beautiful. She often has a line of shoppers out the door, and her social media channels are lively. Why?

“In this time of fast fashion and mass production, young men and women are drawn to vintage shopping to help them express their individuality through clothes. Plus – they just don’t make them like they used to!” Greey says.

Linda Betancourt is a recently retired fashion executive in Phoenix whose career took her to fashion capitals around the world, behind the scenes as a buyer and department store and brand decision-maker. She echoes Greey’s thoughts.

“Retail fashion used to be about the drama, the romance of presentation and discovery. Now it’s all about mass production and cutting costs,” Betancourt said. “When I was working in the industry, I shopped the big name stores and boutiques. But now? So



Nancy Licht, who says that Mid-century modern is her jam, has furnished her vacation rental in North Central with her thrifting finds (submitted photo).

many of them are gone or only carry mass-produced items that have no style. I love to shop thrift stores – it’s the thrill of discovering a hidden gem, and creating my own individual look.”

Tom Garcia, who grew up in North Central Phoenix, started shopping at Buffalo Exchange as a young student. Buffalo Exchange is one of the original vintage clothing stores in Phoenix, along with My Sister’s Closet.

“It’s a double-edged sword, thrifting. Some visits yield a vintage shirt or fun pair of sneakers that I otherwise would have never found. On the other end, however, there are a number of times I have come to trade yields little to no return,” he says.

Shoppers who lug boxes of books to Half-Price Books, where gently used books can be resold, often go home with all but one or two of the books they had hoped to be accepted for

resale. “You just never know what they are in the market for,” Garcia added.

Auctions are another way to satisfy that thrill of the hunt for a bargain, and shoppers can fully engage without lifting more than the finger required to scroll the internet. Sherry Gage, a North Phoenix resident, retired from the medical field and makes her living scouring online auctions and reselling her finds. She is especially fond of auctions featuring building supplies, tools and artwork.

“Friends let me know what they are looking for, and I can usually find it on one of the online auction sites – for pennies on the dollar if they buy retail. For example? Bookshelves, cool antique lighting fixtures, books...name it and I’ll find it for you!”

Gage found stools from an old-fashioned ice cream shop on auction, and she bought them, thinking “somebody

will love these for a home bar.” She found her customer in North Central – Candy and Chocolate Company. “They fit right in – the beautiful marble fixtures, tile floor and ice cream bar – all vintage and the stools look like they have been there for years.”

**City approves waste rate increase**

On April 22, the Phoenix City Council approved an adjustment to the monthly residential solid waste rate according to the following Monthly Residential Rate schedule: July 2026: +\$5/month (\$42.32/month); July 2027: +\$5/month (\$47.32/month); July 2028: +\$4/month (\$51.32/month); July 2029 to July 2033: Allow annual inflation adjustment not to exceed 5% based on annual solid waste financial review; and Green Organics Collection Subscription Fee: One-fourth the applicable monthly solid waste rate (\$10.58 effective July 1, 2026).

In a statement, the Public Works Department said that after considering customer feedback and staff’s continued efforts to identify operational efficiencies, the department reduced its original rate recommendation from a \$17 increase over three years to a \$14 increase over three years. This rate adjustment, the department said, “will ensure the operation can meet rising inflationary costs, prepare for future customer growth, and continue to provide essential solid waste collection and management.”

For more details on the new rate schedule, financial aid opportunities and a discount for using a smaller curbside trash can, visit [www.phoenix.gov/swrate2026](http://www.phoenix.gov/swrate2026).



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- 5700 N 33RD PL, PARADISE VALLEY, AZ 85253 | **\$3,425,000**

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- 4524 N 61ST ST, PARADISE VALLEY, AZ 85253 | **\$3,000,000**
- 135 E MARYLAND AVE, PHOENIX, AZ 85012 | **\$2,700,000**
- 4833 N 31ST ST, PHOENIX, AZ 85016 | **\$2,035,000\***
- 1345 E OCOTILLO RD, PHOENIX, AZ 85014 | **\$2,000,000**
- 5028 N 46TH PL, PHOENIX, AZ 85018 | **\$1,950,000**
- 7734 N 3RD AVE, PHOENIX, AZ 85021 | **\$1,800,000\***
- 202 E STATE AVE, PHOENIX, AZ 85020 | **\$1,425,000**
- 345 W GARDENIA DR, PHOENIX, AZ 85021 | **\$1,415,000**
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**PRESERVATION** *continued from page 1*

dows – that window design later had to change in order to get a building permit. All of the Beadle units also have a floating staircase with a “catwalk” connecting the upstairs bedrooms – the Buckley redesign features an L-shaped staircase.

Simmons, who is a member of the American Society of Interior Designers and the program director for Interior Design at Scottsdale Community College, says that Beadle’s architecture is important to Arizona.

“He definitely had a style, and I think that is part of what makes him unique and special to Arizona,” she said. “He was working in Mid-century modernism, but I would say closer to Heroic authentic modernism, with rectangular and square forms. He worked really hard to create functional living spaces for people and integrate the interior with the exterior.”

He designed beautiful large-scale homes but was also interested in multi-family, she added. And he designed the only Case Study here in Arizona – The Triad Apartments, built in 1962 at 28th Street and Turney Avenue, “An opportunity to explore how people can live in smaller footprints, but still live very well.”

Through her master’s work at ASU, she explored the redesign of mid-century architecture (which she generally defines as from 1947 to 1965) during a time in Phoenix when “there was a big building boom before the bubble, and everybody was buying up these cool

mid-century houses and tearing them down. I really wanted to explore ways to update the homes so that people could appreciate them more.”

It is that desire to cultivate appreciation that is moving Simmons to pursue historic preservation zoning. As the proposed rezoning case moves through the hearing process, Simmons also reflected on historic preservation in Phoenix more broadly.

“What is interesting about the approach to historic preservation is that preservationists often have more conversations on what we should tear down than what we should save. We don’t think everything is savable. We are realistic about it and what we try to do is to allow a city to develop its own story and tell its own story. We do want to see architectural growth, but by picking out the right buildings from the right time periods, that really reflect that time period, is how we develop that story.”

She added that preserving buildings like this creates interest in the city and draws people to the city.

“Historic preservation develops a sense of place. It tells the story of the city. It gives us visual interest – we don’t want everything to look the same. But we do want Roman Roads to last for future generations.”

The Historic Preservation Commission will consider the Roman Roads case (number Z-35-26-6) on Monday, June 15, at 4:30 p.m. It will then go to the Camelback East Village Planning Committee on July 7, the

Planning Commission on Aug. 6, and the Phoenix City Council on Sept. 9. Learn more at [www.phoenix.gov/administration/departments/pdd/historic-preservation.html](http://www.phoenix.gov/administration/departments/pdd/historic-preservation.html).

**Plan ahead for Fabulous 4th**

The city of Phoenix will celebrate Independence Day, and the country’s 250th anniversary, at its annual Phoenix Fabulous 4th event on Saturday, July 4, from 6-10 p.m., at Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School Road.

Food and artisan goods will be available to purchase at the free to attend family-friendly event. Entertainment will be scheduled on two stages, and the PAC Land kids zone will include inflatables, water slides, games for youth and community resources. The Teen Zone offers inflatables, a dance floor and yard games. Rounding out the entertainment is an ice cream eating contest and car show featuring local car club classic cars.

There is no vehicle entrance and no public parking. There are three pedestrian entrances: Central Avenue and Glenrosa Avenue, 3rd Street and Indian School Road, and 7th Street just north of Turney Avenue. Attendees are encouraged to consider taking the Valley Metro Light Rail to avoid event traffic. Enhanced service will begin at approximately 5 p.m. on July 4.

Find additional details at [www.phoenix.gov/fabphx4](http://www.phoenix.gov/fabphx4).

**Red Cross leader recognized**

North Central native Kate Forbes, president of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has been named to the 2026 *TIME* 100 Philanthropy List, which honors the world’s most influential leaders shaping the future of philanthropy and giving.



Kate Forbes

This prestigious recognition reflects her unwavering commitment to humanitarian action, her leadership in strengthening community resilience, and her dedication to advancing global solidarity.

In a released statement, an American Red Cross representative said, “This honor not only highlights Kate’s remarkable impact but also recognizes the extraordinary work of the entire IFRC network, our volunteers, National Societies, and staff whose compassion and commitment make a difference every day in communities around the world.”

“Her recognition is a powerful reminder of the impact we can all make through philanthropy, service and shared purpose.”

Learn more about Forbes and the recognition at <https://time.com/collection/time100-philanthropy/2026>.

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

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DEADLINE FOR ADVERTISING AND EDITORIAL IS THE 12TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

**City begins Midtown transportation study**

By Kathryn M. Miller

The city of Phoenix began a four-stage Midtown Core Transportation Study in May to look at how transportation should evolve in Midtown Phoenix as the area continues to develop. The study area boundaries run from 19th Avenue, east to 16th Street; McDowell Road north to Dunlap Avenue.

The study will use recent traffic analysis, new growth projections and public insights to “explore ways to enhance safety, improve mobility and strengthen connectivity for everyone traveling in and around Midtown.” It will include a portion of the Valley Metro B-Line, bicycle lanes and reverse traffic lanes along 7th Street and 7th Avenue.

What it will not include, according to Matt Wilson, assistant director of the Street Transportation Department, is how the existing light rail will connect to the January 2026 approved West Phoenix Extension ([www.valleymetro.org/project/west-phoenix-extension](http://www.valleymetro.org/project/west-phoenix-extension)). That extension is expected

to run west along Indian School Road and connect from either the existing Central Avenue/Indian School Road or 19th Avenue/Camelback Road track, and will be coordinated among the regional transportation partners.

Goals of the Midtown Core Transportation Study stated by the city are to evaluate the capacity and connectivity of existing and planned transportation networks; compare the capacity and connectivity to projected travel demand; prioritize existing projects and planned transportation projects; identify gaps in the area’s future transportation network; suggest additional strategies or projects necessary to fill gaps in the area’s future transportation network; and evaluate the 7th Avenue and 7th Street reversible lanes to determine their long-term role within the transportation network.

The study began with a corridor analysis, a May 7 virtual public meeting and a community survey, which ends May 29. Community stakeholder outreach will continue through the summer and in-person and virtual public meetings will be held this fall. A

final recommendation will be provided to city council in winter of 2026.

While the May 7 meeting recording is not available, the meeting slides and additional information can be found at [www.phoenix.gov/midtowncore](http://www.phoenix.gov/midtowncore).

**Extreme heat brings trail closures**

As we roll into June and summer officially begins, the Parks and Recreation Department is reminding hikers that some Phoenix trails will be restricted on the Valley’s hottest days.

On days when the National Weather Service issues an Extreme Heat Warning, the following Phoenix trails will be restricted from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Camelback Mountain, Echo Canyon and Cholla Trail; Phoenix Mountains Preserve, Piestewa Peak Summit Trail and associated trails; South Mountain Park and Preserve, Holbert Trail, Mormon Trail, Hau’Pal Loop Trail and access to the National Trail from the Pima Canyon Trailhead.

Hiking is prohibited at those locations and strongly discouraged on all Phoenix trails from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The parks department encourages residents to review its “Take a Hike. Do it Right.” guidelines for responsible hiking.

Learn more at [www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails/heatsafety](http://www.phoenix.gov/parks/trails/heatsafety).

**Fire ban continues in Phoenix preserves**

With drought conditions continuing across the region and wildlife risk on the rise, the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department implemented its annual fire ban on May 1. Maricopa County Parks and Recreation also enacted its fire ban on the same date.

The fire ban follows Maricopa County Air Quality Department burn activity regulations, which prohibit outdoor fires from May 1 through Sept. 30 throughout the county, including all regional parks.

During the fire ban, campfires, fire pits and charcoal grills are prohibited in Phoenix preserves. Gas or propane grills in ramadas and designated picnic areas are still allowed. While the fire ban is scheduled to conclude on September 30, it may be extended depending on weather conditions and fire risk.

For more information, send an email to [natural.resources.pks@phoenix.gov](mailto:natural.resources.pks@phoenix.gov) or call 602-495-5458.

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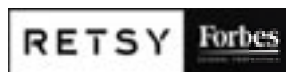
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A new vision for updating Camelback Colonnade, located near the corner of SR-51 and Highland, includes a six-story, 216-unit multi-family residential development (rendering courtesy of Federal Realty Investment Trust/RED Development).

**Colonnade residential comes into focus**

At a May 19 virtual meeting, the Application Review Committee Subcommittee of the Camelback East Village Planning Committee heard a presentation about a proposal for a development located near the northeast corner of SR-51 and Highland Avenue in the Camelback Colonnade. The committee reviewed the development plan for compliance with the Camelback East Primary Core Specific Plan Design Guidelines.

