



north central news

the voice of the north central phoenix community since 1999

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We really need to know our history as Americans

By Kathryn M. Miller

When the Heard Museum recognizes the National Day of Remembrance for U.S. Indian Boarding Schools during a Sept. 30 event, it will be a homecoming of sorts for at least two of the participants, and a learning opportunity for everyone else.

In 1968, LouVina Maho was a senior at the Stewart Indian School in Stewart, Nevada when she won the title of Miss Stewart Indian School. She proudly represented the boarding school she called home for four years. Twenty-two years later, Felicita Cromwell Bonito was crowned the last Miss Phoenix Indian School in 1990. Phoenix Indian School, located at the corner of Central Avenue and Indian School Road in what is now Steele Indian School Park, closed in 1990 – one year shy of its 100th anniversary. Both women will talk about their boarding school experience during the event.

The Phoenix Indian Industrial School, later known as Phoenix Indian School, was established in 1891 and operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a boarding school for American Indian children, later transitioning into a traditional high school.

After the school closed, the city of Phoenix eventually obtained the land and transformed it into the park. Three of the historic school buildings were saved and placed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the original dining hall, completed in 1902; Memorial Hall, built in 1922 to honor Native American students who served in WWI and used today for community meetings and gatherings; and the Band Building, built in 1931 and more recently renovated and transformed by Native American Connections and Phoenix Indian Center into the Phoenix Indian School Visitor Center.

please see HISTORY on page 12



A gathering of city of Phoenix leadership, long-time supporters, project designers and contractors, and Cold War veterans gathered at Steele Indian School Park in August for a ceremonial groundbreaking for the USS Phoenix Cold War Monument (photo by Bob Rink).

Learn, Honor, Remember Cold War monument breaks ground

By Kathryn M. Miller

At an Aug. 1 event at Steele Indian School Park, city of Phoenix leadership both past and present joined veterans and supporters as they celebrated the ceremonial groundbreaking of the USS Phoenix Cold War Monument.

The USS Phoenix (SSN-702) was the 15th of the 62 nuclear-powered Los Angeles class fast attack submarines built and launched between 1972 and 1997. The future monument will showcase salvaged components of the USS Phoenix and is designed to educate the public and honor America's submariners, Cold War veterans and defense industry workers for their sacrifice and service to their country.

"Knowing the USS Phoenix will be honored at Steele Indian School Park means a lot to our community," District 4 Councilwoman Laura Pastor told us following the event. "It's a powerful reminder of a chapter of history that shaped the world, and a way to honor the vet-

erans whose service often went unseen. We're proud to have a place that preserves this history and ensures future generations understand the sacrifices made during the Cold War."

Captain Pete Lumianski, U.S. Navy (Ret.), has from the beginning been a part of the effort to place the 65 tons of salvaged parts from the now decommissioned/deconstructed submarine into a downtown city park. He serves on the board of the nonprofit USS Phoenix Cold War Monument Foundation, which founded the effort. Along with Pastor, Parks representatives, and the project designers and builders, he was joined at the August event by Captain Carol Culbertson, U.S. Navy (Ret.), CEO of the foundation, and former Phoenix mayor and Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard, who in 1989 spearheaded the USS Phoenix mission to "befriend" the submarine and bring the salvage home to its namesake city.

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A new chapter for *North Central News*

By Jim O'Rourke, Publisher/CEO
O'Rourke Media Group

Twenty-seven years ago, three people decided this neighborhood deserved a newspaper of its own.

John Myers, Tim Mullan and Tara Blanc launched *North Central News* in the fall of 1999 with no guarantee it would see a second year. It has now seen 27 – through a recession, a pandemic, and a stretch of industry consolidation that closed community papers all over the country. That is not luck. That is a publisher who knew exactly who she was writing for, and a community that read what she printed.

My name is Jim O'Rourke, and as of August 1, my company O'Rourke Media Group (OMG) became the new owner of what she built.

Who we are

O'Rourke Media Group is a family-owned company I started in 2018 on a simple premise: local newspapers are not a dying business; they just require a strengthened playbook to stay relevant in the community and financially viable. Of course, that includes focus on digital but print also remains a key factor for success. We've grown to 46 markets and 65 hyper-local publications and websites across nine states. Here in Arizona, we publish the *CITY-SunTimes* just up the road, along with the *Arizona Silver Belt* in Globe – the paper of record there since 1878 – the *Copper Country News* and the *Lake Powell Chronicle*.

There is no version of our plan that ends with a thinner paper in your mailbox!

What isn't changing

Nearly everything you value about this publication.

Kathryn Miller remains your editor and Joanne Day remains your sales manager. *North Central News* stays monthly, and it stays free. It stays in your mailbox – roughly 22,000 copies delivered to homes and businesses across North Central Phoenix, plus another 3,000 in racks around the area.

And it stays about here: the Madison schools and Camelback High, the businesses along Central and the 7s, Sunnyslope and the North Central

corridor, the zoning fights, the Friday-night teams, the neighbor down the street who is worth a story.

What is changing

We will be working with Kathryn to provide the newsroom more tools and support than an independent monthly could never reasonably afford on its own. Jen Lee, a top creative and design talent in the Phoenix area who has been with OMG for five-plus years, will now be working with Kathryn on handling that work for *North Central News*.

We will be working with Joanne to make sure that we continue to provide her and local advertisers with the best service and support possible. You'll get the same trusted print buy you've always made, now with the opportunity to pair it with digital solutions through our full-service, internal digital agency. And if you want to cost-effectively reach past North Central, our *CITY-SunTimes* readers in Scottsdale, North Phoenix, Cave Creek, Carefree and Fountain Hills are now one phone call, email or text message away!

Over the coming months you'll see a rebuilt northcentralnews.net, a digital replica edition you can read from anywhere, and a more robust free email newsletter that puts neighborhood news in your inbox between print editions.

A community newspaper is a conversation, not a broadcast. Tell us what we're missing. Send your school news, your club news, your business openings, your objections. Write letters to the editor. And support the businesses you see in these pages; they are the reason this paper arrives at your door for nothing.

One more thing

Tara, thank you for trusting O'Rourke Media Group to take the reign of the *North Central News*. What you and your team built and managed over the past 27 years is quite impressive, and we're excited to work with the team to keep it going for many, many years to come!

Jim O'Rourke is publisher and CEO of O'Rourke Media Group. Reach him at jorourke@orourkemediagroup.com.

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COMMUNITY

Rhythm Room will go quiet – but not just yet

By Kathryn M. Miller

On July 29, owner Bob Corritore announced that after 35 years of running the Rhythm Room, he has made the decision to retire the club. The plan is to close the club's doors on May 30, 2027, but there is still plenty of music to enjoy in the meantime.

"In reflection, the Rhythm Room has enabled decades of wonderful music and meaningful community gatherings," Corritore said in the announcement.

"We look back at all the amazing concerts, shows and events that we have presented over these last three-and-a-half decades. And I have experienced no better feeling than getting on that stage with my favorite musicians to play my heart out to a room filled with dear friends. And gathering great musicians has led to some great recording sessions, which in turn have created album releases that have had worldwide impact and recognition! We are very proud of the amazing list of renowned talent that has blessed our stage!"

Corritore is not only a club owner, but one of the top traditional blues harmonica players in the business as well as host of "Those Lowdown Blues," a



After 35 years of performances, the Rhythm Room, at 1019 E. Indian School Road, is set to close its doors – but not until a solid lineup of blues, jazz, rock and roots musicians take the stage of the popular club for one last season (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

five-hour Sunday night program that has aired on KJZZ since 1984. He plans to continue performing both as a musician and radio host.

He added, "To say that I'm going to miss all of this would be a huge understatement. But this year I will celebrate my 70th birthday, and I'm going to give

myself permission to live life with a more measured, less hectic pace. I look back at the many amazing achievements of the Rhythm Room and all of the people that it's touched and I have nothing but gratitude. Thank you to the Phoenix music community for allowing me the honor of serving you. And even

though this is a big change, I assure you that I still have much more to give."

Rhythm Room, located at 1019 E. Indian School Road, will celebrate Corritore's birthday, and the venerable club's 35th anniversary, on Saturday, Sept. 25. Doors open at 7 p.m. Get tickets at www.rhythmroom.com.



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The Sunnyslope community will come together to celebrate the Acacia Library's historic status during a Sept. 19 event (photo by Kathryn M. Miller).

Sunnyslope celebrates Acacia

The Sunnyslope Historical Society will partner with the Phoenix Public Library Acacia Branch to celebrate the library's historic status during a public event to be held on Saturday, Sept. 19, beginning at 11 a.m.

Designed by Bennie M. Gonzales Associates and opened to the public on Jan. 5, 1969, the 6,600-square-foot library has been going through the Historic Preservation Overlay zoning process since first being recommended unanimously by the Phoenix Historic

Preservation Commission. The Phoenix City Council is expected to give the final approval at its Sept. 9 meeting.

Acacia Library is located at 750 E. Townley Ave. in Sunnyslope. For more information, visit www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/locations/acacia. Learn more about the Sunnyslope Historical Society and Museum by visiting www.sunnyslopehistoricalsociety.org.

Downtown welcomes El Grito

Councilwoman Betty Guardado and the United Phoenix Fire Fighters Association invite residents to join them in Downtown Phoenix for an unforgettable celebration of Mexico's Independence Day. The El Grito Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 12, from 4 to 11 p.m. in the heart of Downtown Phoenix at 4th Avenue and Washington Street.

One of Arizona's largest and most anticipated Hispanic cultural celebrations, El Grito has welcomed nearly 20,000 attendees and returns this year with an unforgettable evening of live regional Mexican music, traditional performances, authentic food, family activities and a fireworks show over Downtown Phoenix.

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COMMUNITY

The centerpiece of the USS Phoenix Cold War Monument is parts salvaged from the submarine - including the sail and conning tower - after the vessel was decommissioned (rendering courtesy of The Ardurra Group).

MONUMENT continued from page 1

The monument project has been 30 years in the making, and after the final funding was secured through the city of Phoenix in late 2023, management passed to the city with the Parks and Recreation Department leading the effort.

The centerpiece of the monument is those salvaged parts – including the sail and conning tower. Informational signs will be located throughout, and a 33-foot by 50-foot canopy will be placed near the center, serving as a shade structure and representing the exact size of the submarine’s hull. Under the canopy, on the floor will be the layout of the submarine to tell visitors what part of the vessel they would be standing in. There will be a series of bollards at the entrance, which will be approximately the same size as the torpedoes carried by the vessel, and the monument will be 362 feet long – roughly the length of the original submarine.

This is not a memorial meant for solemn occasions, Lumianski emphasized, and education will be at the forefront of the monument.

“The foundation’s motto is ‘Learn, Honor, Remember.’ So, you learn about the Cold War, honor those who served and remember the lessons learned,” he said.

He added, “I’m 83. My age group lived through the Cold War – between 1946 to 1991. During that time, there was a face-off between the United States and Russia, the Soviet Union at the time, and it involved a huge amount of nuclear technology and weaponry. I remember times as a school kid hiding under our desk for practice in case of nuclear weapon went off. There was a lot of tension and fear of the possibility of a nuclear holocaust for the planet. And I think it’s important to remember those times.

“This project preserves that history. I’m hoping that this monument will stimulate some interest in that period and also allow people to think about what we’re doing now and what we’re going to do in the future. Learning history is critical for our young generation coming up, so we need to encourage it.”

