



Community
Annual car
show set; **4**



SUSD
Enrollment
officially
open; **12**

Town council responds to resident concerns

**Pickleball, short-term rentals
and lack of code enforcement**

By Allison Kotzbauer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Paradise Valley Town Council heard from multiple residents about their struggle to get a concrete solution from town staff about town code violations in their neighborhoods at the council’s Oct. 8 meeting.

Six residents spoke about pickleball courts, short-term rental properties and code violations disrupting their lives for years, with the council then making two future agenda items to address their concerns.

Hillary Conner spoke on behalf of Inge Conner, her mother who has been dealing with what they said is excessive noise, traffic and lighting violations from pickleball courts on Caron Drive for over four years.

Hillary Conner said her mother is paying the price in her loss of quiet enjoyment of her property because of the town’s passive response to the years of documentation.

• See **Council** on page **24**

Town celebrates new artist-in-residence




By Allison Kotzbauer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Paintings of landscapes and still lifes in ornate gold frames lined the walls of Paradise Valley Town Hall as residents gathered Oct. 13 to celebrate Martin Galbut’s year as the town’s artist-in-residence.

Family, friends, town residents, council members and staff attended the opening reception, where guests enjoyed food and music performed by members of the Phoenix Symphony while view-

• See **Artist** on page **24**

Cindy Galbut and Martin Galbut stand in front of one of his paintings at Paradise Valley Town Hall on Oct. 13, in Paradise Valley. (Submitted photo/Adora Saieed)

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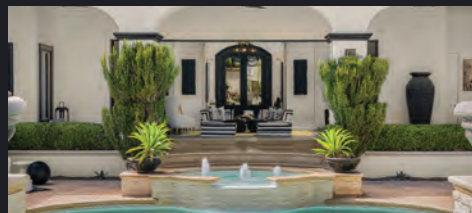
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DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BE AN **NFL** REF?

BY GREG HAGUE

I don't know why, but I was watching Monday Night Football and started wondering what life is like for an NFL referee.

What does it take to become one? What does it pay? And what childhood experience makes a person think, "Someday, I'd like an entire stadium to question my judgement and eyesight"?

Most kids dream of scoring the winning touchdown. This is a career where you grow up making half the stadium mad by explaining why it doesn't count.

So I did some digging.

First, I was surprised to learn that I'm using "referee" rather generously. The NFL's 2026 roster has 121 on-field officials, organized into 17 seven-person crews, plus two officials who move between crews. Only the crew leader is technically the referee. That's the person wearing the white cap and announcing penalties. The others have specialized assignments, watching different players and parts of the field.

Apparently, being yelled at by the violating team's fans on every call requires a division of labor to diffuse the blame. It reminds me of one of my sons pointing to his brother, implying that his brother had put me up to it.

Getting there takes considerably more than knowing what holding looks like from your recliner. The NFL says candidates should have at least 10 years of officiating experience, including five at the varsity college or minor professional level. Its published requirements emphasize experience and excellent physical condition, rather than a particular college degree.

The climb to the pros usually begins with youth and high school games. You learn the rules, work games, get evaluated, and hope somebody notices you for the right reasons.



Consider Ed Hochuli, the longtime NFL referee with arms that looked capable of enforcing his decisions personally. He was also a Phoenix attorney. He began officiating football in Tucson in 1973 and reached the NFL in 1990.

Seventeen years of preparation for a job spectators assume they could do better immediately.

Hochuli told Referee magazine he started working youth football while in law school because he could use the extra money. That makes sense to me. A little income, a chance to stay around a game you enjoy, and suddenly your weekend interest has become a second career.

And the money at the top?

The New York Post estimated that this year's new labor deal would bring average compensation, including benefits, to roughly \$385,000. Individual pay varies, and the highest salary isn't publicly disclosed. Before you divide that by a handful of Sundays, consider the rest of the week.

Many officials also maintain other careers. The roster includes attorneys, educators, businesspeople and engineers. Yet the NFL says officials spend more than 30 hours a week during the season studying film and rules, meeting with their crews, and reviewing evaluations.