Originally adopted in 1991 and updated in 2006, the plan arose from concern over piecemeal development and the desire for greater predictability over future development; and it “responded to a desire to create a unique and identifiable urban form with consistent development design guidelines and a pedestrian-friendly environment.” The Specific Plan is both regulatory and policy plan.

At the May 19 meeting, Federal Realty Investment Trust and RED Development presented their vision for the redevelopment of the southwest corner of the Colonnade. The 2.44 gross acre, six-story (84-foot) project will sit immediately north of the Phoenix Public Library Century Branch and consist of 216 residential units – 34 studios, 137 one-bedroom and 45 two-bedroom.

The ground floor will feature a lobby and walkout loft units (on the south side of the project). Amenities will include a third-level deck with a

pool, a fitness center, and a clubhouse. Private outdoor space is included by way of balconies and 14,297 square feet of open space is planned. Parking will consist of 322 vehicle spaces (145 spaces on-site and 177 spaces at the Colonnade garage) and 50 bicycle spaces within a secured bike room.

Vehicular access to the residential project will be at 18th Street and Highland.

**Voter registration deadline is June 22**

Residents who are not yet registered to vote and who want to participate in the July 21 Primary Election have until June 22 to register.

In early February, Governor Katie Hobbs signed a bi-partisan bill passed by the Arizona Legislature to change the date of the 2026 primary and permanently move Arizona primaries to the second to last Tuesday in July. Previously, the date of the primary was the first Tuesday in August.

The state said that the move was needed to allow elections officials more time to conduct election preparations for the general election, including ensuring that military and overseas voters have their ballots in time to participate in the General Election.

All qualified voters who live in Maricopa County who are registered 29 days before the election are eligible to cast a ballot for the Primary.

To check your voter registration information or status, visit [www.be ballotready.vote](http://www.be ballotready.vote).

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### Organization collects school supplies

School supplies, clothing and equipment can cost up to \$600 per child each school year, and for many Arizona families, that cost is out of reach. With that in mind, over the summer months, Southwest Human Development will host a Back-to-School Drive to help ensure children start school this fall prepared, confident and ready to learn.

“Now more than ever, kids need the right tools to feel confident walking into the classroom,” said Tay Wright, manager of Volunteer Engagement Development at Southwest Human Development. “With community support, we can make sure every child we serve is prepared and set up for success.”

The drive, which runs from June 1 to July 6, collects new items, including backpacks, notebooks, binders, pencils, pens, highlighters and other classroom essentials. Donations will directly support children and families in programs such as Kinship and Adoption Services, Healthy Families and other early child-



Volunteers at Southwest Human Development will organize donations and fill backpacks for Valley children ahead of the new school year this fall (submitted photo).

hood initiatives. Drop off starts June 1 at Green Gables 2345 E. Thomas Road, Suite #350.

In addition to physical donations, supporters can participate through an online shopping option, making it easy to purchase and donate supplies from anywhere.

Southwest Human Development

serves more than 140,000 children and families each year through 40 programs focused on early childhood development and family support.

Community members, businesses and organizations are encouraged to donate supplies or host a drive. For more information or to contribute, visit [www.swhd.org/schoolready](http://www.swhd.org/schoolready).

### Celebrate Juneteenth at Carver Museum

Valley residents are invited to join the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center as it celebrates its third annual Juneteenth Festival on Saturday, June 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The museum will commemorate Juneteenth’s legacy of community empowerment through the celebration of Black history, culture, and tradition. Juneteenth is an annual federal holiday commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. It marks the day in 1865 when Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing the last enslaved people in the United States.

Attendees can explore Carver’s historic halls and enjoy family-friendly live performances, arts and crafts, a kids’ corner and chess tournament, vendors and community booths and food.

Admission is free and open to all. Registration is encouraged. For more information, visit [www.thecarveraz.org/events/the-carvers-3rd-annual-juneteenthfreedom-festival](http://www.thecarveraz.org/events/the-carvers-3rd-annual-juneteenthfreedom-festival).



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## 14

SOLD HOMES \$5M+  
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## 96

SOLD HOMES \$2M+  
(+41% from last year)

## 753

SOLD HOMES  
(+7.7% from last year)

## \$1,135,595

AVG SALE PRICE  
(+10.6% from last year)

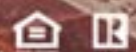
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COMMUNITY

### Take precautions for summer recreation

Summer is here and warmer weather means extra outdoor precautions for everyone hoping to enjoy outdoor recreation. As residents consider summer adventures, Arizona State Parks and Trails is reminding them to take the time to prepare before heading out.

No matter if vacationers have lived in Arizona their whole life or are just visiting during summer break, understanding how to recreate safely means a visit to the parks will be memorable for all the right reasons. The state offered these tips.

First, bring more water than you think you'll need, every time – even for flat, cooler-weather hikes. Pre-hydrate before you head out, starting the night before. Drink throughout the day and always over-prepare. When you've finished half of your water supply, it's time to turn around – no matter where you are on the trail.

Next, be prepared. Before you hike, download any trail maps or guides you might need, or check out our resources at AZStateParks.com. Take a GPS with you, and make sure your phone is fully



Hikers are cautioned to take extra safety precautions during their outdoors adventures in Arizona's high summer heat (photo courtesy of Arizona State Parks and Trails).

charged. If you're hiking alone, let someone know where you're going and about how long you'll be gone. Rangers at state parks will be available to help you pick the trail that's right for you and make sure you have the right supplies.

If you plan to hike in the heat, head out early or later in the day when the sun is lower. Find trails with shade and avoid steep inclines. The middle of the afternoon is not the time to tackle your bucket list hike. And don't forget to bring sun protection, like a hat, sun-

glasses, and sunscreen – even on cloudy days. Consider wearing long, lightweight sleeves to protect you from the sun and help keep your body cool.

Finally, bring salty snacks or electrolyte tablets to help stay alert. Bananas, granola, and peanut butter are all great options.

Arizona's high temperatures don't mean you have to give up outdoor recreation – just plan ahead, pre-hydrate, and prepare for your adventure. Check out parks in the northern

part of the state for cooler summer temperatures, pack plenty (and then a little more) water, and check with rangers to be sure you're on the right path.

Visit [www.azstateparks.com/summer-heat-safety-tips](http://www.azstateparks.com/summer-heat-safety-tips) for more information.

### Project REDUCE applications open

Applications are being accepted on a rolling basis through June 30 for the City of Phoenix Office of Environmental Programs' Project REDUCE (Restaurants Eliminating & Diverting Uneaten food through Composting & Education).

Project REDUCE is the city's first program dedicated to supporting restaurants in reducing food loss and waste. The city will issue \$1,000 micro-grants to small local Phoenix restaurants along with hands-on guidance, training and technical assistance.

The first information listening session is scheduled for June 3 at 10 a.m. To learn more and register for the event, visit <http://phoenix.gov/oepp/project-reduce>.

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Because we're one of the nation's few fully integrated, nonprofit health systems, our success is measured when you stay healthy, not when you get sick. This drives us to keep our more than one million health insurance members well.

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We work every day to make your care more affordable, to expand access and to invest in prevention. We are focused on driving solutions, and our integrated nonprofit model, designed to keep you healthy, is a better path forward. You prove that every day.

Banner Health is proud to be woven into the beautiful fabric of Arizona. Through partnerships with organizations like the Arizona Women's Recovery Center, Mariposa Community Health Center, Foundation for Senior Living, Chicanos Por La Causa, Foothills Caring Corps and HealthCorps, we're working together to improve health outcomes and strengthen communities across the state.

We invite you to see the full story of our commitment to Arizona in our 2025 annual report at [bannerhealth.com/about](https://www.bannerhealth.com/about).



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**Amy Perry**  
President and CEO  
Banner Health

It's Another Banner Day.



COMMUNITY

### Pet of the Month Elder pup still has plenty of pep

At seven years young, adorable Joey (pet number 845859) found himself in the care of the Arizona Humane Society after his previous human fell ill and was no longer able to care for him. Once in the shelter, this adorable pup was given a dental exam to ensure his teeth are in tip top shape.

Joey recently spent time in a loving foster hero home to continue healing from his dental surgery and is now ready for his new forever home. Those who know this salt and pepper gentleman say he may be small but has a big heart.

A cuddle bug in every sense of the word, Joey also enjoys being close to his favorite people for cozy naps, cuddles and relaxation. Although he may be a little gray in the face, this sweet pup still has a lot of pep in his step and is a great reminder that senior pets are just as deserving of love and care as their younger counterparts. Plus, there are a lot of different perks to owning older pets as oftentimes they are already



Adorable salt and pepper gentleman Joey – who may be small but has a big heart – is looking for a new home to call his own (photo courtesy of Arizona Humane Society).

trained and you know their medical and historical backgrounds.

Joey’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 Sunnyslope Campus or learn more at [www.azhumane.org/adopt](http://www.azhumane.org/adopt) to give him the loving forever home he deserves.

### Explore safely during Dog Days of Summer

Now through Sept. 26, the Desert Botanical Garden, located at 1201 N. Galvin Parkway, invites pet parents to beat the heat with their four-legged best friend during Dog Days of Summer.

Early mornings are made for wagging tails and cool trails, and the garden opens its paths for pups and their people to explore the desert together. Enjoy refreshing hydration stations, shady rest stops and plenty of photo worthy moments.

Dogs are not permitted at Gertrude’s by Tarbell’s, The RAF Gallery, Butterfly Pavilion or Cactus Clubhouse. To learn more, call 480-941-1225 or visit [www.dbg.org](http://www.dbg.org).



Dogs and their people are invited to spend mornings exploring the trails at Desert Botanical Garden, now through Sept. 26 (photo courtesy of Desert Botanical Garden).

### Keep pets safe in summer heat

With the arrival of summer in the Valley, rising temperatures can present life-threatening dangers for pets. As residents gear up for the heat, the

Arizona Humane Society is urging pet owners to consider the Three Ps of Heat Safety:

- **PAWse** – Always check the pavement before heading outside. If it’s too hot for your hand, it’s too hot for their paws. This is true even after sundown.
- **Plan** – Create a plan around your pet’s exercise and activity. Schedule walks during cooler hours early in the morning or late at night, provide plenty of refreshing water and implement fun indoor enrichment activities.
- **Protect** – Never leave your pet in a hot car, research pet-safe sunscreen for shorthair breeds and think about booties to shield their feet from sweltering surfaces.

If you will be outdoors with your pet, it is also important to know the signs of heat stroke, which include red gums and tongue, low, rapid panting, excessive/lack of drool, rapid pulse, excessive thirst, vomiting or diarrhea, glazed eyes, elevated temperature, weakness or collapse, seizures, and unconsciousness. If these symptoms are present, call your vet. Move your pet to a cool place and place a cool wet cloth on their belly, ears, paws and neck, and direct a fan to blow on your pet. Do not force water, leave your pet alone or use cold water to cool your pet, which may lead to shock.

Find additional heat safety tips at [www.azhumane.org/heat-safety-tips-for-pets](http://www.azhumane.org/heat-safety-tips-for-pets) to help ensure your furry family members stay healthy and happy this summer.

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**North Central Pet of the Month  
BRISKET**  
**Owner:** Jesse Burke  
**Dog’s age:** 5 yrs old  
**Dog’s breed:** Miniature Pinscher/ Staffy Mix  
**Favorite toy:** Jackalope stuffy, (first toy after being rescued)  
**Favorite place to go:** The pet store to buy his food, he loves all the employees.  
**Favorite spot in the house:** Wherever his Papa is.  
**Biggest fear:** When Papa goes to work and may not come home.  
**Least favorite thing:** BIRDS, he thinks it is unfair they can fly.

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Phase 2 of a new True North adaptive reuse project will be a collaboration with Baja Fish Tacos & More to reimagine a retired gas station building at the corner of 7th Street and Butler Drive into a dining and gathering space (photo courtesy of True North Studio).

**True North takes on Butler properties**

In a three-phase adaptive reuse project, True North Studio will transform the northwest corner of 7th Street and Butler Drive in Sunnyslope. All three phases will work with Rendera Design and Hernanson Contractors, with phased completion expected in 2026.

According to the project website, Phase 1, Northtown Salon, consists of two buildings located at 620 E. Butler Dr. True North plans to convert 4,000 square feet of space into 10 individual salon suites with over 40 stylist chairs. In what the company calls “a strategic move to meet the growing demand for personal grooming services in this neighborhood,” they will partner with Firefly Collective, a local operator of salon suites and traditional salons, which has experienced significant success in the industry.