The USS Phoenix Cold War Monument will be constructed on the east side of Steele Indian School Park, 300 E. Indian School Road, adjacent to the Arizona Veteran Home. The city hopes to complete the project by Spring 2027. Learn about the history of the project at www.ussphoenixmonument.org.

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COMMUNITY



Built in 1922, Memorial Hall at Steele Indian School Park is one of three historic buildings on site that are remnants of Phoenix Indian School, a boarding school established in 1891 for the forced assimilation of Native American children (photo by Caitlin Miller).

HISTORY continued from page 1

The history of government run boarding schools is layered with nuances, the museum says – from how the students were treated, what they learned and didn’t learn, how they were prepared for life after high school and how boarding school impacted their cultures. But at the heart of that history, says Patty Talahongva, is pride, resilience and community.

Talahongva, programming and engagement officer for the Heard Museum, is Hopi and between 1978 and 1979 she attended Phoenix Indian School, as did generations of her family before her.

“I am what’s commonly referred to as a boarding school survivor and I really think people don’t understand what that means,” she said.

For decades, the schools were part of a government policy that was meant to assimilate and eradicate Native cultures. The children were taken away from home to a place where they couldn’t speak their traditional languages, practice their religions, wear their own clothing or even eat their own their food. And it is estimated that more than 3,000 children died while in government custody at schools across the U.S.

Eventually, times changed; attitudes changed. A place meant to eradicate culture become one where culture was celebrated. By the time Talahongva attended the school, speaking ones’ native language was encouraged; the Miss Indian pageants became a source of pride and shared community. But being away from home is never a good thing, and the lasting impact of low education standards and displacement can still be felt in communities she says, which is why the Remembrance event is important.

“It is history that is not taught about in public schools, and we really need to know our history as Americans...what our government is capable of doing,” Talahongva said. “I think people just don’t understand this part of history and how it has impacted Native peoples. It’s important to edu-

cate them, to let them know we are still here, despite all of the policies our government has had to annihilate us, assimilate us, relocate us. And yet we are still here. We will always be here. This is our homeland. This is where we come from. We’re not going anywhere.”

For the second year, Heard Museum is partnering with the Phoenix Indian School Visitor Center/Native American Connections for the Remembrance event, held this year on Sept. 30 from 10:30 a.m. to noon and including a visit to the former school grounds. In tandem, on view at the museum is “Away From Home: American Indian Boarding School Stories,” an updated installation of the long-running Boarding School exhibition, which takes a deeper dive into the history.

Heard Museum is located at 2301 N. Central Ave. For additional information, visit <https://heard.org> or call 602-252-8840.

Find healing through creativity

Grief can be hard for some to put into words, which is why Hansen Mortuaries & Cemetery is presenting Creating Through Grief, a free, guided hands-on art experience for the community.

The series began in August and will continue with events taking place each month, September through December. Participants will create a meaningful piece of art while exploring grief in a supportive setting. Expressive art can provide a way to release emotions, honor memories and process feelings that may be difficult to put into words, the mortuary said.

No artistic skills are required and all supplies are provided. Registration is required due to limited space.

The Sept. 22 event will be held at the Hansen Desert Hills location, 6500 E. Bell Road, Scottsdale, with Oct. 27 and Dec. 15 events at Hansen Mortuary, 8314 N. 7th St., Phoenix. Find additional information online at www.hansen-mortuary.com/about-us/events.

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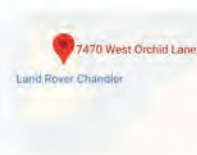


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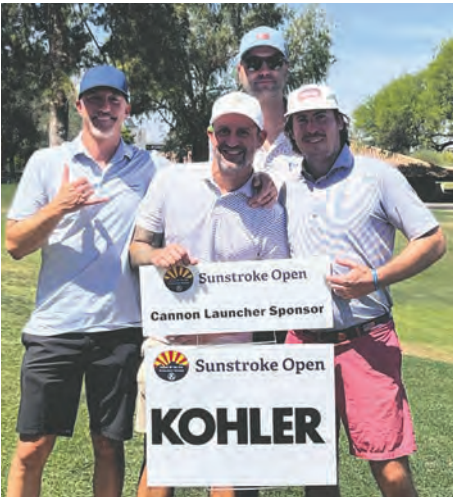
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COMMUNITY



Close to 150 golfers participated in the 31st Annual Sunstroke Open charity golf tournament, a fundraiser for programs supported by the Valley of the Sun-Camelback Kiwanis (photo courtesy of Jim Lunseth).

Kiwanis tournament a success

The Valley of the Sun-Camelback Kiwanis 31st Annual Sunstroke Open charity golf tournament, held June 6 at the Arizona Biltmore Golf Course, was an overwhelming success, the organization said.

Close to 150 golfers had the opportunity to putt for prizes donated by Southern Glazers Wine & Spirits,

before the 7:30 a.m. start of the tournament. Online, silent and live auctions were held during a “fabulous” lunch in the Arizona Golf Course Ballroom. After lunch, numerous prizes and awards were handed out to the lucky golfers.

The Kiwanis club is an all-volunteer charity that has been supporting Valley children for over 75 years. With the success of the Sunstroke the organization said they are able to continue supporting high school Key Club efforts, elementary school Terrific Kids programs, awarding student scholarships, supporting vulnerable youth by sending them to weekend camps, assisting foster kids and supporting local school districts by filling in the gaps with funds and volunteers engaging in fun service projects.

Those interested in getting involved should contact Scott Holcomb at 602-358-4033. Find more information at <https://k02959.site.kiwanis.org>.

Museum hosts blood drive

The Sunnyslope Historical Society Museum will host a blood drive on Saturday, Sept. 5. The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be onsite at 737 E. Hatcher Road from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The need has never been greater, the American Red Cross said, as it continues to urge donors of all blood types to make an appointment to give blood or platelets amid the ongoing national blood crisis. Just three additional donors at every blood drive could help further stabilize the blood supply and ensure patients continue receiving lifesaving care.

Since issuing only the second blood crisis in Red Cross history in late July, thousands of generous donors have stepped up to help save lives, the organization said. At the same time, the blood supply remains under severe pressure. When fewer donors are available to give, the impact on available lifesaving blood products can be significant – especially when the blood supply is already facing a four-year summer low.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code: sunnyslopehistoricalsociety.org.

Makerspace seeks volunteers

The Phoenix Public Library is seeking dedicated volunteers to assist in the MACH1 Makerspace at Burton Barr Central Library, 1221 N. Central Ave.

The two positions that are currently being recruited for are for the Adult Volunteer role and the Volunteer Sewing Mentor role. The Adult Volunteer role is for volunteers 18 and older, and the Volunteer Sewing Mentor role is for volunteers 16 and older.

Find information about these volunteer opportunities and others online at https://volunteer.phoenix.gov/custom/501/volunteer_home.

Get ready to garden

Phoenix residents who are interested in learning about gardening are invited to register for free garden

classes sponsored by the City of Phoenix Office of Environmental Programs in partnership with the Desert Botanical Garden Community Garden

Classes will be held both in-person and via Zoom. In September, join Intro to Seed Saving, Part 1 (Planning for Seed Saving), from 6-7 p.m. on Sept. 2 and Part 2 (Seed Harvesting, Cleaning, Storage) from 6-7 p.m. on Sept. 16. Both classes will be held remotely. In-person classes include Fall Planting Class, Oct. 3, and Garden-to-Table Harvest and Cooking Class, Nov. 7.

Learn more at phoenix.gov/oep.

Learn about future light rail plans

After hosting an event on Aug. 19, Valley Metro and the city of Phoenix will host two additional open house events for residents to learn more about the proposed West Phoenix Extension project.

The West Phoenix Light Rail Extension is a 10-mile connection that is proposed to connect the existing Valley Metro Rail system to Desert Sky Transit Center. The current proposed connection is either Central Avenue/Indian School Road or 19th Avenue/Camelback. The route will travel along Indian School Road to 75th Avenue, then jog south to Thomas Road and continue to the transit center.

At the two-hour open house events, residents stop by anytime and talk one-on-one with project staff, ask questions and share their feedback. Events are scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 19, 6 to 8 p.m. at Maryvale Community Center, 4420 N. 51st Ave., and Wednesday, Oct. 14, 6 to 8 p.m. at Steele Indian School Park Memorial Hall, 300 E. Indian School Road.

Those who cannot attend in person can learn more about the proposed project, provide feedback online and sign up for project updates at <https://valleymetro.pulse.ly/blkuctctab>.

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PRICE PER SQUARE FOOT

\$296

AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET

93

▼ Up 2 days from 91 last month

PRICE DECREASED

51%

The percent of active listings that have received a price decrease is a measure of demand

INVENTORY

2,749

▼ Increase 3.35% from last month 2,349

RELISTED

6%

Same as last month

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PETS

Pet of the Month



Adorable Alaskan Huskies Mason and Rome are now three weeks old and ready for a foster family that has room in their homes and their hearts for these tiny babies (photo courtesy of Arizona Humane Society).

Orphaned puppies looking for a foster family

At just five days old, little Mason, Rome and six other puppies were surrendered to the Arizona Humane Society in late July after their mom reportedly passed away. While it was unclear what happened to the mama dog, all puppies seemed to be doing well, although clearly in need of lifesaving care. All eight puppies have since been receiving around-the-clock care in the Arizona Humane Society’s Bottle Baby ICU, a medically supervised area for underaged, orphaned kittens and pups until they are cleared to go into a loving Foster Hero home. These adorable Alaskan Huskies are now three weeks old and ready for a family that has room in their homes and their hearts

for these tiny babies until they are ready for adoption. Being an Arizona Humane Society Foster Hero is a lifesaving venture with cases that fit every family and lifestyle. By bringing in a foster pet(s), residents allow the state’s largest animal welfare organization to continue caring for even more of the community’s sick, injured and abused pets by opening up much-needed kennel space. For more information on how to become a Foster Hero for adorable Mason and Rome (pet number 857173) or any of AHS’ amazing pets in need of fostering, visit www.azhumane.org/foster to take the online orientation and apply. As a selected nonprofit partner, AHS will receive a matching \$5 monthly donation from Recyclops and AEPW for every participant who enrolls through the campaign. That adds up to \$60 annually per supporter – helping provide lifesaving care for pets in need. Getting started is easy. When signing up, be sure to select AHS as your charity of choice from the drop-down menu. To learn more or sign up for service, visit Recyclops Phoenix Services at <https://recyclops.com/locations/arizona/maricopa/phoenix>.

Partnership serves pups and planet

The Arizona Humane Society has partnered with Recyclops to help Valley residents recycle harder-to-process materials while generating support for pets in need. Recyclops provides convenient curbside pickup for hard-to-recycle materials, including plastic film and other items that often end up in landfills. By signing up for the service and selecting the Arizona Humane Society (AHS) as the nonprofit partner, residents’ monthly subscription will also generate support for vulnerable animals in the community.

Turnout for AAWL

The Arizona Animal Welfare League (AAWL) will host two upcoming events that will support their efforts to care for animals in the Valley. First up is the AAWL and Turnout Beverage co-launch event, Saturday, Sept. 26, where this year’s AleWagger custom beer can will be unveiled. The event will be held at The Gilbert House, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and include beer, food and puppies. Next, save the date and join AAWL at the 28th Annual Walk to Save Animals on Saturday, Oct. 31, to help raise funds for the nonprofit’s lifesaving programs and services ranging from adoptions and behavior support to rural rescue transport efforts and low-

cost veterinary care for underserved communities. For the first time ever, the event falls on Halloween, so both human and furry participants can enjoy fun trick-or-treat stations, making it a festive day of treats, costumes, and fun for everyone. The event takes place at Tempe Beach Park, from 8 a.m. to noon. The Walk to Save Animals is AAWL’s largest annual fundraiser; it is also a community-focused event that is full of family-friendly experiences and provides access to a variety of pet resources. For additional information or to register, visit <https://aawl.org/events/2026-walk-save-animals>.