Then there's the travel. Officials must reach the game city at least 24 hours before kickoff. Their crews meet the day before the game. Those weekends on television come with airports, hotel rooms and time away from family.

And after the game, somebody grades them on every play. Those evaluations help determine who earns postseason assignments, including the Super Bowl.

Imagine finishing your workday and discovering that your supervisor has several camera angles of everything you did.

One of the hardest and most important qualifications is temperament. You have to make a quick decision while enormous people are moving at remarkable speed, explain it to an unhappy coach, and remain composed while strangers suggest another occupation.

Why do it? I can understand the attraction. You're part of something you love, working with a crew that depends on you, at the highest level the sport offers.

Would I encourage a child to try officiating? Yes, if the interest were theirs. Start locally. Learn the game. See whether they enjoy the responsibility as much as the football.

There are worse things for a son or daughter to learn than how to make a fair decision while everyone around them wants a favorable one.

As for me, I'll keep my current seat. From the couch, I get unlimited replays, no travel, and the advantage of being certain after the fact.

Greg Hague CEO, 72SOLD

ON YOURVALLEY.NET

Olympic torch could pass through Valley in 2028

The Olympic torch for the 2028 Los Angeles games will be first lit as it always is in Greece, the birthplace of the Olympic Games. It will then travel through all 50 U.S. states for the first time ever, en route to Los Angeles.

Phoenix is vying to be a part of that route.

Read online at YourValley.net

Arizona cities named among nation's safest for new homeowners

For people shopping for a home in Arizona, safety is often part of the calculation before the moving truck ever arrives. A new national analysis suggests buyers in several Arizona communities have plenty of reason to feel confident.

Read online at YourValley.net

Groups creating safeguards as early voting begins

With early voting underway across Arizona, local and national civic organizations are ramping up efforts to empower voters and address concerns about election security and voter intimidation.

One Arizona, a coalition of 24 community-based organizations, is leading statewide initiatives focused on civic engagement, non-partisan voter education, and voter protection.

One Arizona partners with Election Protection Arizona — a non-partisan initiative offering trained volunteers and legal hotlines to support voters encountering obstacles.

Read online at YourValley.net



The Paradise Valley Car Show Committee, made up of town staff, police, town council members and town residents who make it possible for the car show to return each year. (submitted by Ed Winkler)

Veterans' Appreciation car show returns

By Ed Winkler

SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The mayor and town council invites all residents, neighbors and friends to take those collector cars out of their garages and drive them over to town hall, 6401 E. Lincoln Drive, on Saturday, Nov. 14. This is the 21st annual Paradise Valley Veterans' Appreciation Vintage Car Show, a true town tradition.

Paradise Valley residents, young and old, are invited to town hall and meet your neighbors and enjoy these vintage automobiles, trucks and motorcycles plus meet some veterans. The show runs 8:30-11:30 a.m. and is free to the public.

Each car entrant donates a minimum of \$50 to the designated charity. This year all proceeds and contributions from the show will be distributed to the The Sentinels of Freedom

and the Military Assistance Mission, both nonprofits supporting Arizona military and their families. To enter a car, go to paradisevalleyaz.gov

Visitors are invited to view the 150 plus vehicles displayed at town hall. All vehicles are pre-1986, and include cars from the Brass Era, Pre-War Classics, Vintage European and American Sports cars, '50s chrome beauties, muscle cars, hot rods, trucks and motorcycles.

COMMUNITY

Traffic delays during Phoenix 10K, half marathon



Paradise Valley residents should be prepared for traffic and delays Sunday, Nov. 8. (Submitted by Life Time Phoenix)

The Paradise Valley Police Department is advising Paradise Valley residents of traffic and potential delays on Sunday, Nov. 8, because of the Life Time Phoenix 10K and Half Marathon.

The race route will travel through portions of Paradise Valley, with temporary traffic restrictions primarily affecting Lincoln Drive and Tatum Boulevard throughout the morning, according to a press release.