Northtown Salon is their next phase in establishing a presence in the North Phoenix market, where they see great potential. They offer a hair salon featuring independent stylists in a hip setting with semiprivate suites.

Baja Cantina & Petrol is Phase 2 of the project. In collaboration with Baja Fish Tacos & More, the retired gas station building located on the corner at 8502 N. 7th St. will be redeveloped into Baja Cantina and Petrol. Offering both indoor and outdoor seating, along with “affordable yet authentic cuisine and cocktails” the project aims to be a gathering space for the local communi-

ty. The design is inspired by the gas stations you would see in the Baja region, the company said, and will feature old gas pumps, signage and retro motorcycle memorabilia.

The third phase of the overall project is Northtown Shops, to be located at 8524 N. 7th St.

The building located on 7th Street and Butler Drive will be redeveloped into a shopping center that will offer both indoor and outdoor food and beverage opportunities, community amenities and gathering spaces for the local community.

**Business Briefs**

**Chamber opens Athena nominations**

The Greater Phoenix Chamber is now accepting nominations for its 2026 ATHENA Awards program, which recognizes and celebrates the achievements of businesswomen across the Greater Phoenix region.

The award recognizes women who demonstrate excellence in professional leadership, community service and mentorship of future leaders. Each year, the Greater Phoenix Chamber’s ATHENA Awards highlight local women at the top of their field who demonstrate inspiring leadership within their industry, mentor others throughout their career, and give back to their community. Nominees represent three categories – the private sector, public sector and young profes-

*please see AWARDS on page 22*

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## TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

**AWARDS continued from page 20**

sionals under the age of 40.

Over the past 38 years, 74 accomplished Valley businesswomen have earned the award. This year's recipients will be announced at the Greater Phoenix Chamber's 39th Annual awards reception on Oct. 29, at the JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge.

Nominations are open from now until Friday, June 26, by 5 p.m. and can be submitted through the Chamber's website at [www.phoenixchamber.com/athenanominations](http://www.phoenixchamber.com/athenanominations). For more information, send an email to [athena@phoenixchamber.com](mailto:athena@phoenixchamber.com).

**New bin store opens**

Located at 10215 N. 28th Drive, MetroMerch bin store is set to open to the public in early June.

Founded in Oklahoma, the company buys liquidation merchandise from places such as Amazon, Target, Sam's club and others, then, everything is thrown into large bins and offered at deeply discounted prices to customers.

The company offers different pricing on bin items depending on the day of the week, as well as a priced merchandise section where customers can purchase items at up to 40 percent off retail prices. MetroMerch Phoenix will officially celebrate its grand opening from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 6. The event will include live entertainment, giveaways, food trucks and deals on electronics, home goods, apparel and more. It also will support local Phoenix family shelters through the company's community giveback efforts.

Learn more at <https://shop-metromerch.com>.

**Science Center names new CEO**

The board of trustees of Arizona Science Center announced its unanimous appointment of Tammy Stewart as the next Hazel A. Hare president and CEO. Since September 2025, Stewart has served as interim CEO and she has been a longtime member of the leadership team at the Arizona Science Center.

Stewart has been a transformative leader at Arizona Science Center, the

organization said, overseeing the \$14 million operation of the 164,000-square-foot facility with more than 120 employees. She has guided the organization in its mission to inspire curiosity, delivering innovative programs, exhibitions, and experiences that engage audiences of all ages.

With 25 years of experience in museum and cultural organization operations and fundraising, Stewart has held leadership roles at Arizona Science Center, Phoenix Art Museum, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and Long Beach Symphony. Under her guidance, teams successfully raised more than \$150 million to support capital initiatives and ongoing operations.

**Dignity Health expands at Midtown location**

Park Central, located off of Central Avenue at Earl Drive in Midtown Phoenix, announced in May a significant new lease by Dignity Health Medical Group for 25,330 square feet on the first floor of the Burgbacher Building.

The new facility will house one of Dignity Health's cardiology groups and

will significantly expand its presence at Park Central. Dignity Health has a high-profile office presence on the Third Avenue side of the mixed-use campus as well as facilities for Barrow Neurological Institute.

The center will offer a full range of cardiology and cardiology subspecialty services, along with advanced in-office diagnostic testing, providing patients with convenient access to high-quality, integrated cardiovascular care in a single location. The anticipated opening of the new facility is in approximately 180 days.

The new outpatient cardiology center will feature 39 exam rooms, a nuclear medicine room, two echocardiogram (ECHO) rooms and an infusion suite. The practice will offer a comprehensive range of specialties, including medical cardiology, interventional and structural cardiology, heart failure, electrophysiology and cardiovascular surgery.

The newly renovated space at Park Central will allow for expanded capacity, enhanced patient experience, and the ability to deliver more coordinated, multidisciplinary care.

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**W**hen I first moved to Phoenix in the mid-1970s, North Central already had a rhythm and personality all its own.

Back then, a lot of our time revolved around places longtime Phoenicians still remember well, Centre Court near 7th Avenue and Turney, La Mancha, and the Jewish Community Center at 19th Avenue and Maryland where the Phoenix Suns used to practice. I spent plenty of afternoons there playing racquetball and working out with my brother Michael, Wendell Chapman, Hardy Good, and friends who were always talking about the latest vitamins, supplements, workouts, and ways to stay healthy in this Arizona heat. And trust me, summer in Phoenix has never been for the weak. Even as Phoenix continues to grow, North Central has held onto the same spirit people seem to be searching for more than ever, connection, walkability, healthy living, mountain views, and a true sense of community. In fact, many of the buyers I've worked with over the past six months, especially in the \$1M-plus market, already lived right here in Phoenix. They knew exactly where they wanted to be, closer to the Bridle Path, near schools, on larger lots with mature trees, or simply remaining in the part of town they've loved for years. That's also why local businesses here matter so much.

Places like Healthy Habit Health Foods at 7th Street and Bethany Home Road have become part of everyday life for so many Phoenix families. For more than 40 years, people have sought them out not only from our area, but often while visiting Phoenix altogether, looking for trusted guidance, hard-to-find supplements, and people who genuinely care. They even reward loyal customers through a simple phone-number rewards program where purchases add up to future savings. I use mine everytime.

For the past nine years, Jim and Jaime Boyachek have carried that tradition forward with a very personal touch. Jaime, a nurse and mom to three children they welcomed through adoption, brings a calm and compassionate perspective to helping people navigate health choices in a way that feels approachable and practical. Jim's decades of business experience and their shared heart for serving others have helped make Healthy Habit feel less like a store and more like a trusted part of the community. The on-site clinic with naturopathic doctors only adds to that sense of accessibility and care.

To me, that's what North Central Phoenix has always been about. Not just beautiful homes and great streets, but the people, businesses, friendships, and history that make this part of town feel connected across generations. After all these years living and working here, I'm still grateful for the trust families place in me to help guide them through some of life's biggest transitions, whether they're moving across town, moving back into the area, or simply finding the next home that feels right for where life is taking them.

*Bobby Lieb*



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| <b>910 E KALER DR</b><br>5 BEDROOMS   6.5 BATHROOMS   5,881 SQ FT         | <b>\$2,795,000</b> |
| <b>1435 E RANCHO DR</b><br>4 BEDROOMS   3.5 BATHROOMS   4,169 SQ FT       | <b>\$1,275,000</b> |
| <b>6455 N 17TH PL</b><br>5 BEDROOMS   4.5 BATHROOMS   2,714 SQ FT         | <b>\$797,500</b>   |
| <b>6943 W TETHER TRL**</b><br>6 BEDROOMS   3 BATHROOMS   3,608 SQ FT      | <b>\$779,000</b>   |
| <b>6439 N 17TH PL</b><br>4 BEDROOMS   3 BATHROOMS   2,247 SQ FT           | <b>\$715,000</b>   |
| <b>7840 N 7TH ST 1</b><br>3 BEDROOMS   2 BATHROOMS   1,684 SQ FT          | <b>\$444,000</b>   |

### PENDING

|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>5700 N 33RD PL</b>       | <b>\$3,425,000</b> |
| <b>6425 N 17TH ST</b>       | <b>\$689,000</b>   |
| <b>1110 E MONTE WAY****</b> | <b>\$674,000</b>   |
| <b>6443 N 17TH PL</b>       | <b>\$672,500</b>   |
| <b>6105 N 12TH WAY</b>      | <b>\$399,000</b>   |

### RECENTLY SOLD

|                           |                    |                               |                  |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>6524 N 61ST ST</b>     | <b>\$3,000,000</b> | <b>1109 W FRIER DR*</b>       | <b>\$989,000</b> |
| <b>135 E MARYLAND AVE</b> | <b>\$2,700,000</b> | <b>3046 E MARLETTE AVE*</b>   | <b>\$799,000</b> |
| <b>4833 N 31ST ST*</b>    | <b>\$2,035,000</b> | <b>114 E SAN MIGUEL AVE</b>   | <b>\$730,000</b> |
| <b>1345 E OCOTILLO RD</b> | <b>\$2,000,000</b> | <b>11021 N 13TH ST</b>        | <b>\$525,000</b> |
| <b>2210 ENCANTO DR NW</b> | <b>\$1,167,000</b> | <b>4107 W BARBARA AVE****</b> | <b>\$390,000</b> |

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SCHOOL DAYS



Students from Maryland School received a round of applause from Abrazo Central Campus leadership as they viewed their artwork that is now on display in the hospital's community gallery, which showcases student artists from the area (submitted photo).

**Abrazo showcases student artwork**

On April 29, Abrazo Central Campus, 2000 W. Bethany Home Road, welcomed students from Maryland School to its community gallery, where the hospital is displaying their vibrant new collection of artwork.

The students smiled as they received a round of applause from the hospital CEO and staff, the school principal, their art teacher and even some of their parents as they walked through the halls of the hospital to see their fantastic artwork on display for the first time.

The hospital opened the community art gallery three years ago to display local student art, and this year the students' theme was "Thank You! From the Bottom of Our Hearts," aligning with 2026 National Nurses and Hospital Weeks.

"Thank you for everything you do. The nurses, doctors and everybody in the hospital who helps people. That was my inspiration and it makes me happy to show my art," said eighth grader Isabella Cervantes.

"As the longtime community hospital in north central Phoenix, it's important to have meaningful relationships with our neighbors and support education," said Abrazo Central Campus CEO Gregory Pearson.

The gallery displays student art on a rotating basis in collaboration with

Glendale Union High School District.

"Our gallery gives student artists a place to showcase their talents and see their work impact their community. In return, their community supports them, so it's a win-win all around," Pearson said.





Nick Gupton, principal of Maryland School, which is part of the Washington Elementary School District, expressed gratitude for the support and the excitement this kind of opportunity provides for his students.

"We are incredibly thankful to Abrazo Central and everyone who contributed to this opportunity for our young artists to see their own creativity and imagination on display. It makes a tangible impact, empowering students and demonstrating the strength of community collaboration," Gupton said.

**School Briefs**  
**GLENDALE UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**District prepares for new school year**

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, all GUHSD campuses will host Walk-Through Registration during the week of July 27. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend walk-through

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**SCHOOL DAYS**

registration alongside their students to ask questions, 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.

**Students recognized by Beatitudes**

Prior to the end of the 2025-26 school year, Washington High School student-of-the-month recipients were honored during a special luncheon hosted by residents at the Beatitudes Campus, where each student received a \$1,000 scholarship in recognition of their achievements.

The celebration highlighted the strong partnership between Washington High School and the Beatitudes community, whose generosity continues to support and inspire Washington students, the GUHSD district said. Opportunities like these reflect the meaningful community connections that help invest in student success and future goals across the Glendale Union High School District.



Washington High School student-of-the-month recipients joined Beatitudes Campus residents for a special luncheon in late April where they each received a \$1,000 scholarship in recognition of their achievements (photo courtesy of GUHSD).

ers and staff during the annual event recognizing careers devoted to supporting students and strengthening school communities. Superintendent Matt Belden and Governing Board president Natalie Veidmark shared remarks thanking retirees for their commitment to education and the positive influence

they had throughout the district.

Principals and administrators honored retirees for their contributions across classrooms, athletics, counseling, operations and student support services, highlighting the legacy each individual leaves behind within the Glendale Union High School District.

**Kids eat free this summer**

All kids and teens ages 18 and under can eat free this summer. Meals are available at select GUHSD schools, regardless of where the child attends.

In the North Central area, families can go to Sunnyslope High School, 35 W. Dunlap Ave., from 7-8 a.m. for breakfast and 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for lunch, May 27-29, and Monday through Thursday, June 1 to June 25. Other participating sites include Greenway High School and Independence High School.