Valley pet lovers, along with their four-legged family members, are invited to attend the 28th Annual Walk to Save Animals event this Halloween in support of the nonprofit Arizona Animal Welfare League (photo courtesy of AAWL).

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North Central Phoenix JULY 2026 MARKET UPDATE

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(+3.3% from last year)

\$420.09

AVG SALE PRICE/SQFT
(+5.5% from last year)

\$375.50

MEDIAN SALE PRICE
(+1.5% from last year)

1,111

ACTIVE HOMES FOR SALE
(-6.5% from last year)

75

DAYS ON MARKET
(-8% from last year)

Featured Home: 334 E Glenn Drive, Phoenix
6 Beds | 6.5 Baths | 5,242 SQFT | \$3,400,000

COMPASS

SOURCE: ARMLS AND THE CROMFORD REPORT
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Shahe Koulloukian
AUTO INDUSTRY AMBASSADOR



THE CAR OWNERSHIP MIND RESET

How the way we treat our cars reveals the way we treat life.

For years, I have said that better car ownership starts with mindset. Lately, I thought that I was only half right. Sometimes your mindset does not need another tip, another checklist, another YouTube video, or another lecture about changing your oil on time. Sometimes the whole damn thing needs a reset.

Most frustration with car ownership does not actually begin when something breaks. It begins much earlier, with the quiet little agreement we make in our heads about how owning a car is supposed to work. Then reality shows up, and reality, unfortunately, did not read the brochure. A battery dies. A warning light comes on. Something leaks. The air conditioner chooses July in Phoenix to begin reconsidering its career choices. Suddenly, what should have been a mechanical event becomes an emotional one.

Listen carefully to those sentences, because we are no longer talking about transportation. We are talking about expectations. That is the first part of the Car Ownership Mind Reset. Your car never agreed to your expectations. Neither did life.

Appreciation does not mean gullibility, and perspective does not mean volunteering to have your wallet mugged in broad daylight. But we create an enormous amount of frustration when reality violates a contract that existed only in our heads.

Cars are wonderful teachers because they are brutally unemotional. Your engine does not care that you are having a difficult week. Machines respond to conditions. Humans respond to stories about conditions, and that is where things get interesting.

The reason is simple. Cars are rarely just cars. We attach identity to the things we own. A vehicle can represent independence, achievement, taste, youth, status, memories, family, freedom, or even the person we believe ourselves to be. Sometimes a car is transportation. Sometimes it is autobiography with cupholders.

Once identity becomes involved, changing cars can feel like abandoning part of yourself. Selling a vehicle may feel like failure. But the car did not become offended. You did. Understanding that distinction can save you a fortune.

The reset begins when we learn to separate the object from the identity attached to it. You are not what you drive. You are not less successful because your vehicle has high mileage. You are not automatically smarter because there is a German badge on the hood. Your vehicle may express something about you, but it should never have authority over you.

And that lesson travels far beyond the garage. We do the same thing with careers, homes, businesses, relationships, titles, possessions, and beliefs. We attach ourselves to them, and eventually we begin confusing protection of the attachment with protection of ourselves. A great deal of frustration lives inside that gap between what exists and what we believe should exist.

That is where appreciation becomes useful. Not because gratitude magically removes pain, because it does not. Appreciation does something more practical. It widens the frame. Instead of asking only, "Why is this happening to me?" you begin asking, "What is actually happening, what do I still have, and what is the smartest move from here?"

You can be disappointed and appreciative at the same time. You can love a car and still sell it. Everything does not have to last forever to have been worthwhile. But awareness comes with a trap. Sometimes people become so proud of seeing through everybody else that they stop examining themselves. That is not enlightenment. That is ego wearing reading glasses. Real awareness includes yourself.

It means questioning the repair shop while also questioning the story you created before walking through the door. It means becoming your own first line of defense without becoming your own first source of misinformation.

The Car Ownership Mind Reset is not about thinking positively. I have very little patience for pretending everything is wonderful when the transmission is sitting in a puddle underneath the vehicle. The reset is about thinking clearly. Before your next big automotive decision, try removing the car from the story for a moment. Ask yourself whether you are solving a transportation problem or defending an identity. Ask whether you are angry about what happened or angry because what happened violated what you expected.

Then comes perhaps the most uncomfortable question of all. What if the thing that needs changing is not the car? That question works disturbingly well outside the garage too. Sometimes we keep demanding different outcomes while protecting the same expectations, habits, identities, and stories that helped create the problem in the first place. Then we wonder why nothing changes.

A reset is different. A reset says I can appreciate where I have been without being trapped by it. I can become more aware without becoming cynical. I can care without clinging. I can question without becoming suspicious of everybody. I can own something without allowing it to own me. Most importantly, I can change my mind without declaring that my previous decision was a failure.

A car is one of the few possessions we interact with almost every day that constantly reminds us of one uncomfortable truth. Nothing mechanical stays exactly as it was, and neither do we. The smartest car owner is not the person who knows everything about cars. It is the person who knows when the vehicle needs attention, when the numbers no longer make sense, when emotion has entered the decision, and when an old story needs to be retired.

Because sometimes the most expensive thing in the repair shop is not the repair. It is the story you keep paying to protect. And maybe that is what really needs the reset.

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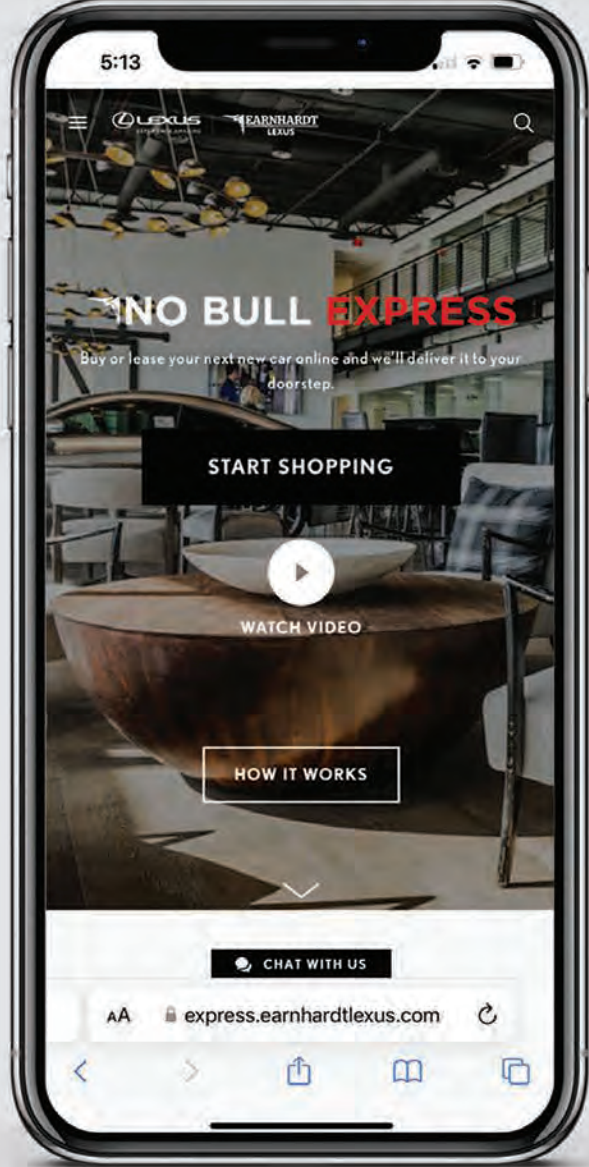

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Tourism generates \$13.4 billion

Over 40 million visitors spent \$13.4 billion in metro Phoenix last year, that is according to a 2025 Economic Impact of Visitors to Phoenix report generated by Tourism Economics, an Oxford Economics Company, in July.

The report highlights a record-breaking year for visitor spending, continuing the trend of economic growth and benefits for both local businesses and residents, said marketing organization Visit Phoenix.

“This year’s growth is a testament to the momentum Greater Phoenix continues to build on,” said Ron Price, president and CEO of Visit Phoenix. “The data reflects our community’s investment in expanding global connections, welcoming new development and celebrating experiences that drive growth, reinforcing our destination’s strength even in years without a mega event. Visit Phoenix is proud to help connect more visitors to Greater Phoenix and contribute to our region’s rapidly evolving tourism economy.”

Tourism is a significant economic engine in metro Phoenix, generating billions of dollars in revenue, supporting thousands of jobs and helping local businesses thrive each year. Tourism Economics 2025 Economic Impact of Visitors to Phoenix Metro broke down the impact in numbers:

- Greater Phoenix welcomed 47.7 million visitors last year;
- Total visitor spending in 2025 reached a record-breaking \$13.4 billion, averaging \$36.6 million per day, while international visitation saw a slight decrease, direct spending per international visitor increased by 1.6%;
- Visitors spent \$13.4 billion in Phoenix in 2025, a 0.2% increase over the previous year;
- Visitor activity supported 96,628 direct jobs in 2025, with another 51,473 jobs generated through indirect and induced impacts;
- And visitor activity generated \$3.5 billion in government revenue in 2025, including over \$1.7 million in state and local taxes.

Learn more about the nonprofit Visit Phoenix online at www.visitphoenix.com.

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Vintage shop adds Curio design

Modern Arizona, a destination for vintage home furnishings located at 5740 N. 7th St., Phoenix, recently announced that the showroom has been named a recipient of *Phoenix Magazine’s* Editor’s Choice Award for 2026 in the resale shop category, and the launch of Curio, a premier full-service interior design studio operating on location at Modern Arizona.

Modern Arizona curates an ever-changing inventory of furniture, art, accessories and décor — each piece carefully chosen to reflect Arizona living with a timeless sensibility, says owner Matt Wszalek. And in the spirit of always evolving, the shop launched a custom art framing studio on location in January of 2026. “Every piece of art we own tells a personal story – from a vintage oil painting to a recent concert poster, a new frame writes the next chapter,” Wszalek said.

Alongside the award announcement, the store introduced Curio, a full-service interior design studio focused on the thoughtful renovation of architecturally significant homes for modern Arizona families. Lead by Betsy Maddox, NCIDQ, Curio operates from within the showroom, adding a layer of full-service design for



Betsy Maddox will offer her interior design talents on-site at popular vintage home furnishing showroom Modern Arizona. A Sept. 19 celebration is planned (submitted photo).

clients who want to take their vision beyond a single great find.

Maddox is an industry veteran whose career spans decades of residential and architectural project work across the Midwest and Southwest. Maddox says that she brings a philosophy rooted in authenticity – honoring a home’s bones while infusing it

with warmth, function and enduring style suited to how families actually live today.

A celebration is planned for Sept. 19 at the joint space. For additional information, call 602-888-1577 or visit www.modernarizonaphx.com; reach Curio at 602-245-7941 or online at www.curiophx.com.

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North Central Phoenix Homeowners Association
Annual Meeting 2026

Thursday, September 24, 2026

All Saints Episcopal Church

6300 N. Central Avenue-Manning Hall

Doors Open: 6:00 p.m.

Meeting: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Please join us for the **North Central Phoenix Homeowners Association Annual Meeting!** Our volunteer neighborhood organization remains as busy as ever. If you live between 7th Street and 7th Avenue, from Missouri to Northern, you are automatically a part of the NCPHA and have a voice in actively maintaining and safeguarding our cherished North Central neighborhood.