Westbound Lincoln Drive will have restrictions between 24th Street and Tatum Boulevard 5:30-11 a.m. Southbound Tatum Boulevard will

have restrictions between Lincoln Drive and Caida Del Sol Drive 5:30-10 a.m.

Residents and motorists are encouraged to plan ahead, allow extra travel time and consider alternate routes, according to a press release. Drivers near the race route should watch for runners, event personnel and traffic control officers and follow posted signs and directions.

For more information about road restrictions, neighborhood access and detours, visit phoenix10k.com/community.

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**A VIP Taxi, in white and blue, is parked in a line of taxis at the curb at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. (Courtesy Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport)**

Sky Harbor Airport plans to hire taxicab company to address shortage

By Mark Carlisle
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A year ago, Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport was struggling to hire as many taxis companies as it wanted. It is now filling that gap.

Though taxi trips at the airport have dramatically reduced since the introduction of rideshare services like Uber and Lyft, Phoenix Aviation Department staff still views it as a key ground transportation option.

“Ensuring the travelling public has different options and services is important, and the taxicab industry is a major piece of those offerings,” Deputy Aviation Director Mike O’Shaughnessy told the Phoenix Aviation Business and Development Subcommittee.

Last year, the airport wanted to hire three companies for taxicab services at Sky Harbor but received only two applications that met the city’s standard. The companies were Apache and Mayflower. To make up for the difference, it offered month-by-month extensions to the companies with expiring contracts:

Mayflower, MGM (formerly AAA/Yellow) and VIP Taxi.

The city put out another contract solicitation in May and now plans to sign VIP Taxi to be a long-term taxicab provider at the airport.

The proposed contract was approved unanimously by the Phoenix Aviation Business and Development Subcommittee on Oct. 1. It is planned to go to Phoenix City Council for final approval in November.

The contract is for four years with one possible two-year extension. The estimated revenue brought to the airport would be \$200,000 per year. The contracts signed with Apache and Mayflower last year are about six months longer, expiring April 30, 2031 with the possibility of one two-year extension.

In 2016, Sky Harbor saw 719,161 taxi trips. Last year, it was less than half of that total at 273,821.

Rideshare services already had a majority of ground transportation trips at the airport in 2017 with 51%. That year, taxis accounted for nearly 21% of ground transportation. In 2025, taxi trips had shrunk to under

4% of ground transportation trips with rideshares rising to nearly 76%.

“The taxicab business has been dramatically impacted by new entrance into the industry,” O’Shaughnessy said.

Still, some customers prefer the predictable nature of taxis, O’Shaughnessy said. They have well-maintained vehicles with professional drivers and are still the only service that can pick up at the curb immediately outside the airport.

The contract with VIP Taxi requires a minimum of 85% of its vehicles to be electric or hybrid. The company is also required to have wheelchair-accessible vehicles available 24/7.

Between the three companies, Phoenix Sky Harbor has a taxi fleet of 140 vehicles, with the option to work with companies to flex that number up or down to match the need at the airport.

Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

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OPINION

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Our opinions page is to provide an open forum for our readers. We hope to stimulate debate, not to dominate or control it. We reserve the right to edit our opinions, and we insist on civility. Please include your name and phone number, so we can contact you for clarification or confirmation. We welcome your photo. All opinions must be no more than 300 words.

Those that are judged as personal attacks or complaints about neighbors, businesses or other opinion writers will not be considered. No person may submit more than two opinions for publication during a calendar month. Two submissions in the same issue will not be published. The content of a submission is the responsibility of the person who submitted it.

Speak Up

We support the use of pen names. Too many people don't speak up because they fear intimidation or even danger to their families and/or careers. Pen names are an important part of our nation's history.

Corrections

We will promptly correct all factual errors. We offer a "right of reply" to the people about whom we write. Readers who disagree with a news story are welcome to respond with a letter.

Paper water should equal wet water

I have written 100 essays about Arizona water, runaway growth, sprawl, wildcat development, the Colorado River and the relentless destruction of the desert we keep claiming we want to save. At some point the argument has to become simpler: enough is enough.