For questions, call the district at 623-435-6040 or visit [www.guhsdaz.org](http://www.guhsdaz.org).

**MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Free summer meals available to children**

Madison School District announced the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children, ages 18 and under, without charge and are the

*please see MEALS on page 28*

**Job fair scheduled for support staff**

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

Interested candidates can apply online through the “Employment” tab on the district website: [www.guhsdaz.org](http://www.guhsdaz.org). Positions offer benefits including competitive pay, health, dental and life insurance, paid time off, participation in the Arizona State Retirement System and short-term disability coverage.

For more information or to RSVP, call 623-435-6010.

**Employees honored for dedication**

The Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) Governing Board hosted the 2025-26 Retirement Recognition Reception, honoring employees whose years of service and dedication have made a lasting impact across GUHSD schools and programs.

Retirees were celebrated alongside family members, friends, district lead-

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SCHOOL DAYS

**MEALS** *continued from page 27*

same for all children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service.

Meals will be provided at various sites and times. Families who qualify for free or reduced meals will continue to receive Sun Bucks this summer – \$120 per eligible child. This money will be automatically uploaded to their EBT cards, if families do not already have an EBT card, one will be sent to them.

The program will be hosted at the following schools and times:

- Madison No. 1 Middle School, 5525 N. 16th St. – June 2 to July 25, Monday through Friday; closed June 19 and July 3. Breakfast is served 7:45-8:20 a.m.; lunch is served 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

- Madison Camelview Elementary School, 2002 E. Campbell Ave. – June 2-18, Monday through Thursday, closed Fridays. Breakfast is served 7:55-8:10 a.m.; lunch is served noon to 12:20 p.m.

- Madison Park Middle School, 1431 E. Campbell Ave. – June 9 to July 3, Monday through Friday; closed June 19. Breakfast is served 7:30-8 a.m.; lunch is served 11:30 a.m. to noon.

- Madison Heights Elementary School, 7150 N. 22nd St. – June 2 to July 25, Monday through Friday; closed June 19 and July 3. Breakfast is served 7:45-8:20 a.m.; lunch is served 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

For more information, call Madison School District at 602-664-7900.



Progress on the new library (pictured), classrooms, collaboration spaces and studios will continue over the summer months as Madison Rose Lane Elementary gears up for the 2026-27 school year (photo courtesy of Madison School District).

**Rose Lane unveils mascot, updates campus rebuild**

Madison Rose Lane Elementary is embarking on an exciting new era, the district announced, marked by a campus rebuild and a fresh new mascot: The Rose Lane Rising Stars.

The new mascot was developed through a collaborative process, guided by input from students, staff and families, and represents the creativity and kindness of the Rose Lane community, the confidence and lifelong skills students develop through the programs and the school's unique identity as a high-quality visual and performing arts school for elementary age students.

The adoption of the new mascot coincides with the near-completion of the first phase of the ongoing campus

rebuild, which is scheduled to open for students and teachers in August.

In addition to modernizing the overall learning environment, the updated facilities in phase one include new classrooms, a new library, collaboration spaces and dedicated studios specifically designed for the school's visual and performing arts programs, including art, music, dance and theater.

The new campus is part of Madison School District's commitment to provide safe, modern and innovative learning environments for students and is made possible by support from the local community through voter-approved bond initiatives.

Madison Rose Lane is currently accepting enrollment applications for the 2026-27 school year. Visit [www.madisonaz.org/enroll](http://www.madisonaz.org/enroll) for details.

**OSBORN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Osborn names new superintendent**

At a May 19 executive session of the Osborn School District Governing Board meeting, the board unanimously voted to enter into contract negotiations with Felipe Carranza to serve in the role of district superintendent. Carranza currently serves as principal of Solano Elementary School.

The superintendent position was most recently held by Dr. Michael Robert, who moved to the Washington Elementary School District.

**Summer projects are underway**

Residents who happen to pass Osborn School District campuses this summer may notice a lot of activity as several bond-funded improvements get underway.

Thanks to local voter support, multiple campuses will undergo upgrades to enhance learning environments, safety and facilities in addition to installation of new shade structures and creation of specialized outdoor learning areas. Inside, buildings will get fresh paint, new carpeting and updated kitchen equipment. Campus safety will also see a boost through security camera upgrades.

Families can track projects and spending at Your Bond dollars at Work on the district website: [www.osborn-schools.org](http://www.osborn-schools.org).



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# 2026 HEAT SUMMER CAMPS



## STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

### (SESSION 1)

Mon to Thu • June 1st - June 11th  
11:30am - 2:00pm

Focusing on building a physical and mental foundation

Fee: \$100 | MHP Gym

### (SESSION 2)

Mon to Thu • June 15th - June 25th  
11:30am - 2:00pm

Fee: \$100 | MHP Gym

## VEX ROBOTICS

Mon to Thu • July 13th - July 23rd  
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Designing, programming, and building skills in preparation for 2026-2027 robotics season

Fee: \$125 | MHP Engineering Lab

## FLAG FOOTBALL

Mon to Thu • July 20th - July 30th  
8:00am - 11:00am

Strength and conditioning, team building, and football skills and drills

Fee: \$125 | MHP Field

## AERIAL DRONES

Mon to Thu • July 6th - July 9th  
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Focusing on skills in preparation for 2026-2027 aerial drone season

Fee: \$75 | MHP Engineering Lab

## SOCCER

Mon to Thu • July 6th - July 16th  
4:00pm - 7:00pm

Conditioning, offensive and defensive skills, and teamwork drills

Fee: \$125 | MHP Field

## CROSS COUNTRY

Mon to Thu • July 20th - July 30th  
6:00am - 8:00am

Conditioning, running skills, and teamwork drills

Fee: \$125 | MHP Field

## FOOTBALL

Mon to Thu • July 20th - July 30th  
4:00pm - 7:00pm

Strength and conditioning, team building, and football skills and drills

Fee: \$200 | MHP Field

## BASKETBALL

Mon to Thu • July 6th - July 16th  
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Conditioning, offensive and defensive skills, and teamwork drills

Fee: \$125 | MHP Gym

## PEP BAND

Mon to Thu • July 13th - July 16th  
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Instrument is required. Refining skills and collaborating in ensembles

Fee: \$75 | MHP Music Room

## CHEER

Mon to Thu • July 20th - July 30th  
8:00am - 11:00am

Conditioning, cheer and dance skills, and teamwork drills

Fee: \$125 | MHP Gym

## VOLLEYBALL

Mon to Thu • July 20th - July 30th  
4:00pm - 7:00pm

Conditioning, volleyball skills, and teamwork drills

Fee: \$125 | MHP Gym



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PHOENIX, ARIZONA

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SCHOOL DAYS

**PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Camelback to name new principal**

In an April 27 video announcement to the community, Camelback High School’s Principal James Arndt announced that he would be leaving the role at the end of June. And in a subsequent LinkedIn post, he looked back on his time at the school.

The post read in part, “Seven years ago, I walked into Camelback High School at 29 years old. I didn’t fully know it then, but I was about to be shaped by the most remarkable community I have ever known. I was fortunate enough to be named Principal in 2020, and these six years leading this school have been the most rewarding of my life.”

Arndt celebrated the Class of 2026 and then the school more broadly, adding, “Camelback is still the same amazing community, too long overlooked, home to 30 different languages and students representing communities from across the world. A school for every kid, every background, every story. We set out to build a pathway for every single one of them, and we are on the road to accomplishing that mission. The work will continue with whoever comes next.”

The district held a principal forum event on May 12, giving the community an opportunity to meet the two principal finalists: Dr. Daniel Garcia, current principal at Academies at South Mountain and Rene Martinez, current assistant principal at Maryvale High School.



Camelback High School Principal James Arndt announced that he will leave the school at the end of June (screenshot via YouTube, courtesy of Camelback High School).

Residents can watch the forum online at [www.pxu.org/o/chs/page/camelback-principal-forum](http://www.pxu.org/o/chs/page/camelback-principal-forum). Superintendent Thea Andrade is expected to name the new principal prior to the end of May.

**Student offered record scholarships**

In May, Phoenix Union High School District (PXU) announced its first-ever “5 Million Dollar Scholar.”

Joseph Parra Miguel, a student at PXU’s Phoenix Coding Academy, was accepted to 49 schools and the scholarships he was offered from each of the schools he was accepted to total \$5 million. He plans to attend Arizona State University to study business with an emphasis on language and culture.

Choosing to stay in Phoenix was a choice he made because he wants to stay close to his family, who are of great importance to him, the student said.

For more information about Phoenix Coding Academy and to enroll for the 2026-27 school year, visit [www.pxu.org/enroll](http://www.pxu.org/enroll).

**Esports team wins district championship**

The Camelback High School Marvel Rivals esports team battled through technical issues, computer crashes and long hours to become the 2026 PXU District Champions. Their resilience and teamwork paid off with a huge win over Central, the school said.

The Smash Ultimate team also had an incredible run, going undefeated in bracket play before facing the three-time state champion Carl Hayden team in an intense matchup. They regrouped and finished the tournament in 3rd place overall.

**WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Enrollment now 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, 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, the 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. 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](http://www.wesdschools.org/families/registration).

**Teacher named ‘EL Teacher of the Year’**

WESD celebrated Josie Corson, kindergarten teacher at Orangewood School, who has been named the EL Teacher of the Year. Corson was recognized both on her campus and during the EL Student Achievement Award Ceremony at the WESD Administrative Center, honoring her outstanding commitment to student success and language development.

The district said, “Known for her compassionate approach and dedication to meeting students where they are, Josie creates a classroom environment where every child feels supported, encouraged and empowered to grow. Her ability to help students build confidence while reaching their full potential has made a lasting impact on both her students and the Orangewood



A weekly program where kids K-8 have the opportunity to connect, explore and have fun through engaging activities.

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10 AM - 11:30AM

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- Hands on crafts & activities
- Fun games & movement
- Safe & welcoming environment

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SCHOOL DAYS

community. Congratulations to Josie on this well-deserved recognition!”

District provides free summer meals

WESD will offer free breakfast and lunch meals for children and teenagers up to 18 years old this summer until June 18, Monday through Thursday, at multiple WESD schools including some in the North Central Phoenix corridor such as Desert View, Moon Mountain, Mountain View, Orangewood, Richard E. Miller and Sunnyslope.

No application or registration is needed. All meals must be consumed on-site. Adult meals will also be offered at a cost. To view specific dates and times for each school, visit the WESD website at www.wesdschools.org/families/nutrition-services. For more information, contact the WESD Nutrition Services Department at 602-896-5235.

WESD introduces new superintendent, principal

In May, the Washington Elementary School District (WESD) announced that its Governing Board unanimously approved a contract appointing Dr. Michael Robert as the district’s next superintendent.

Robert currently serves as superintendent of the Osborn Elementary School District and was selected following a comprehensive search process that included multiple interviews, opportunities for community input and a public forum, the district said.



Mountain View principal Annie Diaz, pictured with Governing Board member Bill Adams, begins her role on July 1 (photo courtesy of Washington Elementary School District).

He is scheduled to assume his new role on July 1. Robert will work closely with Interim Superintendent Dr. Lupita Hightower to ensure a smooth leadership transition.

The district said, “We extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Hightower for her year of dedicated service to the district and for her meaningful contributions in supporting students, staff and the entire WESD Family.”

Additionally, WESD announced that Annie Diaz, current assistant principal at Mountain View School, will serve as the school’s next principal beginning July 1. The district recognized and thanked current principal Phil Liles for his leadership and the many contributions he made to the Mountain View community over the past four years.

PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOLS Clyne named Merit Scholar

Madison Highland Prep senior Thomas Clyne was named a National Merit Scholar, representing the first time a student earned this official title in the school’s history. Out of 1.3 million students who entered the nationwide competition, Clyne rose to the top to secure a \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship, building upon a strong tradition of past semifinalists within the Madison Highland Prep community.

The selection process began with the preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), where only the top 1% of scorers in each state advanced,

requiring finalists to maintain an exceptional academic record, earn a confirming SAT or ACT score, and receive a formal principal recommendation.

A committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors evaluated the finalists to select the student for this highly competitive national honor.

In a released statement, the school said, “Madison Highland Prep extends its warmest congratulations to Thomas for achieving this historic milestone and commend his outstanding contributions to the school’s academic environment. His success sets a new benchmark for future Madison Highland Prep students and highlights the institution’s commitment to cultivating top-tier scholastic excellence.”