Why Attend?

Not only will you hear about the issues affecting our neighborhood, but you will also hear from representatives from **Mayor Kate Gallego's office, Councilman Kevin Robinson's office, and the Desert Horizon Police Precinct.** Come meet your neighbors, learn what is happening in our community, and bring your questions and concerns.

What Has the NCPHA Accomplished Over the Last Year?

We continue to work to preserve our beautiful streetscape and tree canopy through our annual assessment with the City of Phoenix Parks and Street Transportation departments. Missing, diseased, or dead ash trees along both the east and west sides of Central Avenue are identified and replaced each spring. Building on these preservation efforts, we are also working with Councilman Robinson's office to obtain a grant to explore ways to improve the condition of the historic Murphy Bridle Path.

At the state level, the NCPHA again hired a lobbyist to give our neighborhood a voice during the 2026 legislative session. This representation is critical as we work to defeat damaging housing legislation designed to remove local zoning oversight and diminish single-family residential protections. This is the **fifth year** we have battled legislation that could fundamentally change the character of neighborhoods like ours.

Hiring a lobbyist is our **single greatest expense**, and we greatly appreciate any donation you can provide for this service during the 2027 legislative session. We strongly believe we must protect the residential charm



and character of North Central, its history, and the value our neighborhood contributes to the City of Phoenix.

Thank you to everyone who responds when we ask you to contact our state legislators. We know these requests sometimes come with little notice, but things move quickly at the State Capitol, and your voice matters when it comes to determining the future of our neighborhood.

You may have also noticed that the NCPHA has increased its presence on social media, thanks to a talented and dedicated board member. Please remember to follow us on:

Instagram: @thencpha
Facebook: North Central Phoenix Info
Threads: @thencpha
Linkedin: TheNCPHA Murphy Bridle Path
X: NCPHA188891

Fortunately, the NCPHA was also able to stop the separate sale of an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) at 2nd Street and Bethany Home Road. We are all familiar with the new project appropriately nicknamed the "monopoly houses," where a developer built two new homes with excessively oversized ADUs. When an attempt was made this spring to list the ADU separately-and illegally-on the MLS, the NCPHA teamed up with the City of Phoenix and the Arizona real estate community to stop the transaction. Thanks to diligent neighbors and prompt action by the City, these properties can only be sold as a package: a primary residence and its ADU.

Turkey Drive Returns this Fall

Soon it will be time for our generous neighborhood to participate in the **Annual Turkey Drive.** We partner with the Desert Horizon Police Precinct to support St. Mary's Food Bank, helping families in need to enjoy a comforting and meaningful holiday meal. Last November, our neighborhood raised **\$1,700 enabling us to purchase 127 turkeys.** Let's see if we can beat that number this year!

A Friendly Reminder: Slow Down & Stay Safe

As we enjoy all that makes North Central special, we also want to remind everyone about **neighborhood safety-particularly along Central Avenue.** Central Avenue is the main artery through our neighborhood, but it is also a beautiful, tree-lined historic street with wonderful homes. The speed limit is **35 mph**, and we encourage everyone to slow down, especially during the busy school drop-off and pick-up hours. We know mornings can be hectic, but there is no need to race through the neighborhood. Take a breath, slow down and enjoy the beauty around you!

We are also seeing an increasing number of children riding electric bikes, scooters and other electric vehicles on our streets—including, unfortunately, groups riding down the center of busy roadways and performing wheelies and other dangerous maneuvers. **To our parents: if your child rides an electric vehicle, please take a few minutes to know the laws and safety requirements and make sure they understand and follow them.** Electric vehicle-related injuries and fatalities are an increasing concern in Phoenix, and a little awareness and supervision can make a difference. Let's all do our parts—drivers, bicyclists, and electric vehicle drivers—to keep North Central safe for everyone who lives, walks, bikes, and drives here.

Thank you for being such concern, engaged, and active property owners. **We hope to see you at our Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 24, for coffee, refreshments, community updates and conversation.** We look forward to seeing you there.

Our website at ncpha.org has more detailed information regarding our neighborhood. We are a volunteer organization and rely on the generosity of property owners within the NCPHA boundaries. Often, we need to hire legal counsel and other means of assistance. Your annual dues cover our regular expenses, but we always appreciate and can use more. Additionally, your financial support allows us to continue to ensure that the beauty, charm and history of North Central are preserved. If you haven't signed up to get our email updates, please do so at ncpha.org.

Anyone who lives within the NCPHA boundaries is considered a member of our volunteer organization. We ask that each property owner pay a **minimum of \$40.00 for annual dues** (January–December). We appreciate any amount of generous support.

Three ways to pay

1. Use the below QR code
2. Go online to www.ncpha.org and click **PAY DUES tab on the Home page** which will take you to PayPal.
3. Or fill out the information below and **mail your check, payable to NCPHA to:**



NCPHA
24 W. Camelback Rd. #A560
Phoenix, AZ 85013-1520

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

Amount of Dues (min of \$40.00) _____

Other Donation (please specify) _____

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS



The triARC architecture & design team commemorated the move to their new space at 3333 E. Indian School Road with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a celebratory toast and the inevitable unpacking that accompanies any relocation (submitted photo).

triARC celebrates 20 years with new digs

Local firm triARC architecture & design has a lot to celebrate: the recent move into newly renovated headquarters at 3333 E. Indian School Road, the firm’s 20th anniversary, and principal owner Jill Hamblen’s 33rd year of practicing architecture.

The Phoenix-based architecture and design firm officially moved into its new home on June 15, which they said marked a significant milestone in the company’s evolution. The relocation comes just weeks before triARC celebrated the anniversary of its founding on Aug. 1, 2006. Adding a memorable touch to the milestone is the firm’s new address: 3333 E. Indian School Road, a coincidence as Hamblen celebrates 33 years in the profession.

The new headquarters is a comprehensive redevelopment of an existing structure that was taken down to its core and reimaged into a modern workplace. The project encompasses 6,000 square feet, including a 2,000-square-foot enclosed courtyard, representing an investment of \$1 million.

Owned by Jill and Dave Hamblen, the project gave the triARC team an opportunity to experience the development process from the client’s side of the table. The firm served as architect of record; LOR Construction, LLC served as general contractor.

The team commemorated the move with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a celebratory toast and the inevitable unpacking that accompanies any relocation.

For more information, visit www.triarcdesign.com.



Foundation supports financial literacy

With a new school year underway, thousands of Arizona students will sharpen their reading, writing and math skills, but many still won’t receive the financial education needed to thrive in adulthood and navigate today’s economy, says Junior Achievement of Arizona (JA). A new \$500,000, two-year grant from The Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation will help change that by enabling JA to expand financial literacy, entrepreneurship and career readiness programs for K-12 students throughout Maricopa County, with a focus on reaching underserved communities.

“We are seeing an increase in financial pressure on families as inflation surpasses wage growth,” said Katherine Cecala, president of JA. “Programs like ours are more important than ever as Arizona’s next generation prepares for the opportunities and challenges ahead. We have a responsibility to help young people build the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to achieve economic mobility, make informed decisions and create brighter futures for themselves and their communities.”

Nearly one in four households struggles to make ends meet while liv-

ing paycheck to paycheck, underscoring the growing need for financial education and career readiness programs for young people, the organization said.

JA is helping bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world success, particularly when it comes to personal finance, career exploration and workforce readiness. The organization does this by using a volunteer-led model executed through partnerships with 400 schools, nearly 3,200 educators and more than 9,000 volunteers throughout Arizona.

Visit www.jaaz.org/resources for more information or to find free online educational tools.

Shapiro adds attorneys

Shapiro Law Team, located at 4203 E. Indian School Road, announced the addition of two new attorneys, Donato Giovanatto and Louis Hermida.

Giovanatto joins the firm as a seasoned litigator with a proven track record of multimillion-dollar recoveries for seriously injured clients, the company said. A native Arizonan born and raised in Scottsdale, he brings discipline and competitive drive shaped by his early career as a professional outfielder in the Los Angeles Angels organization.

Hermida returns to Shapiro Law Team as an attorney after previously clerking with the firm during law school. Licensed in Arizona, Oregon and Washington, the firm says that Hermida is committed to building meaningful relationships with clients and delivering thoughtful, approachable legal representation. He focuses on understanding each client’s goals while making the legal process clear and manageable.

To learn more, visit www.shapiro-lawaz.com.

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A few weeks ago, we were driving through North Central with friends visiting from New York when they asked a question that made us smile.

"Why are there so many outdoor living areas in the front of the homes? Don't people have backyards?"

Of course they do. In fact, many North Central homes have some of the most incredible backyards in the Valley. But here, the front yard serves a different purpose. It's where neighbors become friends. It's the quick wave to someone walking their dog, parents pushing strollers, children learning to ride bikes, or a conversation that starts while checking the mail and somehow lasts twenty minutes. It's gathering around a firepit on a cool winter evening or simply enjoying a quiet moment under the stars with your favorite drink in hand. The front yard has become an extension of the home.

You'll find original ranch-style homes sitting on more than an acre of flood-irrigated land, like our listing on 550 W. Berridge Lane, where a simple porch swing hangs beneath a towering shade tree and generations of children have played on the front lawn. Then, another at 910 E Kaler Drive, you'll see a beautifully remodeled home with an inviting oversized front entrance with deep-seated comfortable armchairs. Other homes use a low front-yard architectural wall, complete with fireplaces, natural stone pavers, decorative tile, layered landscaping, and large glass doors that blur the line between indoors and out. The courtyard becomes true outdoor living rooms or a quiet garden focal point.

Neither is better. They're simply creating spaces that invite people together.

As September arrives, there's an unmistakable shift throughout the neighborhood. The evenings begin to cool, the monsoon season gives way to Arizona's favorite time of year, youth sports fill the weekends, and Halloween decorations slowly begin appearing. Drive through North Central and you'll notice something else. If a home isn't being thoughtfully renovated, chances are another is being built from the ground up.

Robert Joffe and I are honored to represent FHP Builders in introducing an exclusive gated community just north of Northern Avenue on 3rd Avenue. Limited to just seven custom homes, each Desert Modern residence has been thoughtfully designed with four bedrooms, four-and-a-half baths, and an inviting front courtyard that embraces the same welcoming spirit consistent with our community. So maybe our friends from New York answered their own question without realizing it. Yes, we have wonderful backyards. But our front yards tell the story of our neighborhoods.