We know the river is shrinking. We know groundwater is being overdrawn. We know the 100-year water guarantee has become buried beneath credits, certificates, transfers, replenishment schemes and legal language that almost nobody outside the system can follow. We know every new subdivision creates another permanent demand for water and permanently removes another piece of desert from the map. And still the answer from the growth machine is more growth.

Where are the adults in the room?

Who is willing to stand up and say Arizona does not have to build on every acre simply because somebody can make money doing it? Who is willing to tell a developer that getting land approved for growth does not mean the water exists to support it? Who is willing to tell the Chamber that growth cannot endlessly be justified by the need to pay for the problems created by growth? Who is willing to tell elected officials that a 100-year assured water supply should mean 100 years of actual water, not 100 years of creative accounting?

Paper water should equal wet water. Make "assured" mean assured again.

And if the water is not physically there, leave the desert alone.

There has to come a point when protecting what remains matters more than finding one more way to keep the machine moving. Arizona is

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past that point.

Enough is enough. Adults in the room, please stand up.

Rusty Childress
RIO VERDE

Helping Arizona teens become safer drivers

Getting a driver's license means freedom for teenagers, but for parents, it can bring fear and anxiety. In 2024, 2,320 teen drivers ages 15 to 18 died in auto crashes and more than 80,000 were injured.

Passing a driving test is just the beginning. In Arizona, teens generally need 30 hours of supervised driving practice, but operating a vehicle isn't the same as making safe decisions in unpredictable situations.

Sudden stops or lane changes, unpredictable pedestrians and weather issues can quickly create dangerous situations for new drivers. Quality driver education helps teens learn to recognize hazards and respond safely.

This National Teen Driver Safety Week, Oct. 18-24, marks the 20th annual observance promoting safer driving. Here are three important steps families can take to keep kids safer behind the wheel:

- Practice beyond the basics. Help teens gain experience on freeways, at night and in rainy conditions. Teach them to scan ahead, check blind spots, maintain safe following distances and anticipate hazards.

- Invest in professional training. Research driving schools, read reviews and ask for recommendations.

Choose instructors who emphasize defensive driving and real-world decision-making. High-tech simulators can help students practice responding to dangerous scenarios, such as tire blowouts, before encountering them on the road.

- Make safe decisions nonnegotiable. Require seat belts, ban cell phones, limit passengers, demand adherence to speed limits and forbid driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Parents should model these habits, too.

As a driving instructor, my favorite moment is when students recognize hazards, slow down, create space and adjust without instructor intervention. That's when I know they've moved beyond simply operating a vehicle to thinking like safe drivers.

Longtime driving instructor Maria Wojtczak is CEO and co-founder of a Valley driving school.

Maria Wojtczak
SCOTTSDALE

What Valley parents may be missing about bullying today

When parents think about bullying, they may picture a confrontation in a school hallway or a cruel comment at lunch. Those situations still happen, but social media and messaging apps have extended bullying well beyond the school day. A child can be home, sitting beside a parent, while classmates target them on their phone.

An April 2026 Pew Research Center report found that roughly 3 in 10 U.S. teens who use Snapchat have experienced harassment on the platform, including offensive name-calling, rumors or physical threats.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month, an opportunity to re-

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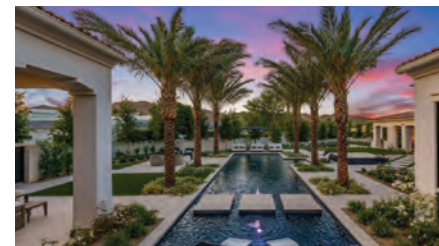
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Desert Canyon students take theater to the next level

By J. Graber
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Desert Canyon Middle School used to have a full and thriving theater program for years, but it started to wither when its beloved theater teacher Kelly O'Rourke passed.

A few people tried to step in and take over, but never really got the program up to what it once was.

"In a lot of ways, it was just shoes that were too big to fill," Desert Canyon Principal Kristina Ambri said.

Then Natalie Boyle came on the scene last year and took over the theater director role.

She's turned a program of about 17 kids to just under 40.

And now Boyle has chartered Scottsdale Unified School District's first Junior Thespian Society Troupe.