Thomas Clyne

Construction continues at St. Thomas

In mid-May, Wespac Construction announced that it has completed the Phase I shell and first floor of the new St. Thomas the Apostle School K-8 classroom facility at 4510 N. 24th St., and has begun Phase II of the facility’s buildout, continuing interior work on a long-established Biltmore-area school and parish campus while helping mod-

please see CONSTRUCTION on page 32

Advertisement for Madison School District featuring the logo, the text 'inspiring passion for LEARNING & LEADING', 'OPEN ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR ARE NOW AVAILABLE!', a list of signature programs (Gifted Programs & REACH, International Baccalaureate, Spanish Immersion, STEAM, Traditional Academy, Visual & Performing Arts), a QR code for school tours, and a collage of student photos.

## SCHOOL DAYS

**CONSTRUCTION** *continued from page 31*

ernize its learning environment for future generations.

When completed, the 76,652 SF, three-story school building with a basement will include ground-level classrooms, a welcoming lobby, student gathering areas and upgraded administrative space. The ground floor will welcome students in grades kindergarten, first, and second at the start of the 2026-27 school year in August. Phase II interior improvements will add 57,393 SF of classrooms, a cafeteria and kitchen, library, music studio with stage, fine arts studio, STEM lab, science lab and additional student commons.

The project was delivered in partnership with St. Thomas the Apostle, a parish of the Catholic Diocese of Phoenix, replacing aging campus infrastructure with a modern educational environment built to serve students, faculty, parishioners, and the surrounding community for decades to support long-term growth and academic excellence.

Learn more about the school by visiting [www.staphxschool.org](http://www.staphxschool.org).

**Montessori transitions to summer**

“May at Montessori Day School was celebratory,” enthused school leadership. “Testing was over and staff appreciation was in full bloom – literally – with flowers, food and love notes from parents overloading the office and classrooms.”

The first week ended with a tablecloth luncheon for staff in the airy art room, sponsored by appreciative parents. The following week resounded with hands-on student “instrument invitations” in the commodious music room.

The third week brought furrowed brows with the Middle School students’ on-stage “Mock Trial” presentation. (The student jury determined in the Plaintiff’s favor), and week four culminated with eighth grade graduation – after pajama day, petting zoo day, water day, bad-hair day and other crazy-making fun themes. Staff looked forward to the Memorial Day weekend followed by the “transition to summer sessions” week of peaceful planning for the months ahead.

The A-rated Montessori Day School is located at 9215 N. 14th St. For additional information, call 602-943-7672 or visit [www.mdpsc.org](http://www.mdpsc.org).



Xavier College Preparatory’s Class of 2026 celebrated at a May commencement ceremony held at St. Francis Xavier Church (photo by Zachary Carlson).

**Xavier celebrates Class of 2026**

Xavier College Preparatory celebrated the graduation of 262 seniors during commencement ceremonies held at St. Francis Xavier Church. Students were recognized for their academic accomplishments, along with leadership, service, scholarship and future aspirations that span the globe.

The Class of 2026 distinguished itself in several remarkable ways. Five graduates received appointments to prestigious United States military academies, including Makenna King, West Point; Amelia Busch, Naval Academy; Catherine George, Naval Academy; Eva Wilson, Air Force Academy; and Lucia Hansen, Coast Guard Academy. This is the highest number of military academy appointments in Xavier history in a single graduating class.

In addition, three Xavier seniors, Breezy Gonzales Cifuentes, Alison Pereo Magana and Jessica Solorio, were awarded the highly competitive Dorrance Scholarship, which provides four years of tuition and support at an Arizona public university, as well as international travel opportunities and enrichment experiences.

Senior Riya Mehta was named a Flinn Foundation Scholar, one of Arizona’s most prestigious merit-based awards. Mehta will attend Arizona State University on the pre-med track.

Senior Elise Posever was named a Candidate to the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program, one of the nation’s

highest honors for graduating high school seniors.

The graduating class also demonstrated Xavier’s continued commitment to academic rigor and college readiness, the school said. Through Xavier’s partnership with Rio Salado College, more than one-third of the graduating class earned Associate’s Degrees through the school’s Dual Enrollment Program before receiving their Xavier diplomas.

Members of the Class of 2026 also were awarded more than \$25 million in college scholarships, reflecting the extraordinary academic achievement and leadership of Xavier students. The Class of 2026 will attend colleges and universities across the country, pursuing studies in fields ranging from engineering and medicine to business, public service, education and the arts.

Learn more about the school by visiting [www.xcp.org](http://www.xcp.org).

**School excels in FAFSA Challenge**

The Arizona Board of Regents recognized Madison Highland Prep for earning second place in the Arizona FAFSA Challenge, securing one of the top spots for the highest completion rate within its enrollment category.

This state award celebrated the school’s success in driving Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion among its graduating seniors. To commemorate this achievement, Principal Rosana Rodriguez and school counselor Dr. Malinda Sherer attended the 2026

Arizona FAFSA Challenge Awards Celebration to accept a special framed certificate on behalf of the school, marking an outstanding institutional commitment to expanding vital post-secondary pathways for its students.

The school said, “This notable accomplishment directly reflected the dedication, persistence, and intentional efforts of Madison Highland Prep’s counselors, educators, and staff. Through targeted outreach and support, the school’s team successfully empowered families to access critical financial aid opportunities, making a meaningful difference in the community.”

The Arizona Board of Regents applauded the school for its leadership in college readiness and for ensuring its graduates were strongly positioned for future academic and career success.

**Knox named head basketball coach**

Xavier College Preparatory has named Elijah Knox as the next head coach of its basketball program, ushering in a new era for the high school basketball programs following the retirement of legendary coach and Olympian Jennifer Gillom.

Knox brings a professional and player development background shaped at the highest levels of the game, the school said. Most recently, he served on staff with the Seattle Storm. Prior to his time in Seattle, he spent four years with the Phoenix Mercury, where he focused on skill development, film and game preparation, and practice planning.

In addition to his WNBA experience, Knox has spent more than a decade working across grassroots, high school, collegiate and professional basketball with both



Elijah Knox

boys and girls. He is the founder of Arizona Athletics Basketball, which serves youth from first grade through high school. His work has consistently centered on developing players for the next level, both athletically and academically.

At Xavier, Knox aims to build upon the strong foundation established under Gillom by continuing to develop high-level student-athletes and preparing them for success beyond high school.

MEGAN & JACOB BARKSTROM



BLONDIE

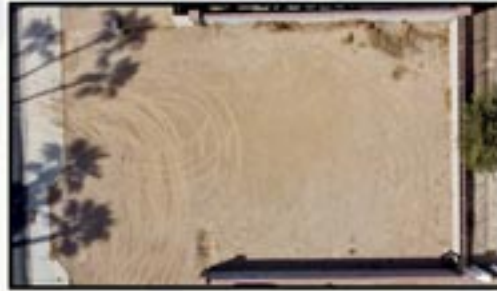
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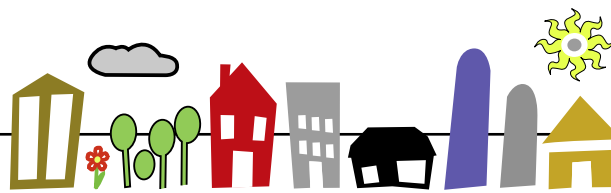
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HUSBAND & WIFE REAL ESTATE TEAM

REAL ESTATE REPRESENTATION - ESTATE SALE COORDINATION - LISTING PREPERATION ASSISTANCE - PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES



**GENERATIONS**

**Senior Living  
This month at  
city senior centers**

Summer is here, and the city of Phoenix is inviting the Valley’s older residents to cool off and find community at one of their 15 senior centers.

In the North Central area, visit the Devonshire Senior Center at 2802 E. Devonshire Ave., or the Sunnyslope Senior Center at 802 E. Vogel Ave. Both centers are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact Devonshire at 602-262-7807 or Sunnyslope at 602-262-7572.

This month, Devonshire members will enjoy a trip to Herberger Theater (June 18) and the Senior Opportunities West Senior Center formal dance (June 26). Sunnyslope members will also enjoy a trip to Herberger Theater (June 17) and a tour of the Martin Auto Museum (June 24).

In addition, the Sunnyslope center offers Memory Café on the first



In addition to scheduled field trips, the city of Phoenix senior centers offer a wide variety of weekly activities and classes to help keep older adults active and engaged with their peers (photo courtesy of City of Phoenix Human Services Department).

Wednesday of the month from 10 to 11 a.m. This event provides residents living with early to moderate dementia a safe place to socialize and participate in activities facilitated by professionals to

simulate brain health. Advance registration required.

For an annual membership fee of \$20 for Phoenix residents, individuals will find monthly events, classes and

trips this summer and beyond. For additional information about Phoenix senior centers, as well as other city programs for seniors and older adults, visit [www.phoenix.gov/humanservices/programs/older](http://www.phoenix.gov/humanservices/programs/older).

**Workshops offer retirement planning tips**

Jack Burns, public affairs specialist for Social Security Administration in Arizona, will provide two free workshops to answer questions about Social Security and Medicare benefits.

The July 7 presentation of “Medicare 101: Navigating the Complexities,” held from 4-5:30 p.m., will include topics like out-of-pocket costs associated with Medicare, health or prescription drug plan options, Medicare eligibility criteria and coverage, rights under Medicare and more.

During the July 21 presentation of “Social Security 101: Everything You Wanted to Know,” presented from 4-5 p.m., Burns will answer these questions

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**GENERATIONS**



Children ages 4-7 can learn about the world of ballet through movement, creativity and play during the School of Ballet Arizona's Build a Ballet Dance Camp, offered in July in downtown Phoenix. (photo courtesy of Ballet Arizona).

and more: When are you eligible to receive retirement benefits? How does early retirement affect your benefits? Do you qualify for disability, survivors, and spouse benefits? How do you get the most from your benefit? What is the future of Social Security? When should you file for Medicare?

The retirement planning educational series is provided for free in partnership with The Area Agency on Aging Phoenix. Both live sessions will be presented online via Webex and include Q & A. Registration is required. Once registered, participants will receive an email with instructions on how to join the session. If you don't see the email, check your spam folder. Call the library at 602-262-4636 for a phone-in option.

Find the workshop schedule at [www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org](http://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org) under the "Calendar" tab. Using search term "Medicare" or "social security" will list all workshops for 2026.

**Community holds open house**

La Siena, 909 E. Northern Ave., will host a summer open house event on Friday, June 12, from 2-4 p.m. The event will include a vibrant resident art walk.

Guests can stroll through the senior living community and admire a curated collection of artwork, enjoy charcuterie with fine cheeses, meats and wine, and experience live music by Rossi Ross. Organizers said that it will be a wonderful opportunity to explore the community, connect with fellow guests and the La Siena team, and celebrate resident artists.

For more information or to RSVP for the event, contact La Siena at 602-814-0506 or visit [www.lasienasenioreliving.com](http://www.lasienasenioreliving.com).

**Kids & Families School offers dance camp**

The School of Ballet Arizona will offer Build A Ballet Dance Camp this summer, with two sessions available. The Phoenix session, held at 2835 E. Washington St., will run July 13-16, from 9-11:30 a.m.

Designed for ages 4-7, this camp introduces young dancers to the world of ballet through movement, creativity and play. Each day features a ballet-based class building coordination, musicality and expressive movement, along with themed storytelling and discussion. Campers learn age-appropriate choreography, enjoy a snack break with friends and create simple props to use in their end of week performance.

The camp concludes with a special event for family and friends, showcasing the dancers' choreography and hand-made props. Build A Ballet is a joyful fit for any young mover who loves to imagine and create, the school says.

For more information and to register, visit <https://balletaz.org/school/dance-camp>.

**Store hosts free summer events**

This summer, Bookmans Entertainment Exchange and their community partners will host free Summer *please see FREE on page 36*

This is more than a place to live. It's a place to come alive.



WELCOME TO THE FOUNTAIN OF *you*.

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Call 602.814.0506 to schedule a tour or RSVP for our upcoming special event.

**OPEN HOUSE & ART WALK FRIDAY, JUNE 12th • 2-4PM**



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602.814.0506

[LaSienasenioreliving.com](http://LaSienasenioreliving.com)



AN SRG SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY



## GENERATIONS

**FREE continued from page 35**

Kids Events every Thursday in June and July. Starting at 1p.m., the events will last about an hour and are created to be engaging, educational and fun.

At the Phoenix location, 8034 N. 19th Ave., June events include The Great Arizona Puppet Theater presenting “My Pet Dinosaur.” The play tells the story of a little boy who gets an unusual present for his birthday – dinosaur egg (June 4); World Wildlife Zoo presents “Creatures of the Night.” This program discusses adaptations of nocturnal animals as well as the benefits of being nocturnal (June 11); Mad Science presents “Up, Up, and Away.” This spellbinding special event introduces children to the principles of air and pressure (June 18); and A Toy Party, featuring sing-along, crafts and photo op featuring the store’s favorite cowboy and space ranger (June 25).