Bobby Lieb



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8050 N 3RD AVE**	\$3,250,000
4 BEDROOMS 4.5 BATHROOMS 3,642 SQ FT	
910 E KALER DR	\$2,795,000
5 BEDROOMS 6.5 BATHROOMS 5,881 SQ FT	
37 W PASADENA AVE MULTI-DWELLING, 3 UNITS	\$1,975,000
UNIT A: 5 BEDROOMS 3 BATHROOMS 2,391 SQ FT UNIT B: 4 BEDROOMS 2 BATHROOMS 1,755 SQ FT UNIT C: 1 BEDROOM 1 BATHROOM 952 SQ FT	
3446 N 47TH ST	\$1,650,000
4 BEDROOMS 3 BATHROOMS 2,644 SQ FT	
1435 E RANCHO DR	\$1,175,000
4 BEDROOMS 3.5 BATHROOMS 4,169 SQ FT	
14818 N 18TH PL	\$1,100,000
5 BEDROOMS 3 BATHROOMS 3,683 SQ FT	
6434 N 17TH ST	\$749,000
5 BEDROOMS 3 BATHROOMS 2,393 SQ FT	
6429 N 17TH ST	\$745,000
5 BEDROOMS 3 BATHROOMS 2,393 SQ FT	
6447 N 17TH PL	\$729,000
5 BEDROOMS 3 BATHROOMS 2,400 SQ FT	
2 W GEORGIA AVE 9	\$410,000
2 BEDROOMS 2.5 BATHROOMS 1,280 SQ FT	

PENDING

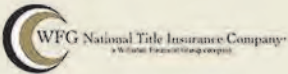
6755 N 7TH AVE	\$1,625,000
14 W COLTER ST	\$1,100,000
1322 W FRIER DR	\$799,900
6424 N 17TH PL	\$649,000

RECENTLY SOLD

5700 N 33RD PL***	\$3,475,000	14542 N 98TH PL*	\$1,105,000
6524 N 61ST ST	\$3,000,000	1109 W FRIER DR*	\$989,000
1345 E OCOTILLO RD	\$2,000,000	6455 N 17TH PL	\$755,000
3312 E GLENROSA AVE*	\$1,195,000	6425 N 17TH ST	\$662,000
27 W COCHISE DR	\$1,140,000	6443 N 17TH PL	\$660,000

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PENDING | \$1,625,000



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SCHOOL DAYS

ASU Prep opens new campus

At a Friday, Aug. 7, ribbon-cutting ceremony, ASU Preparatory Academy Phoenix celebrated opening its new location at 201 E. Indianola Ave. Since the end of the last school year, crews have been working diligently to bring the new campus to life for learners in grades K-12, the school said. The ceremonial ribbon-cutting brought the school’s staff together to mark a new chapter in the school’s history.

The downtown Phoenix ASU Prep campus originally opened on 7th Street in 2009 as the second college preparatory school under ASU’s charter with a vision for a K-12 school experience designed to reflect the multicultural community it serves. Since then, with the continued support of ASU, the school said that it has delivered on its mission of “creating successful pathways to college, making higher education a reality for our thriving student community.”

Over the summer, school teams moved locations after completing some upgrades at the new campus, just in time for school to start on Aug. 10. The new campus, which includes an elementary program for students in grades K-5 and junior high/high school for students in grades 6-12, will continue its college-preparatory trajectory for students, including early access to ASU courses for students beginning in ninth grade.

In addition to the North Central campus, ASU Prep Digital serves online students in grades K-12 across Arizona; ASU Prep Digital+ serves hybrid students in grades 5-12 in the Phoenix metro area; ASU Prep Global Academy serves online students in grades 6-12 worldwide; ASU Prep Tempe powered by The Levitt Lab serves 9-12 grade stu-



After moving from their 7th Avenue location over the summer, ASU Preparatory Academy Phoenix staff gathered on Aug. 7 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its new Indianola Avenue campus – completed just in time for the 2026-27 school year (photo by Monica Navarro, courtesy of ASU Prep).

dents onsite at ASU’s Tempe campus; and Khan World School at ASU Prep is an online honors program for students in grades 6-12 worldwide.

For more information, visit <https://asuprep.asu.edu>.

Glendale Union High School District

Staff heads back to school

The Glendale Union High School District (GUHSD) welcomed teachers, support staff and district leaders to its annual Back-to-School Celebration as employees prepared for the start of the 2026–27 school year.

The event brought together employees across the district to celebrate a shared commitment to student success and recognize the important role every staff member plays in supporting students, the district said. GUHSD Governing Board President Natalie Veidmark reflected on the lasting impact of employees’ work, while Superintendent Matt Belden encouraged staff to contin-

ue building meaningful relationships and experiences that prepare students for an ever-changing future.

As students returned to classrooms on Aug. 10, the celebration served as a reminder of GUHSD’s commitment to empowering every student for college, career and life, the district added.

Learn more by visiting www.guhsdaz.org.



Teachers, leadership and support staff from Sunnyslope High School joined their peers from other Glendale Union High School District schools at a Back-to-School Celebration as they prepared for the 2026-27 school year (photo courtesy of GUHSD).

Class of 2030 welcomed

A new school year is officially underway at Glendale Union High School District, and across district campuses, the Class of 2030 received a warm welcome as freshmen began their high school journey alongside returning students ready for another year of learning, growth, and achievement.

District leadership said, “Here’s to an incredible 2026–27 school year and keeping the promise of their potential!”

Parent Night scheduled

Sunnyslope High School will host its annual Parent Night on Tuesday, Sept. 1. The evening will include informational sessions for families in both the auditorium and conference room.

Parents of juniors and seniors are encouraged to arrive by 5:30 p.m., while parents of freshmen and sophomores should plan to arrive by 6:45 p.m. The event provides families with an opportunity to connect with the school and learn more about the year ahead.

For additional information, visit <https://sunnyslope.guhsdaz.org>.

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SCHOOL DAYS

Madison School District
Rose Lane completes
first phase of rebuild

On Aug. 11, students and staff at Madison Rose Lane Elementary were welcomed to the new school year with brand-new state-of-the-art learning spaces. The new building includes classrooms, small group collaboration areas, specialized dance, art, theater and music studios, a gym, library and even a slide – all designed to inspire students and support a love for learning.

Reflecting on the first day of school, Rose Lane Principal Andre’ Reyes said, “What an incredible start to the new school year! Thank you to our families, students, teachers and the entire community for such an amazing kickoff. The new building looks stunning, and it was wonderful to see our children and families so amazed by the campus on opening day. Smiling faces everywhere you looked! We are beyond grateful to our community and surrounding neighborhoods for supporting this project for our students and our school.”

As an A-rated school and home to the district’s Visual and Performing Arts Signature Program for pre-school through fourth grade students, Madison Rose Lane’s focus on creativity and exploration through daily arts instruction helps students develop valuable skills like critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration, the district said.

Supported by the community’s voter-approved 2023 bond initiative, designed by Grace Design Studios and built by McCarthy Building Companies, Inc., the multi-phase campus rebuild project is expected to be completed by summer 2027.

Madison Rose Lane, located at 1155 E. Rose Lane, is currently accepting

enrollment applications for the 2026–27 school year. Families looking to join the Rose Lane community can learn more at www.madisonaz.org/enroll.

Madison schools earn
PBIS Awards

All eight schools in the Madison School District were recently recognized for their achievements with their

PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) programs by the PBISAz organization.

Madison Camelview received the Level 2 award; Madison Heights, Madison No. 1, Madison Rose Lane and Madison Simis received the Level 3 award; and Madison Meadows, Madison Park and Madison Traditional Academy received the Level 4 award.

The PBISAz Achievement Awards

recognize schools for successful implementation and outcomes with school-wide systems of Positive Behavior Interventions. PBIS programs help build a positive, proactive and supportive school culture to help all students be successful. The framework has been used across the Madison School District for more than a decade, and its schools have frequently been recognized for their successful programs.



Child Find Notice

It is the Madison School District’s responsibility to inform the general public and all parents within our boundaries of our responsibility to make available special education services for students with disabilities aged 3 through 15 years and how to access those services. In addition, we have a responsibility to provide information regarding early intervention services for children birth through 2 years.

We are responsible for identifying, locating, and evaluating all children with disabilities including children aged 3 through 15 and for referring children from birth through 2 years of age to Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) for evaluation and appropriate services.

We are also responsible for providing a free and appropriate public education (FAPE), which includes special education and related services to children with disabilities at public expense, under public supervision and direction without charge to the parents.

For all new students to the district, the classroom teacher will complete screening activities within 45 days of enrollment. The teacher will look at the child’s ability in the areas of academics, vision, hearing, communication, social/emotional, and motor skills. If any concerns are noted, the child may be referred for additional help.

Children birth through 2 years of age who are receiving early intervention services and will be participating in preschool programs for children with disabilities will be assured of a smooth transition into that program.

If you have any concerns about a child you know, please contact Madison School District’s Student Services Department at (602) 664-7535 or the school in which those boundaries you reside.



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Natalie Mendez Hernandez (center), a student at Bioscience High School, was recently named one of the Phoenix Union High School District's Students of the Year for 2026 (submitted photo).

Osborn School District

In August, the Osborn School District congratulated the Longview Elementary School team on being one of only five schools in Maricopa County that were selected for the \$540,000 Nita M Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant, which funds before- and after-school programming for five years.

"This grant will allow for the continuation of all of Longview's purposeful and exciting after-school classes and clubs, and we couldn't be more pumped to see what they cook up next!" the district said in a social media post. "Congrats, Longview, amazing work to everyone involved in the grant-writing process for this one, and our deepest thanks to those who deemed Longview fit to receive this funding. We won't let you down!"

The Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Title IV-B afterschool program is funded by a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education and administered by the Arizona Department of Education.

For more information about the grant, visit www.azed.gov/21stcclc. Learn more about Longview Elementary School, located at 1209 E. Indian School Road, by visiting <https://longview.osbornschools.org>.

Phoenix Union High School District

Bioscience student honored

Bioscience High School's Natalie Mendez Hernandez has been named one of the Phoenix Union High School District's Students of the Year for 2026, an honor celebrating her outstanding leadership, commitment to

service and dedication both in and out of the classroom.

Nominated by one of her teachers, Hernandez stands out as a resilient leader whose quiet strength is evident through her consistent actions, thoughtful reflection and a profound commitment to helping those around her, the district said.

They added, "Her contributions stretch far beyond school walls, making a meaningful impact on her peers and the broader community. Her dedication is clear in her active role with the National Honor Society, where she works tirelessly to promote cancer awareness and student wellness. Her efforts have helped shape a supportive environment, inspiring others to get involved in important causes."

Alongside her academic responsibilities, the student provides regular care for her two younger sisters three days a week. She manages these family obligations with unwavering steadiness, compassion and a sense of pride, all while maintaining her rigorous coursework and pursuing her personal goals.

Beyond her family and school roles, Hernandez was a pivotal advocate for the Phoenix Union Governing Board's adoption of the Climate Action Resolution last school year. She also serves as Head of Projects for the nonprofit Fund Ed, further demonstrating her commitment to positive change and community engagement.

"Her journey of service, leadership and perseverance stands as an inspiration to students across the district, exemplifying what it means to uplift those around you while striving for excellence," district leadership said.

To learn more about Bioscience High School and enroll for the 2026-27 academic year, visit www.pxu.org/enroll.



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Washington Elementary School District

District staff gathered for school year kickoff

On Aug. 5, more than 1,200 Washington Elementary School District (WESD) teachers and support staff came together for districtwide professional development – taking time to learn, collaborate and prepare for a new school year, the district said.

From every grade level and special area, staff participated in sessions focused on curriculum, assessment and planning; behavior supports; and collaboration – building knowledge, sharing ideas and strengthening the practices that support student success.

From kindergarten to eighth grade, from reading and math to music, PE and everything in between, the teachers, social workers, interventionists and behavior support teams brought their expertise, energy and commitment back to their schools when the new school year began on Aug. 10, district leadership added.

WESD is the largest elementary school district in Arizona with more than 18,000 pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students. Learn more by visiting www.wesdschools.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WESD

Join the WESD family

The WESD is always looking for passionate individuals to join its team, and the district has a variety of job openings for certified and classified employees.

The school district offers competitive teacher salaries of \$53,100 to \$80,520 (including approximately \$3,100 in performance pay), student loan forgiveness, school-age child care discounts, medical, dental and vision benefits and employer-matched contributions to Arizona State Retirement. WESD says that it also provides support for teachers including instructional coaches on every campus, weekly Professional Learning Communities (PLC), regular professional development and social workers on each campus.