The Junior Thespian Society is part of the International Thespian Society, a nationally recognized theater honor society administered by the Educational Theatre Association. Think of it as the National Honor Society for theater.



Desert Canyon Middle School theater students performed "Beauty and the Beast Jr." last year. (Courtesy Desert Canyon Middle School)

Students in the Junior Thespian Society can earn points toward membership into the International Thespian Society at the high school level, which can lead to earning an extra chord on your graduation gown... among other things.

"When you graduate high school, you can get honors and scholarships, all kinds of things," Boyle said.

But she said the rewards come even before that point.

"I really believe, especially at the middle school level, anything you can do to get kids expressing themselves and letting out feelings and starting to explore is really beautiful for community and self-esteem," Boyle said.

Theater is especially important for kids at the middle school level because it can help provide a safe place to learn about who they are and gain the confidence to express it, she said.

"I had a kid come in just at the start

of this year and say to me, 'I'm really nervous. I don't have much confidence. I don't really know if I can even do this.'" Boyle said. "He auditioned for it, he's in the play. He's really participating and excited and loves it. In just a month and a half, he just saw a huge confidence boost from just getting that opportunity."

On Friday, Nov. 6, at 5:30 p.m., students will present "Much Ado About DCMS," an immersive production featuring a student-co-created script that combines scenes from Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" with contemporary pieces inspired by Shakespearean themes. The event will also feature a showcase of student theatrical designs, celebrating the creativity and contributions of students involved in technical theater.

In the spring, the troupe will produce its big musical, "Frozen Jr."

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Scottsdale Unified School District offers students five separate learning communities to choose from. (Submitted photo/Scottsdale Unified School District)

SUSD opens enrollment for next school year

Scottsdale Unified School District has opened enrollment for the 2027-28 school year.

With five distinct learning communities named after the high schools they feed into — Arcadia, Chaparral, Coronado, Desert Mountain and Saguaro — the district offers families a variety of school environments, programs and pathways designed to meet students' individual interests, strengths and aspirations, according to a press release from Scottsdale Unified School District.

Each learning community brings its own traditions and opportunities while sharing a district-wide commitment to academic

achievement, student growth and meaningful connections.

From gifted education and advanced academics to visual and performing arts, athletics and Career and Technical Education, the district provides opportunities for students to discover their passions and develop skills for lifelong success. Families can also explore International Baccalaureate programs, middle and high school math and science academies, STEM and STEAM learning experiences, traditional education and a variety of college and career readiness pathways.

For more information, or to enroll, visit sUSD.org.

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Skater makes name for herself in national championship competition

By J. Graber
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

At seven-years-old Hayden Mohrman found herself spending a lot of time at ice rinks.

Not by choice but because her older sister was practicing as a competitive ice skater.

Then one day, she just decided to try it herself.

It was an odd decision because Hayden “didn’t want to do anything her older sister was doing,” her mother Heather Mohrman said.

Hayden didn’t love it at first, but she kept going.

In fact she was nine before she started to enjoy skating because that’s when some of the double jumps started clicking for her.

“I like jumping so whenever I land a new jump or something, a new combo or anything, it makes me super excited to learn more,” said Hayden, who is now 11.

She’s already got jumps like the single axel and the double lutz under her belt and now she is working on her double axel.

“My first attempt was a half or a quarter,” Hayden said. “It’s hard but I feel like I can get it soon.”

She’s not allowed to try the move on her own, out of fear of getting hurt — she admits “I can get a little crazy” — but she’s got a four-person coaching team she works with six days per week, so the move is in her sights.

And that’s in addition to strength training, plyometrics and tumbling, which she does for skating.

She really likes tumbling and incorporates much of it, like cartwheels and the splits into her skating routines. And that practice is paying off.



Hayden Mohrman, 11, placed fourth in the country among approximately 400 skaters competing at her level at the U.S. Figure Skating Excel National Finals in Boston this summer. (Courtesy Heather Mohrman)

Hayden traveled to Boston this summer for the U.S. Figure Skating Excel National Final, where she represented the Coyotes Figure Skating Club and finished fourth among 24 nationally ranked skaters in the Preliminary Excel Plus division. Her performance earned the club its only medal at the competition and placed Hayden fourth in the country among approximately 400 skaters competing at her level.