Find the July event calendar online at <https://bookmans.com/event-directory>. For additional information, contact the store at 602-433-0255.

### State launches new childcare search tool

In mid-April, Governor Katie Hobbs announced \$3 million in grant awards for out-of-school time providers and launched a new Child Care Provider Search Tool to help families find high-quality care for their children. She also announced that four nonprofit community lending organizations will receive more than \$700,000 in funding to help childcare microbusinesses grow the number of children they serve. These efforts are part of the Governor’s Bright Futures AZ initiative to make childcare more affordable and accessible for Arizona families.

The \$3 million awarded through the Bright Futures AZ Out-of-School Time Grant Program, which is being administered by the Department of Economic Security (DES), will enable 59 providers across the state to serve more than 2,500 children ages 5 to 12. These funds will cut the cost of childcare by two-thirds, helping working families who are juggling the cost of food, gas, and housing. Thirty percent of the funding will support families in rural communities. The funds are being distributed in partnership with the Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence.



This year’s Summer Reading Program theme is “Unearth a Story,” which invites readers of all ages to dig into great books, discover new adventures and explore the power of storytelling (photo courtesy of Maricopa County Reads).

The new Child Care Provider Search Tool allows families to search for childcare based on their specific needs and to see a provider’s availability or openings. They can search by ages accepted, hours of operation, quality rating, languages spoken, types of financial assistance accepted and more.

To learn more, visit <https://azchildcaresearch.azdes.gov/s/providersearch>.

### Program encourages library engagement

Phoenix Public Library will launch its annual Summer Reading Program, also known as the Summer Reading Game, on June 1. This year’s theme, “Unearth a Story,” invites readers of all ages to dig into great books, discover new adventures and explore the power of storytelling. The program runs through July 20.

The Summer Reading Game is free and open to everyone. Participants can stay active and engaged while escaping the summer heat, building strong reading habits and enjoying activities throughout the season.

Signing up is simple. Beginning in May, participants may register at any Phoenix Public Library location or online at [www.maricopacountyreads.org](http://www.maricopacountyreads.org). After registering, users can select from different gameboards and begin reading 20 minutes a day or completing literacy activities to earn points. Participants track their progress online and earn prizes along the way. The goal is to reach 1,000 points by July 20 to

receive a free book and additional rewards.

Readers can enhance their Summer Reading experience by unlocking digital badges, completing online challenges, attending free library events and exploring community experiences tied to this year’s theme.

Beyond the reading program, residents will find dozens of free activities and events at their local library to keep both kids and adults cool, entertained and engaged over the summer months. In the North Central area, visit Acacia Library (750 E. Townley Ave.), Century Library (1750 E. Highland Ave.), Cholla Library (11050 N. Metro Pkwy E.) or Yucca Library (5648 N. 15th Ave.).

Additional information and how-to videos are available at [www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org](http://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org).

### Museum hosts Foam Zone

The Children’s Museum of Phoenix is bringing back its popular summer-time attraction, the Foam Zone, for another season of larger-than-life bubbly fun.

Children, and their grown-ups, can dive into mountains of foam, dance through clouds of bubbles and cool off in one of the Valley’s most unforgettable summer experiences. Open seven days a week all summer long, the Foam Zone transforms the museum into a foam-filled playground perfect for beating the Arizona heat.

The attraction will be open daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with giant bursts of foam happening intermittently throughout the day to keep the excitement going. Guests are encouraged to bring towels, sunscreen and a change of clothes because things are guaranteed to get delightfully messy.

Foam Zone is included with paid Museum admission of \$19 per person. Museum Members and children under age one receive free admission.

Beyond the bubbles, families can enjoy a full day of indoor adventure at the museum, open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. From soaring through the Climber and exploring the whimsical Noodle Forest to creating masterpieces in the Art Studio, the Museum offers hands-on fun and imagination-filled experiences for children ages birth to 10.

The Children’s Museum of Phoenix is located in the historic Monroe School Building at 215 N. 7th Street in downtown Phoenix. Visit [www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org](http://www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org) for more information.

### Summer program provides wellness through art

The Skye’s the Limit Foundation will host its free Roots of Resilience Summer Program at the Phoenix Center for the Arts, 1202 N. 3rd St., from June 8 to July 16. The summer arts and wellness program is open to young people ages 8 to 17.

Held Monday through Thursday, 1-3 p.m., program activities will include Mural Mondays – design and paint a community mural while building leadership and teamwork; Arts & Crafts Tuesday and Thursdays – creative projects that promote self-expression, mindfulness and friendship; and Mindfulness & Yoga Wednesdays – learn tools to manage stress, regulate emotions and feel more grounded.

The mission of Skye’s the Limit Foundation is to prevent trauma-related loss by substance overdose and suicide by building resiliency and empowering youth, families and communities through trauma-informed advocacy, education, peer support and evidence-informed creative arts and nature-based intervention strategies.

To learn more and register for the program, visit [www.skyesthelimit.org](http://www.skyesthelimit.org).

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By Bill Ross

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6. Do you know how long your workout should take?
7. How many days a week is right for you?

These are just a few things to consider. It doesn't mean you can't do it on your own. All it means is that there's a lot to consider if you want to be efficient and maximize your effort and time, and reduce your risk of hurting yourself.

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A new cooperative Early Literacy Learning Center is part of the five-year, \$23.5 million transformation now underway at the Children's Museum of Phoenix (submitted photo).

## Museum undergoes major transformation

The Children's Museum of Phoenix, located at 215 N. 7th St., has embarked on a \$23.5 million capital campaign, called the Power of Play, that will fuel what they are calling the most ambitious expansion in the museum's history. When complete, this transformation will rank the Children's Museum of Phoenix among the largest children's museums in the United States.

The five-year project will renovate and expand more than 27,000 square feet of unused and underused space of the museum's historic building, ultimately activating all 80,000 square feet of interior space. Plans also include the addition of 10,000 square feet of new outdoor, active-use space, giving Phoenix families even more room to explore, learn, and discover year-round.

Updates include four to six large-scale new exhibits focused on early childhood development, character skills and fun; fresh outdoor play environments – perfect for Arizona's beautiful fall, winter and spring seasons; a high-quality, museum-integrated preschool in partnership with the Valley of the Sun YMCA; a cooperative Early Literacy Learning Center with statewide partners; enhanced ADA accessibility so every child and family can participate fully; and expanded amenities for visitors, members and school field trips

Phase One of construction kicked off in April. The museum plans to

remain open and active throughout construction. For more information, call 602-253-0501 or visit [www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org](http://www.childrensmuseumofphoenix.org).

## Get hands-on with Crafterhours

In May, FOUND:RE Contemporary and FOUND:RE Phoenix Hotel, located at 1100 N. Central Ave., introduced the all-new "Crafterhours" open studio program, which opens the studio to the public for self-directed painting and crafting sessions. This new concept is designed to foster creativity and artistic exploration within the community.

Participants are invited to explore their artistic interests at their own pace within a relaxed and welcoming environment of the studio. Rather than traditional instructor-led classes, the open-studio format of this program encourages independent creativity and allows artists and hobbyists to experiment with a variety of materials and techniques. Guests can attend individually or with a group and can use the space in a way that best supports their own personal creative processes.

FOUND:RE Contemporary provides the workspace, but attendees will need to bring their own art or craft supplies to use. The hotel shop has an array of sketching pencils, pads, art markers and additional supplies available for purchase. Bites and beverages will be available for purchase for those who want to snack and sip as they get creative.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

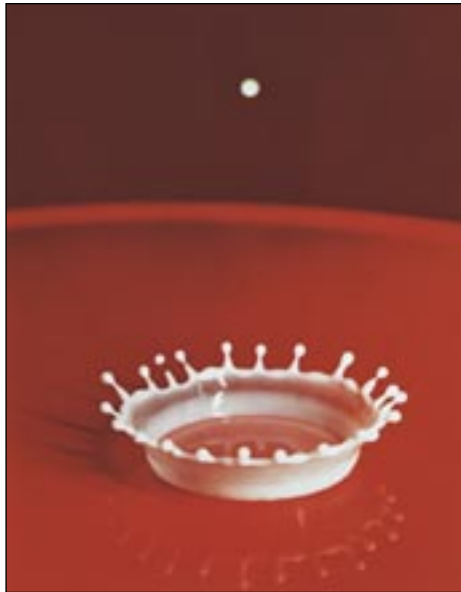
Walk-ins are welcome during designated times. Visitors are welcome to stay for any length of time during the open studio hours.

For more information, call 602-875-8000 or visit [www.foundrehotels.com/foundre-phoenix-crafterhours](http://www.foundrehotels.com/foundre-phoenix-crafterhours).

### Museum presents photography exhibit

This summer, Phoenix Art Museum presents “Ecstatic Time: The Alchemy of Photography,” an original exhibition exploring photography’s ability to influence perception. Featuring nearly 100 works from the collection of the University of Arizona’s Center for Creative Photography (CCP) in Tucson, “Ecstatic Time” presents photographs spanning nearly the entire history of the medium, including everything from still life to time-lapse and astronomical imagery, that demonstrate the transformative, experimental and whimsical nature of photography.

The exhibition celebrates the 20-year anniversary of the landmark partnership between Phoenix Art Museum and CCP,



A print of Harold Edgerton’s “Splash of a Milk Drop,” ca. 1938, will be part of an upcoming photography exhibit at Phoenix Art Museum (photo ©Harold Edgerton, MIT, courtesy of Palm Press Inc.).

established through funding by Mr. and Mrs. John R. Norton to bring vibrant photography exhibitions comprising works from the Center’s unparalleled collections to new and larger audiences.

“Ecstatic Time: The Alchemy of Photography” will be on view at the

museum,, located at 1625 North Central Ave, from July 29 through Jan. 3, 2027. For more information, call 602-257-1880 or visit [www.phxart.org](http://www.phxart.org).

### Make Music Phoenix returns in June

Rosie’s House music academy for children is bringing music back to the Phoenix area once again this year through its annual, city-wide, all-day celebration of music and community: Make Music Phoenix. The city will transform into one big stage on Sunday, June 21, as more than a dozen venues host (mostly) free music performances throughout the day.

Last year, Make Music Phoenix served more than 5,700 community members across 13 ZIP codes, in collaboration with 18 museums, libraries, local businesses, artists and volunteers.

This year, music will come alive at venues such as Arizona Opera’s Wittcoff Black Box theater. Events include a music pop-up at Monsoon Market; Valley Metro will offer a Ride the Rails, Hear the Music experience;



Rosie’s House will host a Make Music Phoenix kickoff event on Sunday, June 21, as the nonprofit music academy once again hosts the city-wide celebration of music (photo courtesy of Rosie’s House).

there will be Taiko drumming and family dance classes on Grand Avenue; and Strip Mall will host a vinyl pop-up.

In addition, Rosie’s House will host a kickoff celebration and celebrate 30 years of music from 9 a.m. to noon,

*please see MUSIC on page 40*

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## ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT

**MUSIC** *continued from page 39*

where residents can start Make Music Phoenix with music, games, and fun at this lively morning of performances, activities, free breakfast and Valley Metro passes (while supplies last).

To explore the full lineup of performances, times and locations, visit <https://rosieshouse.org/events/make-music-phoenix>.

## Head to the movies this summer

In a tradition that dates back more than 50 years, Harkins will bring family-friendly films back to the big screen, helping kids stay cool and entertained during the hot summer months. The Summer Movie Fun program begins on Monday, June 1, and kids can enjoy one movie per week for eight weeks for just \$8 with Summer Movie Fun Digital Season Tickets.

All shows begin at 9:45 a.m., with movies every weekday through Friday, July 24. Moviegoers ages 13 and under can look forward to a lineup that includes “Dog Man,” “A Minecraft Movie,” “KPop Demon Hunters,” “How to Train Your Dragon” (2025), “The Bad Guys 2,” “Mystery Movie,” “SpongeBob: The Search for SquarePants” and “Paddington in Peru.” Check with the theater for screening dates. All adults must be accompanied by a child.

For additional information, visit [www.harkins.com/smf](http://www.harkins.com/smf).

## Ballet hosts free performance

This summer, families are invited to step inside the magical world of Mary Poppins with Convergence Ballet Company’s “Mary Poppins: An Interactive Ballet Adventure,” presented at libraries throughout the Valley as part of local summer reading programming.

Blending storytelling, music, and dance, these free performances bring excerpts from P.L. Travers’ beloved stories to life through an imaginative, interactive ballet experience designed especially for young audiences. Catch a performance at Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave., on Friday, June 26, at 2 p.m. Seating is first come, first served.