To view current job vacancies and apply online, visit <https://jobs.wesd-schools.org>. For questions, call 602-347-2622.

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SCHOOL DAYS



Brophy College Preparatory alumni that graduated in years ending in 1 and 6 will gather at the school in late September for its Grand Reunion 2026 (photo courtesy of Brophy College Preparatory).

Grand Reunion set for September

Brophy College Preparatory will host its Grand Reunion 2026 for all classes that graduated in years ending in 1 and 6 on Friday, Sept. 25. Additional class events will be held Sept. 26 and 27. The event will offer fun and fellowship, as well as an opportunity for alumni to see all the ways campus has changed since they walked the halls. Above all, it is a chance to remember, reconnect, and re-engage, the school says. Visit www.brophyprep.org/grand-reunion for information and to register for the Reunion party on Friday night and to see information on the individual class parties on Saturday night. Alumni who would like to stop by for a tour, see campus in action and visit with teachers, can schedule a tour at alumni@brophyprep.org.

School welcomes new music teacher

In August, Phoenix Christian Preparatory School welcomed Alyssa Tap-

pendorf as its K-4 general music and 5-12 strings teacher. A Phoenix native and ASU grad (music education and English), she plays in two orchestras and loves reading, traveling, and time with family and friends, the school said in a social media post, adding, “She can’t wait to share the joy of music and the love of Christ with her students this year, and we already have 13 students signed up for strings!” Phoenix Christian Preparatory is located at 1751 W. Indian School Road. For additional information, call 602-265-4707 or visit www.phoenixchristian.org.

Vista celebrates new school year

Across the Vista College Prep-Metro North campus in August, that unmistakable back-to-school energy is everywhere, the school said. Students arrived with new backpacks and big smiles. Friends reconnected after a summer apart. Teachers welcomed students back into classrooms. Families paused for one more hug or photo

before watching their children head through the doors. A new school year brings another opportunity for young people to discover what they are capable of, and at Vista College Prep-Metro North, an elementary and middle school located at 2133 W. Peoria Ave., that opportunity extends beyond the school day. Four years ago, Vista and Boys & Girls Clubs of the Valley came together around a shared belief in the potential of young people and the importance of investing in the communities where they live. That vision brought the school and Boys & Girls Club together under one roof, creating a place designed to support children and families throughout their day. Parents who work long hours often struggle when their child’s school day ends at 3 p.m. Having a club integrated into the school keeps children in the same safe space, with staff they know, until the workday ends. That is the promise of partnership, the school said. “As Vista College Prep-Metro North and the surrounding community continue to grow and evolve, so will our partnership,” said Kela Powers, chief operating officer. “We often talk about what children need to thrive academically: excellent teachers, rigorous instruction and high expectations. All of those things matter enormously. But childhood is bigger than the hours between the first and last school bell. “Children need places where they belong,” Powers added. “They need caring adults who know their names. They need opportunities to discover what they love, develop confidence, build friendships and become leaders. They need spaces where they can work hard, laugh loudly, try something new, and simply be kids. Together, we can create something more connected for



When students went back to school at Vista College Prep-Metro North in August, they had a built-in afterschool space where they could enjoy activities with their peers (submitted photo).

children and families.” To learn more about Vista College Prep-Metro North, call 602-612-3327 or visit www.vistacollegeprep.org.

Be a Knight for a day

Families who are interested in learning what is like to attend St. Mary’s Catholic High School, located at 2525 N. 3rd St., are invited to an upcoming Shadow Day, where prospective students can be a St. Mary’s Knight for a day and experience the school in action. There are eight Shadow Day dates on the calendar between September and November. This month’s dates are Sept. 18 and Sept. 25. Other activities taking place at the school, which has served a diverse population of students since 1917, includes the 2026 Homecoming game on Oct. 23, which invites all generations of Knights to attend, and the Saint Mary’s Open, which is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 16, at Grand Canyon University Golf Course and invites supporters to enjoy a day of golf in support of the school. For additional information, call 602-251-2500 or visit www.smknights.org.

VISTA

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SCHOOL DAYS



Xavier’s Dr. Clay Zuba (left) and Dr. Leon Tynes presented their cross-disciplinary approach that brings English and computer science together at the annual conference of the International Society of Transforming Education (photo by Lisa Zuba).

Faculty showcase expertise

Xavier College Preparatory faculty members Dr. Clayton Zuba and Dr. Leon Tynes took their expertise beyond the classroom this summer, presenting innovative approaches to education before national audiences of educators and technology leaders.

Zuba, a member of Xavier’s English faculty, and Tynes, chair of Xavier’s

Computer Science Department, presented “The Missing Link: Literacy as the Engine of STEM Success” at the annual ISTE (International Society of Transforming Education) Conference in Orlando, one of the nation’s leading educational technology conferences.

Their presentation focused on an unusual cross-disciplinary approach that brings English and computer science together. Rather than treating writing and communication as separate from STEM education, Zuba and

Tynes demonstrated how students can strengthen STEM learning by producing the same kinds of professional materials used in the workplace – including executive summaries, research briefs, SWOT analyses and business plans – as they develop projects.

The collaboration reflects Xavier’s emphasis on preparing students not only to solve complex problems, but also to communicate their ideas effectively.

Tynes was also invited to attend the Education Summit at Adobe headquarters in San Jose, California, where he shared his work using professional Adobe design tools to strengthen student project-based learning.

His presentation demonstrated how students can use programs including Adobe InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator and After Effects to create professional-level branding and presentations for STEM projects. By learning the same tools used by industry professionals, students are better equipped to communicate and showcase their engineering, technology and design solutions.

“Having Xavier faculty invited to share their work on national platforms speaks to the extraordinary level of expertise our students encounter every day,” said Sister Joan Fitzgerald, BVM, Xavier president. “Our faculty members bring innovative practices

into their classrooms and contribute to the larger conversation about the future of education.”

Xavier is home to a faculty that includes numerous educators holding doctoral and other advanced professional degrees, bringing university-level scholarship, professional experience and innovative teaching practices directly into the high school classroom.

For additional information, visit www.xcp.org.

Club Fair held

In August, Madison Highland Prep (MHP) students attended a Club Fair, where they checked out different clubs, chatted with club leaders and looked for something that caught their interest. From familiar favorites to something completely new, there were plenty of options to explore, the school said.

Clubs at MPH cover a broad variety of interests ranging from chess, trading card games and gardening to acting, a cappella singing and musical instruments.

Madison Highland Prep is a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) college-preparatory high school located at 1431 E. Campbell Ave. For additional information, call 602-745-3800 or visit <https://madisonhighland-prep.com>.

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8th Grade Day | Friday, Oct. 23, 2026

9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Open House | Sunday, Oct. 25, 2026

12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Admission/Placement Exam

Saturday, Dec. 5, 2026 or

Saturday, Dec. 12, 2026 at 7:30 a.m.

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GENERATIONS



A trio of support programs for the Valley's older adults, which served some 3,000 Arizonans in 2025, will continue under AllThrive 365 after Duet: Partners in Health & Aging ceased operations in August (submitted photo).

Duet programs continue under AllThrive

On Aug. 4, Phoenix-based nonprofit AllThrive 365 stepped in to continue three long-standing programs previously offered by Duet: Partners in Health & Aging, ensuring that homebound adults, family caregivers and grandfamilies across Arizona continue to receive essential support and services.

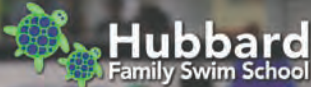
Founded in 1981 by The Reverend Dr. Dosia Carlson and the Church of the Beatitudes in Phoenix, Duet has spent more than four decades providing free services that promote health, independence and connection for older adults and families. Following the organization's decision to sunset operations, its Homebound Adult Services, Family Caregiver Services and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program will continue through AllThrive 365.

"AllThrive 365 is honored to carry forward the impactful programs that Duet has built over more than four decades," said Tami Bohannon, president and CEO of AllThrive 365. "These services reflect the very heart of what we believe – that no one should have to navigate aging, caregiving or life transitions alone. As we continue this work, we are committed to honoring the relationships, compassion and trust that have always defined it, while expanding access to health, housing, and connection for even more of our Arizonan neighbors."

The programs, which served approximately 3,000 Arizonans in 2025, include: Homebound Adult Services, connecting older adults with volunteers who provide companionship, transportation, light handyman services, paperwork and tech support; Family Caregiver Services, offering education, support groups, resources and guidance for family caregivers; and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, supporting grandparents and relatives who have stepped into parenting roles and need emotional, educational and practical resources.

Community members interested in volunteering, receiving services or learning more about the continued programs may visit www.allthrive365.org or call 602-285-1800.





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By Bill Ross

As we get older, staying happy and healthy seems to get tougher and tougher. One of the problems is that the people telling us what to do have never experienced the aging process. The problem with that is that what works for young people doesn't always work for the more seasoned adults. Some of the stories I've heard from clients that have been to other fitness facilities cause me to just shake my head and throw my hands in the air. This not only refers to exercise but also nutrition.

Honestly, nutrition is a whole lot simpler than many people lead you to think. Sometimes it's so simple that people think it can't be that easy. But it usually is. If you've read my book or been to one of my seminars, you know what I'm talking about. I'll share with you something I learned 30 years ago from the then leading expert, Stan Bynum. What he taught me and several other health professionals was simple – it's "ALL" about "Digestion." Nearly every malady that we suffer stems from poor digestion. When your body can't digest and assimilate whatever it is, it becomes toxic to your body and then you have a problem.

I try to educate people on how to become better at digesting their food. When people learn that, so many aspects of their lives improve, such as fat loss, better sleep, less aches and pains and much more.

So, if any of this hits home with you, maybe it's time for you to take the next step...

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GENERATIONS



Community scientists are invited to help the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality monitor the health of the state's air, water and land through volunteer opportunities (photo courtesy of ADEQ).

Volunteering takes residents outdoors

Community scientists of all ages are invited to get outdoors alongside ADEQ scientists to collaborate on research and environmental protection in Arizona.

The Arizona Community Science Alliance (AZCSA) is the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's (ADEQ) community science and education program, which is driven by community scientists around the state. Throughout the year, AZCSA offers volunteers – whether children, teens, college students, adults or retirees – various ways to help the department monitor the health of Arizona's air, water and land and inform measures to protect it for future generations. Additionally, AZCSA provides educational opportunities for K-12 students.

Those who are interested in joining the program as a community scientist or who would like an ADEQ scientist to participate in an educational event, should complete an online survey at <https://azdeq.gov/sciencealliance>. For additional information, call 602-679-1068.

JFCS hosts fall classes

Registration is now open for Jewish Family & Children's Service (JFCS) Creative Aging classes. The Valley's older adults can explore Tai Chi, art, music, theater, dance and more at three area locations.

In North Central, the Beth El Congregation, located at 1118 W. Glendale Ave., will continue a six-part Beginner's Tai Chi by Ping Wei class (Sept. 3 and 17) and Wisdom & Words Book Club with Duane Roen (Sept. 8, Oct. 13

and Nov. 10), along with a variety of Jewish holiday craft classes this fall and into spring of 2027.

To learn more about classes offered by JFCS, visit www.jfcsclasses.org. For questions, send an email to seniorcenter@jfcsaz.org or call 480-670-8073.