Her best performance was her “Grouch Program.”

“My grouch program is my stron-



One of 11-year-old Hayden Mohrman’s favorite skating routines is her “Grouch Program” because she loves making people smile. (Courtesy Heather Mohrman)

gest program because with that one I tend to make a lot of people laugh,” she said.

She does have an ulterior motive though.

“I also like having a reason to be grumpy,” Hayden admitted.

But skating is just half of her typical day.

The first half is spent in the sixth grade at the Jones-Gordon School in Paradise Valley, which specializes in working with students with dyslexia.

Heather says reading has proven to be a struggle for Hayden, as it is with most people with dyslexia, but getting on the ice and doing something she’s really good at has proven to be a morale booster.

She does well in school though.

“She is a straight A student and all of her teachers love her,” Heather said, with a bit of braggadociousness.

Hayden does well in math but if you ask her what her favorite subject

is, she’ll tell you “dismissal.”

In her downtime, Hayden likes playing on the trampoline, being outside and swimming. And, of course, she likes playing with her one- and three-year-old puppies Chloe and Cali.

Hayden has a couple of goals for the future.

First, she wants double axel down soon and then to have all her triple jumps in place by the time she’s 16.

And then she’s got her sights set on competing in the Olympics, though she’s got seven more years before she can try out for them.

And then there’s the most important goal — being better than her sister.

“They’re very competitive!” Heather said with a laugh.

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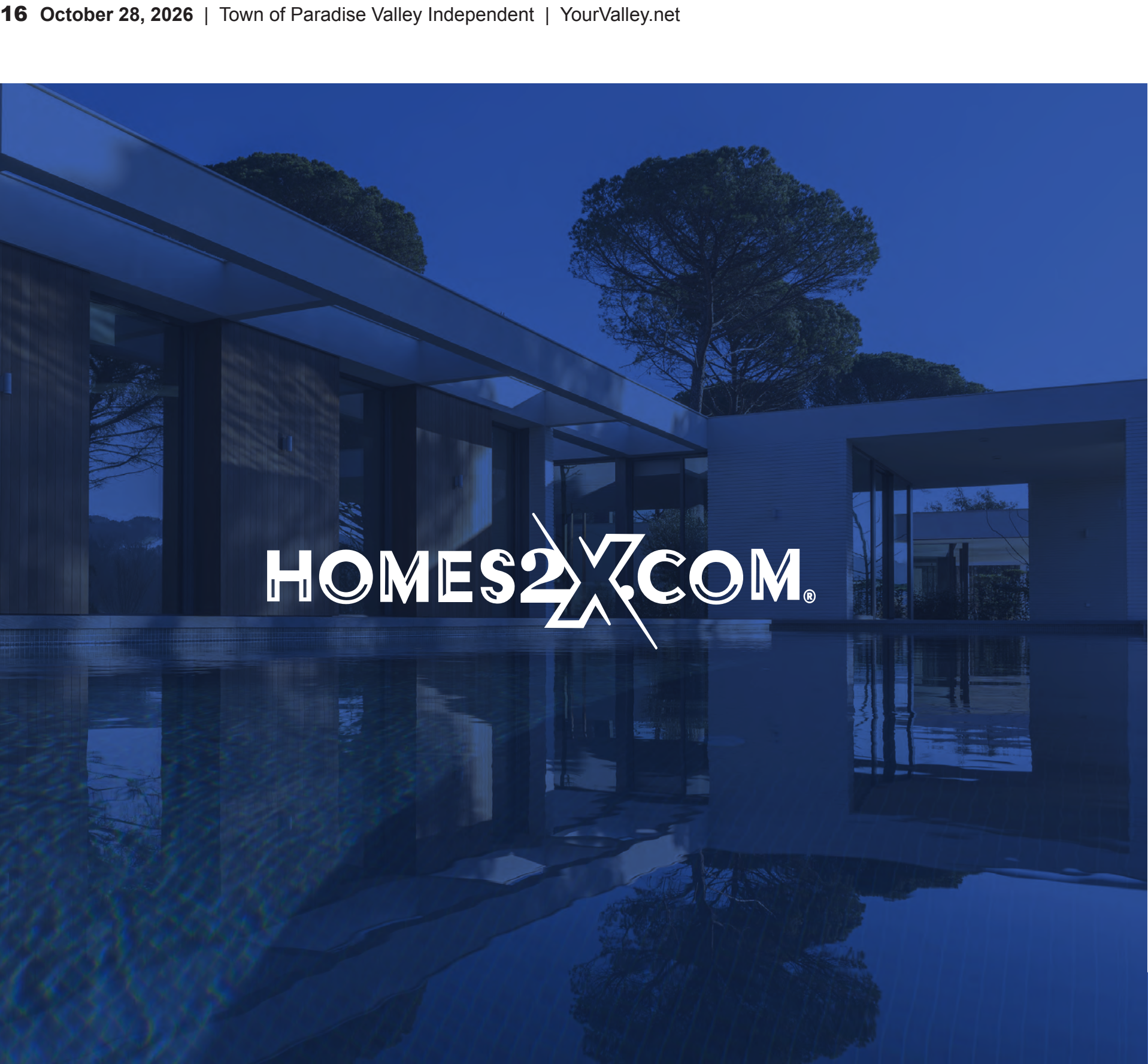
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Scottsdale Symphonic Orchestra kicks off fourth season with six-concert lineup