Learn more at [www.convergence-ballet.org](http://www.convergence-ballet.org) or [www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org](http://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org).

## On the Town

The arrival of summer in the Valley brings another round of free First Friday events, live local and touring bands, dance, theater performances and art exhibits, family-friendly things to do and more. See you on the town in June!

### Casper & The Mighty 602

June 2  
Heard Museum  
<https://heard.org>; 602-252-8840

### 602 Day

June 2  
The Phoenix Zoo  
[www.phoenixzoo.org](http://www.phoenixzoo.org); 602-286-3800

### ‘Close Encounters of the Third Kind’

June 3  
Phoenix Art Museum  
[www.phxart.org](http://www.phxart.org); 602-257-1880



### First Fridays in the Garden

June 5  
Japanese Friendship Garden  
[www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org](http://www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org); 602-274-8700

### First Friday: Isotope Quartet

June 5  
The Nash  
[www.thenash.org](http://www.thenash.org); 602-795-0464

### First Friday: Carving with James Johnson

June 5  
Heard Museum  
<https://heard.org>; 602-252-8840

### ‘When Dreams Take the Stage’

June 6  
Dance Studio 111 at Madison Center for the Arts  
[www.themadison.org](http://www.themadison.org); 602-664-7777

### Keith Anderson

June 6  
Fiddler’s Dream Coffeehouse  
[www.fiddlersdream.org](http://www.fiddlersdream.org); 602-997-9795

### Exhibit: ‘Ordinary Things’

June 6 – Aug. 30  
Herberger Theater Center  
[www.herbergertheater.org](http://www.herbergertheater.org); 602-252-8497

### ‘Under the Sea’

June 7  
DC Dance AZ at Madison Center for the Arts  
[www.themadison.org](http://www.themadison.org); 602-664-7777

### ‘Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors’

Thru June 7  
Arizona Theatre Company  
[www.arizonatheatre.org](http://www.arizonatheatre.org); 1-833-282-7328

### Tai Chi & Qigong Experience

June 7-28  
Japanese Friendship Garden  
[www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org](http://www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org); 602-274-8700

### Between the Buried and Me

June 8  
Crescent Ballroom  
[www.crescentphx.com](http://www.crescentphx.com); 602-716-2222

### Pay What You Can Day

June 9  
Desert Botanical Garden  
[www.dbg.org](http://www.dbg.org); 480-941-1225

### ‘Call Me by Your Name’

June 10  
Phoenix Art Museum  
[www.phxart.org](http://www.phxart.org); 602-257-1880

### Acoustic Open Stage Thursdays

June 11  
Fiddler’s Dream Coffeehouse  
[www.fiddlersdream.org](http://www.fiddlersdream.org); 602-997-9795

### Ballet in the Making

June 12  
Ballet Arizona  
[www.balletaz.org](http://www.balletaz.org); 602-381-1096

### ‘Shrek the Musical’

June 12-28  
Valley Youth Theatre at Herberger Theater Center  
[www.herbergertheater.org](http://www.herbergertheater.org); 602-252-8497

### Classic Film Series: ‘Batman’ (1989)

June 13  
Orpheum Theatre  
[www.orpheumphx.com/events](http://www.orpheumphx.com/events)

### Bob Daniels – Stan Getz & Chet Baker, Part 2

June 13  
The Nash  
[www.thenash.org](http://www.thenash.org); 602-795-0464

### Free Family Summer Saturday: Let it Snow!

June 13  
Heard Museum  
<https://heard.org>; 602-252-8840

### Heated Rivalry Dance Party

June 13  
The Rebel Lounge  
[www.therebellounge.com](http://www.therebellounge.com)



(Photo by Brennen Russell)

### ‘Ever After’

Thru June 14  
The Phoenix Theatre Company  
[www.phoenixtheatre.com](http://www.phoenixtheatre.com); 602-254-2151

### Victorian Phoenix: Architecture, Art and the Making of a Desert City

June 14  
The Square at Heritage and Science Park  
[www.thesquarephx.org](http://www.thesquarephx.org); 602-258-0048

### Classic Film Series: ‘Superman’ (1978)

June 14  
Orpheum Theatre  
[www.orpheumphx.com/events](http://www.orpheumphx.com/events)

### Celebration of Irish Tea

June 14  
Irish Cultural Center  
[www.azirish.org](http://www.azirish.org); 602-258-0109

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

**Searows**

June 16  
Crescent Ballroom  
www.crescentphx.com;  
602-716-2222



**Leo Middea**

June 17  
Valley Bar  
www.valleybarphx.com

**Jazz Casual Thursday:  
Charles Lewis & His Trio**

June 18  
The Nash  
www.thenash.org;  
602-795-0464

**Soundcheck: The Joeys**

June 18  
Phoenix Art Museum  
www.phxart.org; 602-257-1880

**MOVE Dance Festival**

June 18-25  
Herberger Theater Center  
www.herbergertheater.org;  
602-252-8497

**'Rapunzel'**

June 18 – July 12  
Great Arizona Puppet Theater  
www.azpuppets.org;  
602-262-2050

**Coffee House Saturdays:  
Annie Moscow**

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

**The Quakes**

June 20  
Last Exit Live  
www.lastexitlive.com;  
602-271-7000

**Music at the Market**

June 20  
Rosie's House at  
Downtown Farmers Market  
www.rosieshouse.org/events



**TsuShiMaMiRe**

June 21  
The Rebel Lounge  
www.therebellounge.com

**Make Music Phoenix**

June 21  
Arizona Opera at  
Wittcoff Black Box Theater  
www.azopera.org; 602-266-7464

**Acoustic Open Stage  
Thursdays**

June 25  
Fiddler's Dream Coffeehouse  
www.fiddlersdream.org;  
602-997-9795

**Coffee House Saturdays:  
Thorn and the Rose**

June 27  
North Mountain Visitor Center  
www.northmountainvisitorcenter.org;  
602-343-5125

**The OrganNauts**

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



**Skáld**

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

All event dates are current at the time of publication. Check with individual venues for up-to-date show information. Find events throughout the month at [www.northcentralnews.net/events](http://www.northcentralnews.net/events).

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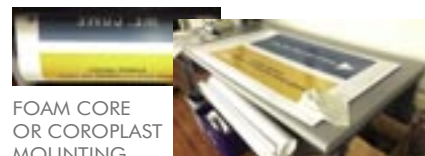
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Vincent Guerithault is pictured at his eponymous restaurant, Vincent on Camelback, with a French classic: poached salmon with chateaufroid sauce, garnished with a bouquet of sculpted vegetables (photo by Darryl Webb for North Central News).

**Café Chat**

**Experience classic French with a Southwest tang**

By Marjorie Rice

Nearly 40 years ago, Vincent Guerithault opened his eponymous restaurant, Vincent on Camelback. Over the decades, it has hovered at the top in most listings of “bests” in the Valley, noted for its classic French dishes, Guerithault’s innovative mingling of Southwest flavors and ingredients with some of those foundational dishes, and his award-winning wine cellar.

Begun in an architect’s office building made up of a lot of little rooms, the restaurant has expanded, adding more small rooms while maintaining an intimate atmosphere evoking a comfy country home. A market bistro has been added at the back, and at one time, a farmer’s market operated there as well, until Covid forced its closure.

Today, guests flock to Vincent from across the nation to dine on cuisine prepared by the man the James Beard Foundation named America’s Best Chef, Southwest (1993), and semifinalist for Outstanding Chef (2008 and 2009).

Despite the accolades – the Republic of France named him an Officier de L’Ordre du Mérite Agricole in 2018, and he was inducted into the Arizona Culinary Hall of Fame in 1992 – he and his wife and partner, Leevon, welcome guests with low-key warmth

and an atmosphere that is more homey than haute.

And their restaurant has helped spark a remarkable growth in the number and quality of dining places in the Valley, along with a blossoming of purveyors who are providing farm-to-table ingredients that are now menu staples. Guerithault began his culinary career as a teenager in the low echelons of a classic French restaurant, learning how to prepare vegetables – creating perfectly turned potatoes into olive shapes, dicing precise cubes of onions, carrots and celery for mirepoix, mastering the mother sauces – and other fundamentals of French cuisine.

In the classic career path of his time, Guerithault labored his way up through layers of the kitchen hierarchy, his journey like stepping stones through in some of the finest restaurants in France, including L’Oustau de Baumannière in Les Baux de Provence, and Maxim’s and Fauchon in Paris.

He moved to the United States in 1976 and became sous chef at Le Francais, working under chef Jean Banchet at what was considered one of the finest French restaurants in the nation. Food lovers from across the nation – including this writer – made pilgrimages to Wheeling, near Chicago, for a meal there.

Ten years later, driven to a warmer clime by a particularly glacial blizzard, *please see FRENCH on page 44*



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**FARMERS HARVEST**

- Agatha's Flower Farm H1
- Al Hamka Farm Door 1
- Anita's AREA Farms C1
- Arizona Microgreens Door 2
- Bene Vivendo Door 1
- Community Exchange Table Door 1
- Hypa Farms Door 2
- Libelula Farm Door 2
- McClendon's Select Organic Door 3
- Mortimer Farms A3
- Southwest Aquaponics Farm B1
- Steadfast Farm Door 1
- Sun Valley Harvest Door 1
- Tempe Garden Girls B2

**DEDICATED VEGAN**

- Love Love Sweets F8
- Ooohmama H4
- Our Vegan Thai Delights Door 1
- The Wild Chickpea G5

**BRUNCH and LUNCH**

- Bagel Daddies J6
- Bud's Pizza Guild B7
- Cassandra Davis Cuisine H2
- Dim Sum Boy I9
- Empanada Empire A9
- Go Go Avocado B3
- Hoyo's Kitchen C2
- K-Town in AZ I4
- La Salsa Tacos de Canasta F13
- Love Acai A16
- Lulu's Sorbetto B6
- Mi Catering I7
- PHX Dough Box C11
- Poffcakes Poffertjes B8
- Rosie's Mini Donuts J1
- Sandwich Apprentice I3
- Sergio's Kitchen B10
- The Tamale Store A6
- Thai Stick A7
- Vintage Oats H4

**FOR THE KIDS**

- Playground onsite!
- Summer Coloring Sheets

**DAIRY and EGGS**

- Arizona Churn Culture C2
- Culture Clash C5
- Crow's Goat Dairy Door 1
- Danzeisen Dairy Door 1
- Fond du Lac Raw Dairy Door 1
- Henry's Chicken Egg Farm Door 1
- Local Arizona Butter Door 1
- Rovey Sheep Dairy Door 1
- Udder Delights Door 1

**PANTRY and ESSENTIALS**

- Absolutely Delightful Door 1
- Arizona Pasta Pasta D2
- Art of Ghee Door 1
- Bad Dog Salsa E7
- Big Red's Hot Sauce D1
- Dr. Hummus F2
- Garden Goddess C13
- Good Form Foods E11
- Gunnar & Jake's Pickles & Peppers I1
- Heart 2 Home Elderberry G1
- Italian Harmony C16
- Lillie Mae's Pickled Garden Door 2
- Los Muertos Salsa F3
- Love's Jerky Co C14
- Pasta Rea Door 2
- Periodyc Baker I2
- RA Seasonings E3
- Salsa Morita Rica D9
- Salud Tortillas D4
- Shannon's Kitchen C12
- Sonoran Pasta Co F1
- Sonoran Scavengers Door 2
- Sun Valley Bees F5
- The Broken Butcher Door 2
- The Kitchen Witch D5
- The Twisted Botanist E9
- Timoteo's Spice Co. C8
- Yallatizers F10

**GARDEN**

- Vilardi Gardens H8
- Wright in the Garden H3

**RANCHERS, BONE BROTH and FISHERMEN**

- Alaskan Pride Seafoods A4
- Bonafide Beef A14
- Feather & Flame G10
- Heartquist Hollow Farm A5
- Homestead Happiness H3
- Moon River Beef & Eggs A11

**KITCHEN**

- Modica Knives G6
- Northfork Silver G3
- Pots from Clay Door 1

**COFFEE, TEA**

**and DRINKS**

- Aguas Fabulosas H1
- Alchemy Roast F11
- Beal Beans G2
- Bittersweet Cafe C6
- Blue House Coffee Goods B11
- Broom Bush Tea D6
- Caffio Espresso Bar A2
- Casa Agape Coffee I8
- Cultura Mia D3
- Duplex Boba Tea Station A8
- Gabby's Fresh Juices F14
- Get Juiced D10
- Gift of Chai J5
- Juice Box F9
- Local Lemon A10
- Milly Moon F12
- Pahadi Tea E13
- Revived by Roots Mobile
- Juicery A1
- The Mushroom Roastery A13

**JUST for PETS**

- Duke's Barkery & Pawtique C3
- Francis & Bee's Pets H6
- Jagerhund Antler Chews G8
- Ruff Life Dog Bones E1

**BAKERY and SWEETS**

- Areemo Door 2
- Arizona Bread Company C15
- Aurora Bakeshop Door 2
- Baker Thirteen C15
- Biscotti Box E6
- Breezy Pop D13
- Chaconne Patisserie Door 1
- Copper State Bread C10
- CPs Patisserie C7
- Detox Desserts E10
- Fairy Godmother Baking Company B5
- FernDiggidy Sweets F7
- Lele's Banana Bread E8
- Makulat Alsham B4
- Mochinut Tempe Door 1
- Mr. K's Cookies D12
- Noble Bread Door 3
- Norah's Sweet Potato Pies Door 1
- Protein Sweets F6
- Proof Bread F4
- Stone Grindz Chocolate Door 1
- The Toffee Merchant Door 2

**VISITING ARTISTS**

- Boutique A Go-Go H5
- Click Bloom J2
- Conscious Coterie H9
- The Crystal Loft J3
- Trolley Llama D8
- Vera Vara Jewelry I5

**HEALTH**

- Alla Herbs H1
- Conservative Creations H2
- Daisy G Soaps E2
- Desert Refillery D7
- Desert Willow Botanicals C9
- Get Raw Door 2
- Peppermint Jim E4
- Powder Room Soaps G7

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Future events include July 28 – Chefs Gio Osso & Lori Hashimoto at Hana Japanese Eatery; Aug. 25 – Chefs Bernie Kantak and Stephen Jones at a venue to be announced; and Sept. 22 – Chefs Stephen Jones & Gio Osso at Virtu Honest Craft.