This month at city senior centers

The Devonshire Senior Center and the Sunnyslope Senior Center offer events, classes and trips each month that help keep North Central's older adults active and engaged. Here are some of the events taking place in September

Members at the Devonshire Senior Center, located at 2802 E. Devonshire Ave., will enjoy trips to the Commemorative Air Force Museum, Sept. 10, Portillo's Hot Dogs, Sept. 17, and a fishing and BBQ trip on Sept. 21. Daily activities include computer lab, billiards, walking, indoor gardening and aquaponics and more. Contact the center at 602-262-7807.

At the Sunnyslope Senior Center at 802 E. Vogel Ave., members will take a trip to Mandarin Super Buffet, Sept. 21, and to Peter Piper Pizza, Sept. 30. Daily activities include socializing, walking, Wii Bowling, board games, puzzles, card games and more. Contact the center at 602-262-7572.

Both centers are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The annual membership fee of \$20 for Phoenix residents.

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.

GENERATIONS

Register now for fall camping

With the opening of fall registration on Aug. 5, Arizona State Parks and Trails announced increased capacity for first-time campers in its Arizona Family Campout program. Ten weekend campout events are scheduled across Arizona’s state parks from September through December.

The program introduces families with little to no camping experience to outdoor recreation, with all necessary equipment provided. Thanks to additional staffing by the agency and to increased equipment made possible by a \$100,000 grant from the Governor’s Office of Youth, Faith and Family in fiscal year 2026, the program has nearly doubled the number of scheduled events available for registration this fall.

“The Arizona Family Campout program is one of best ways we can welcome new families into a lifetime of loving the outdoors and appreciating Arizona,” said program manager Jennifer Woodrum. “The staff, volunteers and parks we have lined up this fall – more than ever before – are a great opportunity for people to try camping in a safe and comfortable environment. We promise to help our camping families have a great experience.”

The 2026 fall locations include



Families with little to no camping experience are invited to explore the great outdoors through the Arizona Family Campout program, which provides equipment and guidance from park rangers (photo courtesy of Arizona State Parks and Trails).

parks already popular for the program like Kartchner Caverns, Roper Lake, Buckskin Mountain, Picacho Peak and Lost Dutchman state parks. The fall events will also give participants the exclusive opportunity to camp at parks typically only open for day use, including Tonto Natural Bridge State Park, Oracle State Park and Tombstone Courthouse State Historic Park. The program will host campout events for the first time ever at two state parks: Homolovi State Park in Winslow and Cattail Cove State Park in Lake Havasu City.

Participants are provided with

all necessary camping equipment and park rangers provide instruction on camping safety and lead activities such as fishing, archery, kayaking, hiking, mountain biking, and geocaching, with all activity gear provided.

Each campout also includes a conservation project, such as litter clean-up or native tree planting, designed to encourage environmental stewardship in participating families.

The program costs \$90-110 for a family of four, with additional family members at \$5 per person. Children must be at least 6 years old to participate. Accessible campouts are avail-

able and group campouts are available for nonprofits, scout troops and other educational groups.

To learn more and register for a camping experience, visit www.az-stateparks.com/family.

Esplanade hosts free STEM events

This October the Esplanade office campus is partnering with the Arizona Science Center and hosting free interactive, fun and educational classes for kids to learn about science, technology, engineering, math and robotics.

Every Saturday, a representative from the Arizona Science Center will host a class for kids to learn, play and explore different topics. On Oct. 3, “Whirly Twirly Flying Things” is open to children of all ages; Sphero Mazes, Oct. 10, invites children in grade four through eight; Chemysteries, held Oct. 17, is geared toward though in second through eighth grade; and preK to third grade age groups are invited to Solar Science on Oct. 24. Two sessions will be held each day, from noon to 1 p.m. and from 1 to 2 p.m.

The Esplanade is located at 2501 E. Camelback Road; complimentary valet is offered. Families can register via EventBrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/esplanade-120680822503>.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

On the Town

September marks the kick-off for the fall performing arts season, and we are so here for it! In addition to new opera and theater offerings, this month offers a wealth of live music from local and touring artists, film screenings, art and cultural events, anniversary celebrations and more. See you on the town in September!

First Friday at the Museum

Sept. 4
Phoenix Art Museum
www.phxart.org; 602-257-1880

First Fridays in the Garden

Sept. 4
Japanese Friendship Garden
www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org;
602-274-8700

'All Creatures Great and Small'

Sept. 4 – Nov. 1
Herberger Theater Center
www.herbergertheater.org;
602-252-8497

Rattlesnake Garage

Sept. 5
North Mountain Visitor Center
www.northmountainvisitorcenter.org;
602-343-5125

Saturday Dog Days of Summer

Sept. 5-26
Desert Botanical Garden
www.dbg.org; 480-941-1225



Silent Sunday: 'Faust' (1926) with Mysterium Quartet

Sept. 6
Orpheum Theatre
www.orpheumphx.com/events

Grandmaster

Sept. 8
The Rebel Lounge
www.therebellounge.com

Thievery Corporation

Sept. 8
The Van Buren
www.thevanburenphx.com;
480-659-1641

Community Day: Pay What You Can

Sept. 8
Desert Botanical Garden
www.dbg.org; 480-941-1225

Stephen Dawes

Sept. 9
Valley Bar
www.valleybarphx.com

Opera for Lunch

Sept. 9
Arizona Opera
www.azopera.org; 602-266-7464

Family Story Hour

Sept. 10
Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library
www.azirish.org; 602-258-0109

'The Exonerated'

Sept. 11-27
Black Theatre Troupe at Helen K. Mason Performing Arts Center
www.blacktheatretroupe.org;
602-258-8128



PHOTO BY MARILYN STRINGER

The Sugar Thieves

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

Tim Jago

Sept. 12
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

AXIOM: A Solo Exhibition by Alison Auditore

Thru Sept. 13
Modified Arts
www.modifiedarts.org;
www.eyelounge.com



Sugar Skull: A Dia de Muertos Musical Adventure

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

Meltt

Sept. 14
Crescent Ballroom
www.crescentphx.com; 602-716-2222

'Back to the Future'

Sept. 15
Orpheum Theatre
www.orpheumphx.com/events

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Sweeping Promises
Sept. 15
The Rebel Lounge
www.therebellounge.com

‘Phantom of the Opera’
Sept. 16 – Oct. 4
ASU Gammage
www.asugammage.com; 480-965-3434

‘Halwa’ by Amit Tandon
Sept. 18
Madison Center for the Arts
www.themadison.org; 602-664-7777

Moontour
Sept. 18
Crescent Ballroom
www.crescentphx.com; 602-716-2222

‘The Nerd’
Sept. 18 – Oct. 4
Order Chaos Theater Company
at Herberger Theater Center
www.herbergertheater.org;
602-252-8497



Ben Hedquist and The Oscar Pettiford Project
Sept. 19
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

Coffee House Saturdays:
Eric Ramsey
Sept. 19
North Mountain Visitor Center
www.northmountainvisitorcenter.org;
602-343-5125

‘Mamma Mia’
Sept. 22
Orpheum Theatre
www.orpheumphx.com/events



Pearl & The Oysters
Sept. 24
Valley Bar
www.valleybarphx.com

Brian Chartrand and The Project
Sept. 25
The Nash
www.thenash.org; 602-795-0464

The Rhythm Room 35th Anniversary; Bob Corritore’s 70th Birthday Party
Sept. 25
The Rhythm Room
www.rhythmroom.com; 602-612-4981

Chasing Abbey
Sept. 26
Valley Bar
www.valleybarphx.com

‘Scalia/Ginsburg’
Sept. 26-27
Arizona Opera
www.azopera.org; 602-266-7464



Dana and Alden
Sept. 27
Crescent Ballroom
www.crescentphx.com;
602-716-2222

National Day of Remembrance for U.S. Indian Boarding Schools
Sept. 30
Heard Museum
https://heard.org; 602-252-8840

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.



As part the America 250 celebrations, the “Ireland and the Making of America” exhibit explores how Irish immigrants contributed to the shaping of the United States (photo courtesy of Irish Cultural Center).

Exhibit highlights Irish in America

After its summer closures, the Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library campus reopens on Sept. 8 at 10 a.m. Among the offerings is the “Ireland and the Making of America” exhibit.

This exhibit was created as part of the Irish Government’s wider program to mark 250 years since the signing of the United States’ Declaration of Independence. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in partnership with EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum in Dublin, developed this exhibition to highlight the Irish contribution to this seminal event and to mark 250 years of Irish contributions to the U.S.

“Ireland and the Making of America” is on view through Feb. 28, 2027, at 1106 N. Central Ave. For additional information, call 602-258-0109 or visit www.azirish.org.



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Breed: Wirehaired Pointing Griffon

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Belly Rubs or Ear Scratches: Ear Scratches

Favorite Spot in the House: On the couch by the window

Favorite Activity: Swimming

Funny Quirk: Going into “stalk mode” when he sees a dog friend.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

New exhibition explores desert urban development

A new exhibit at Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art (SMoCA), “alejandro t. acierto: Model Home,” examines recent changes to the broader desert landscape, driven by increased development and population growth in the Phoenix metro area.

Through video, audio, photography, surface scans and found objects, artist alejandro t. acierto asks the viewer to define the value of land that is perceived as vacant or unoccupied. It also becomes a larger conversation about who’s being dispossessed, who’s being displaced, the histories and legacies of displacement and what is at stake in the desire to bring more people in.

Curated by Julie Ganas, curator of engagement and digital initiatives, and Oliver Sayers, SMoCA coordinator, “Model Home” is especially relevant, the museum says, after witnessing the effects of expansion, including water waste and harm to conservation efforts. The exhibition highlights how the land and the local flora and fauna have been impacted by new settlements, urban expansion and climate change.

“The ecological impact of urban expansion within the desert is having a deep impact on the landscape,” Sayers said. “Living in Phoenix, it’s impossible to ignore the region’s rapid growth. As development expands, it raises questions about the strain on the desert’s limited resources and how such transformation will reshape its ecosystem over time.”

“Model Home” opens on Sept. 26. In addition to the exhibition itself, SMoCA will host its Fall Opening Celebration from 7 to 9 p.m. on Oct. 10. Visit smoca.org for information.

Artlink launches Artinerary 2.0

In late July, Artlink announced the launch of Artinerary 2.0, the next evolution of the organization’s free online platform and mobile app designed to connect the general public directly with Arizona’s creative community.

The organization says that the goal of Artinerary is to make it easier to discover, engage with and support all of the visual and performing arts, culinary creators, arts-forward businesses and cultural experiences that make the region unique.

More than an arts calendar or directory, the platform is described as a “living digital platform connecting the people, places, and experiences that make Arizona’s creative ecosystem thrive.” Through interactive search discovery, real-time updates and a growing map of Arizona’s creative destinations, Artinerary helps users discover what is happening, who is creating it, and where creativity comes to life.

Learn more at <https://artinerary.com>.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Installation view of Cardiff & Miller, “The Instrument of Troubled Dreams,” 2018 (photo by Katie Jones-Weinert, courtesy of Phoenix Art Museum).

Museum hosts interactive installation

Continuing this month at Phoenix Art Museum is the acclaimed art installation “The Instrument of Troubled Dreams” by Janet Cardiff and George Bures Miller, on view to Arizona audiences for the very first time.

Cardiff and Miller are known for their immersive multimedia sound installations and audio and video walking tours that invite visitor engagement. The exhibit is an interactive,

room-sized audio installation featuring a modified 1960s Mellotron MK II keyboard, 23 speakers and chairs that visitors can sit at and play. As they interact with the piece, they’ll experience a range of music, vocal tracks and background sounds, all of which have been programmed into the instrument.

“The Instrument of Troubled Dreams” will be on view through May 2028 at Phoenix Art Museum, 1625 N. Central Ave. For additional information, call 602-257-1880 or visit www.phx-art.org.