Find tickets and learn more at [www.devourgoodfood.com/summer-chefs-series](http://www.devourgoodfood.com/summer-chefs-series).

**Kids eat free this summer**

Summer break has arrived, and residents looking for family-friendly dining offerings can enjoy two Kids Eat Free dining deals this month and beyond.

This summer, Pita Jungle is bringing back the Kids Eat Free promotion, giving parents a break in the kitchen while providing nutritious options for youngsters. Kids can build their own meal by choosing a grain or carb, a vegetable and a protein along with a side of seasonal fruit and a kids-sized drink. Vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free options are all available.

Available at participating locations every Tuesday in June and July, kids can eat for free with purchase of an entrée. The offer must be mentioned at time of order and is for children 12 and under



Every Tuesday in June and July, Pita Jungle invites families to dine in and enjoy a free meal for kids 12 and under with the purchase of an entrée (submitted photo).

for dine-in only. Learn more at [www.pitajungle.com](http://www.pitajungle.com).

Also running in June and July, kids 12 and under eat free every Tuesday at Over Easy. With fun favorites like pancakes with chocolate chips or M&M's, waffles, grilled cheese with tots and the popular Waffle Dog, the eatery is an easy summer breakfast option for families.

The one free kids' meal per adult entrée special is offered for dine-in only

and is not valid with other discounts. Learn more by visiting [www.eatatovereasy.com](http://www.eatatovereasy.com).

**New cookbook celebrates 30 years of seafood**

To celebrate their 30th anniversary, Bluewater Grill owners Jim Ulcickas and Rick Staunton opened up their recipe box with their new cookbook: "Flavors from the Shore: Nostalgic

Seafood Recipes Celebrating Our Coasts & Waterways."

This isn't just a collection of recipes; it's a coast-to-coast culinary tour, the owners said. The restauranteurs have distilled 30 years of hospitality success and their love for the sea into 100 chef-driven dishes designed for the home cook.

The book is a fish lovers' passport, and the journey starts by pouring one of the signature cocktails before setting sail. Stops include California Shores, home to the signature Blackened Pacific Swordfish and California Spiny Lobster "Puerto Nuevo Style." Then, head north to the Pacific Northwest & The Aleutian Chain where savory encounters include Roasted Oysters prepared three ways and our Orange and Walnut-Crusted Halibut.

The recipes also explore the Midwest Lakes and riverbanks, Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic seaboard, the Southern waterfront and gulf, and then go global in Australia, Oceania, the Hawaiian Archipelago and Spanish coastlines and more.

The book is available through Skyhorse Publishing or at retail locations. Enjoy the flavors of Bluewater locally at 1525 E. Bethany Home Road. Visit [www.bluewatergrill.com](http://www.bluewatergrill.com) for information.

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

**FRENCH continued from page 42**

Guerithault moved to Phoenix, beginning his career in Oaxaca at Pinnacle Peak.

“That was when Pima was a dirt road,” he said. And yet, like in Wheeling, where patrons made a 45-minute drive from Chicago to dine at Le Francais, patrons made the dusty trek from Phoenix.

They were happy when he moved to North Central Phoenix – a much shorter drive.

“We took over in summer of ’85,” he said. “We didn’t know what we were doing. It was kind of scary when you look at it. We had so little money that we bought a lot of used equipment.”

Some of that equipment, now 50 years old, still is in use at Vincent.

“We started very small.”

That included the wine list, which in those early days had a long list of names but might only have a single bottle of the listed wine.

“You sell it, and the day after you have to buy another one,” Guerithault said. That grew, and the restaurant has received the Wine Spectator’s Best of Award of Excellence since 1997.

Guerithault’s experimentation with Southwestern influences, such as the duck confit tamale, was in part due to a very old friend, who had worked with him in those early days at L’Oustau de Baumannière: Wolfgang Puck.

They lost touch over the years, then reconnected in Los Angeles, at Spago. Puck was building a culinary empire and had some advice for Guerithault. “He said, ‘Why don’t you do something different? Don’t just do French, French, French.’ One of the pastry chefs there was from Arizona, and her parents owned a Mexican restaurant in Phoenix, La Piñata. They taught me how to do a tamale. I decided to do a duck tamale. Then a smoked salmon quesadilla.

“We try always to do something a bit different. We have a poblano chile stuffed with a duxelles of mushrooms with goat cheese and beurre blanc. We do a duck confit on the bone with different sauces, and we use the same duck, shredded, in a tamale, with raisins, diced poblanos and served with a little beurre blanc.”

The menu changes daily, and there are still French classics on the menu, such as rack of lamb – but with Southwest touch: pepper jelly. That’s a change from a previous iteration, where



Poolboy Taco reimagines the 1950s-era quick-service experience with what the owners describe as a “design-forward vibe that blends the festival energy that birthed the brand with midcentury, poolside nostalgia” (photo courtesy of Poolhouse Group).

the server would ignite a sprig of dried rosemary to add fragrance to the lamb and a bit of wow to the presentation.

“Some people would go to the front desk and complain that someone was smoking something illegal,” Guerithault said.

On some evenings, when several tables ordered the lamb – a must-have favorite for long-time guests – the smoke got pretty heavy, so they had to make a change, thus the pepper jelly.

Floating island is a popular dessert, topped with a gauzy cloud of caramel strands, as is the pistachio cheesecake and an ingenious checkerboard mousse cake with layers of white and dark chocolate ganache between the mousse, with berries as playing pieces.

The restaurant added rooms over the years and operated a farmer’s market every Saturday morning for six or seven months every year for 29 years. It closed when COVID hit. “We don’t have enough people do it,” Guerithault said.

Guerithault has expanded his services to include catering and cooking classes. In June, classes include sweet and savory crepes, prepping and cooking duck, classic French sauces, Wellingtons and recipes with chicken. Check the website for dates.

“A lot of people ask how we have lasted 40 years,” Guerithault said. “It’s passion and being willing to work long hours and do creative things.”

A famed Parisian chef told him, “When I go to a restaurant, I want to meet the chef. If the chef is skinny and sad, doesn’t want to be there, the only thing I can do is to turn around and run.”

“You want someone who is happy to be there,” Guerithault said. For Vincent and Leevon, that’s been the case for four decades, and for the food lovers who have followed them all those decades, hopefully more.

Vincent on Camelback, 3930 E. Camelback Road, is open Wednesday through Saturday, starting at 5 p.m. Closing hours vary, depending on demand. For information, call 602-224-0225 or visit [www.vincentson-camelback.com](http://www.vincentson-camelback.com). After a brief break, the bistro will re-open June 3.

## Dining Briefs

### Poolboy opens on Camelback

Poolhouse Group, the hospitality company behind Gadzooks Enchiladas & Soup and The Green Woodpecker, is bringing their next big idea to life with the debut of Poolboy Taco. Known over the years as an elusive pop-up, the brand opened its first permanent location on Monday, May 18, in the former Gadzooks space at 4031 E. Camelback Road.

The food offerings include personality-driven tacos served on a signature “50/50” tortilla, a proprietary blend of corn and flour, or a crispy yellow corn shell. The namesake taco sets the tone with tomatillo chicken, sweet-and-spicy cornbread, jalapeño ranch, honey glaze, and cotija. Additional tacos range from simple to indulgent, including the Ric with pinto beans, onion, and jack cheese; the Ron with spicy black beans, onion, and cheddar; the Duke with

bacon, smashed potato, egg, and cheddar; Craigy’s with shredded pork, egg, and cheddar; and the Aspen with Wagyu ground beef, smashed potato, egg, and cheddar.

The menu also features classics and sharables, including Big Boy Enchiladas, Uncle Rico’s Nachos, the Poolboy Bowl and the Poolboy Burrito. A salsa bar adds extra customization, while sides like queso, guacamole, beans and cornbread round out the experience. Desserts, curated by “Mama Linda” (the Pool brother’s mother), include housemade carrot cake, pumpkin cookies and chocolate chip ice cream sandwiches, while the beverage program leans fun and refreshing with slushie margaritas, ranch water, grapefruit margaritas and tallboy beers.

Poolboy Taco is open Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Learn more at [www.poolboytaco.com](http://www.poolboytaco.com).

## Eat local during Summer Chef Series

This summer, residents are invited to support the Valley’s vibrant dining community by taking part in a unique and meaningful culinary journey: The 2026 Devour Summer Chef Series, which kicked off in May and runs through September. Individual tickets are available for the remaining events.

Each month, two chefs will unite to craft an exclusive four-course pairing menu, spotlighting local ingredients, seasonal flavors and their shared love for Arizona’s culinary scene. Hosted across five different restaurants, each experience offers guests an intimate, immersive look into the spirit of collaboration that defines Arizona’s food community.

But this series isn’t just about the food – it’s about showing up for the people who make it, says program organizer Local First Arizona.

“Summer is the most challenging season for independent restaurants in Arizona,” said Kimber Lanning, founder and CEO of Local First Arizona. “The Devour Summer Chef Series is our way of celebrating the chefs, teams and industry that pour their hearts into this work all year long. It’s a chance to support local in the most delicious way possible.”

On June 23, join chefs Justin Beckett and Bernie Kantak at The Gladly, 2201 E. Camelback Road.

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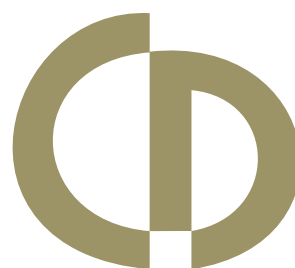
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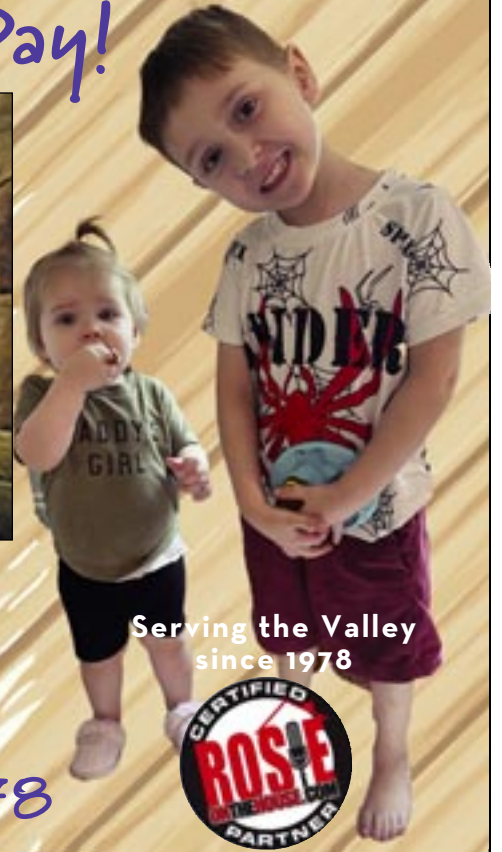
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