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Café Chat

Schreiner's Sausages: A landmark of flavor and friendliness

By Marjorie Rice

Almost 75 years ago, Hugo Schreiner opened his eponymous sausage shop in a little red and white building on 7th Street, two blocks north of Osborn Road. For millions of Valley commuters, the building and its distinctive "Schreiner's Home Made Sausage" sign has been an icon of old Phoenix and its tradition of small, family-owned businesses.

Today, menus from diners to delis to fine food restaurants specify Schreiner's for their breakfasts, barbecues, cassoulets, charcuterie and other sausage-based items.

Now operated by Nancy Schiller and her family, the little shop still stands, in its original colors and with its original sign. Many of the recipes are Hugo's, and the tradition of friendly service and quality products continues.

Step in the front door and you're sharing a compact space with other customers, facing a long counter jam-packed with dozens of varieties of pork, chicken, turkey and beef sausage; homemade lunch meats; veal and pepper loaf; smoked ham hocks and country ham; several versions of bratwurst; mortadella and bologna; slab bacon; two kinds of chorizo – the list is long enough that you could order a different one every week and it would take almost a year to go through them all.

There's also sauerkraut – what's sausage without it? – from Mrs. Klein's Pickle Co., another local landmark since 1945, along with salads, chips and other go-withs.

But the stars are the sausages. And the odds are Schiller's daughter, Lyndsey Schiller, will be one of the folks serving you. "I'm the sausage slinger," she laughs.

Hugo Schreiner opened his shop in 1952, grinding meats then stuffing casings with a hand-cranked machine.



Nancy Schiller and her family, daughter Lyndsey Schiller, left, son Casey Schiller and grandson Emilio Puente, carry on the family's tradition at the iconic Schreiner's Home Made Sausage shop on 7th Street (photo by Darryl Webb for North Central News).

Thirteen-year-old Gary Schiller, who lived in the neighborhood, came to work there, learned the business and ended up buying it after he ran it a few years, Nancy Schiller said. He was just 20 at the time, with a \$5,000 loan from his parents to help with the purchase.

"I came to work here when I was in college," Nancy said. "I lived in the neighborhood also. Gary and I ended up getting married and the rest is history. I kind of ran the retail store and he did production, though we both did a bit of everything."

Gary Schiller passed away in 2002 and Nancy took over the reins. Today, while she still does a bit of everything, Nancy focuses on running the business side, with Lyndsey mainly in the shop and son Casey Schiller focusing on the production kitchen, in a building across

the parking lot from the shop. Lyndsey's youngest son, Emilio Puente, 11, is on site as well, helping out where he can.

On this day, workers are running a huge machine, stuffing Mexican chorizo into 50-pound bags that will go out to local restaurants and stores. Casey is pulling racks of turkey sausage, redolent with smoke, out of the oven, and other workers are breaking down whole boneless pork shoulders to ready them for the grinder.

"We make pretty much everything in the case except aged lunch meats like prosciutto, hard salami and Genoa salami," Nancy said.

Most of it never reaches the sales counter in the little shop.

"Eighty to 82 percent of our business is wholesale," Nancy said. "A lot of the Mexican chorizo you get in restaurants here comes from us. It's our biggest seller. The percentage of products that are sold at the shop varies with the seasons and demand."

For many customers, a trip to Schreiner's is a tradition, even if it's just for a certain holiday season.

"People come in at Christmas," Nancy said. "They have to have the potato sausage for Christmas; it's like a homecoming."

For the upcoming holidays, starting with Oktoberfest, demand will pick up for brats of all types, then sage and other sausages for Thanksgiving and Christmas stuffing, and maple blueberry sausage for breakfasts holiday brunches.

And there's another holiday specialty. Say you have a sausage recipe that's been handed down for generations in your family. The thought of breaking down whole pork shoulders, grinding and seasoning the meat then

stuffing all those casings, even if you have the equipment and the expertise, may be too much to face. But there's a solution: Schreiner's can make it for you. Just give them the recipe.

"We have a lot of people we do that for," Nancy said. "You have to have a minimum of 25 pounds or it won't work in the grinder and stuffer."

It's that tradition of extra service that helps make shops like Schreiner's an integral part of their communities, places that knit them together, Nancy said. "And it's not just the food business. It can be the little auto parts store or drug that's been there forever. You know the people, they know you, the service is better."

"We're so blessed and so grateful to be part of this community, because we can keep doing the same thing. We haven't changed anything, while everything changes around us," Nancy said.

One thing that has changed is the machinery, such as that big stuffing machine that supplanted Hugo's hand-cranked sausage-stuffer, now painted bright pink and standing outside the kitchen building.

"I hope people know how thankful we are for them," Nancy said. "It's not just our customers, it's our vendors, our sales people, our workers here in the back. We've been afforded time to build relationships and we're all about that. We stay true to what we do."

"If there were a little sausage shop in the Hallmark movies, it would be Schreiner's."

Schreiner's Fine Sausage, 3601 N. 7th St., is open for retail customers from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Friday; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday. For information, call 602-265-2939 or visit www.schreinerssausage.com.



Customers wait behind a jam-packed display counter containing dozens of varieties of pork, chicken, turkey and beef sausage, lunch meats, varieties of ham and bratwurst, chorizo and so much more (photo by Darryl Webb for North Central News).

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Le Petit Chef – the smallest chef in the world – presents a 3D cinema directly on diners' plates as they enjoy a menu inspired by dishes from Spain, Italy, France and Japan (photo courtesy of La Petit Chef/Arizona Biltmore).

Biltmore hosts 'La Petit' dinner experience

Arizona Biltmore invites Valley diners to step into an immersive dining experience where storytelling, culture and cuisine come together through 3D projection mapping. Le Petit Chef & Friends debuted as the resort's new immersive dining show on Aug. 6 and will continue through December.

Join Le Petit Chef and culinary friends from Spain, Italy and Japan as they embark on a playful cooking competition inspired by the flavors of their homelands. Paired with a curated four-course menu, this one-of-a-kind dining experience transforms each course into an unforgettable journey, the resort says.

The journey begins in Spain, where Pequeña Maria serves the starter amid a playful miniature bullfight and colorful projections inspired by Gaudí and flamenco. Next, Piccolo Luciano transports guests to the Tuscan countryside with truffle and mushroom ravioli. France's own Le Petit Chef takes center stage for the main course, using his inventive machine to prepare the meal, then Japan's Chisano Takahiro closes the evening with a green tea matcha cake featuring a hint of wasabi. At the end of the experience, guests decide the winner by cheering for their favorite chef, with the loudest applause earning the coveted 24-carat Golden Chef's Hat.

Explore the menu and book an experience online at www.arizonabiltmore.com/dining/le-petit-chef. Call 602-955-6600 for additional information.

Deli celebrates Rosh Hashanah

Chompie's is celebrating Rosh Hashanah with a dine-in dinner special at all four Valley locations on Friday, Sept. 11, as well as specialty items available for pickup in the retail sections of each restaurant.

The Rosh Hashanah dinner special includes fresh-baked challah, apples and honey, gefilte fish with red horseradish, and chicken matzo ball soup for starters, followed by a choice of entrée – half-roasted chicken with pomegranate sauce, served with savory challah stuffing; tender braised brisket with pan gravy; or pan-seared salmon with dill butter. Side dishes include large crisp potato latke with applesauce and glazed carrots, followed by an assortment of holiday cakes for dessert.

The cost for this meal is \$32.99 per adult and \$14.99 per child, plus tax and gratuity. In addition, guests can enhance their dinner with a variety of à la carte items. This dinner special will be available beginning at 5 p.m. at all locations on Friday, Sept. 11. Reservations are required at the Phoenix and Scottsdale locations.

In addition to the Rosh Hashanah dinner special, a variety of retail items will be available for purchase – everything from challah to traditional menu items and holiday baked items. And the eatery is making it easy for those who participate in Yom Kippur to break their fast at nightfall on Monday, Sept. 21, by offering two Break the Fast packages now available for preorder.

In Phoenix, visit Chompie's at 3212 E. Cactus Rd. To make a reservation, visit www.chompies.com or call 602-710-2910 for additional information.



Who We Are

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

Location & Meeting

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

Tour Boundaries

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

Join Us!

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

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

<https://northcentraltour.com/>

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Kids eat free at Federal

School is back in session and family schedules are kicking into high gear. With that in mind, Federal Pizza wants to help Valley parents catch their breath and navigate busy week-night routines with a special deal this month.

For the entire month of September, kids eat free every Monday through

Thursday at both Federal Pizza locations: the iconic Al Beadle-designed Uptown Central Phoenix restaurant – known for its mid-century modern design, wood-fired goodness, and curated lineup of craft wine and beer – and the newly opened location at PV in North Phoenix. The offer is valid from open to close, for dine-in only with the purchase of a pizza or pasta. Guests must show an email, social media post (@

federalpizza), or flyer to redeem.

While parents unwind over signature wood-fired pizzas, house-made pastas, fresh big salads, and craft beverages, kids can enjoy their own mini meals on the house. The Kids Eat Free menu features items like Mini Cheese Pizza, Mini Pepperoni Pizza, Sketti + Meatball, Crispy Polenta + Marinara and Mr. Plain Buttered Noodles.

Both locations are open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight, and from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sundays. Visit www.federalpizza.com for more details or follow along on social media.

Some participants offer their ARW menus at lunchtime in addition to dinner, and they may be available for take-out, as well. ARW menus generally take a departure from restaurants' ongoing menus, allowing chefs to present different options and diners to explore new tastes.

With so many participants this year, casual diners and dedicated foodies alike have nearly endless dining options, the organization said – from small, independently owned establishments to fine-dining restaurants, with a vast representation of culinary cuisines.

Participating restaurants' 2026 Fall Arizona Restaurant Week menus will be announced by Tuesday, Sept. 1, at www.arizonarestaurantweek.com.

Restaurant Week returns in September

In August, the Arizona Restaurant Association announced the dates of its 2026 Fall Arizona Restaurant Week (ARW). Presented by Roxx Vodka, the popular 10-day event begins Friday, Sept. 18, and runs through Sunday, Sept. 27.

More than 200 restaurants around the state are already signed up, with many first-time participants joining the growing list, offering the perfect opportunity to explore the state's culinary scene, discover new flavors, support a favorite local spot or add a new favorite to the list.

During the 10-day dining event, participating restaurants offer special three-course menus that are unique to Fall ARW. Establishments price their prix-fixe menus accordingly at either \$33, \$44 or \$55 per person or per couple, plus tax and gratuity. Menus present guests with a choice of starter, main dish and dessert. Some include a beverage, while others offer specialty cocktails and wine pairings for an additional charge.

Celebrate Labor Day with burger special



SUBMITTED PHOTO

On Monday, Sept. 7, in recognition of Labor Day, Fire at Will is offering its Hush Burger for half price.

Featuring two quarter-pound smash patties topped

with American cheese, caramelized onion, pickles and fancy sauce on a fresh Noble brioche bun and served with fries, the Hush Burger is available for \$10 all day long on Labor Day.

Fire at Will, located at 4912 E. Shea Blvd., #108, is open 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday. For additional information, call 480-207-1819 or visit www.eatfireatwill.com.

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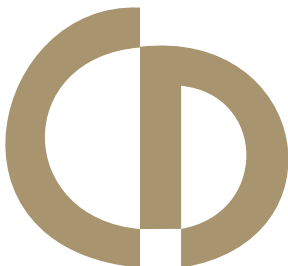


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