By Allison Kotzbauer
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The Scottsdale Symphonic Orchestra has kicked off its 2026-27 season and has five more concerts planned through May, including a holiday performance and a program featuring music from “How to Train Your Dragon,” “The Pink Panther” and other animated films.

The orchestra opened its season Oct. 11 at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts with “Roots and Rhythm,” featuring conductor Desmond Siu and violin soloist Sicong Chen. The program included Edgar Meyer’s Violin Concerto and Antonín Dvořák’s Symphony No. 8.

Founder and principal oboist Denise Wilson said the opening concert was a success, with standing ovations for both the soloist and the orchestra.

“We had a very energetic performance,” she said. “The audience and the orchestra all had a very good time.”

Wilson said the orchestra gives talented musicians throughout the Valley an opportunity to perform while giving Scottsdale residents a place to experience the musical talent in their community.

“We’re very fortunate in Arizona, and especially in the greater Phoenix, Scottsdale area, to have a lot of people who studied music ... and now they’re at a place in their life where they have time to come back to music, their first love, so to speak,” she said.

The orchestra was founded four years ago to build civic pride, create a sense of community among musicians and audiences, and fill a gap at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts.

“We wanted to build an orches-



The Scottsdale Symphonic Orchestra brings musicians from across the Valley together for live classical music performances at Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. (Photo submitted by The Scottsdale Symphonic Orchestra)



From orchestral favorites to contemporary arrangements, the Scottsdale Symphony offers audiences an opportunity to experience live music and local talent in Scottsdale. (Photo submitted by The Scottsdale Symphonic Orchestra)

tra that would do a couple of things. One, provide that camaraderie, that outlet for making music, and a safe, welcoming, caring, respectful environment,” Wilson said. “We also noticed that the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts did not have a local orchestra that was represent-

ing the city of Scottsdale. There was basically nobody on the program performing for the city of Scottsdale so we decided to put an orchestra together.”

Wilson said one of the most common reactions she hears from first-time audience members is surprise at

the musicians’ talent and how welcoming the experience feels.

Classical music can sometimes carry a reputation for being stuffy or having unspoken rules, she said. But the orchestra wants audiences to feel comfortable enjoying the performance regardless of their background or familiarity with the genre.

“People are surprised and shocked that we have this high level of performance in an orchestra, in a local community like Scottsdale,” Wilson said. “No matter what your background is in understanding, and enjoying, and participating in classical music, there’s a little bit of something for everybody.”

Siu, the orchestra’s artistic director and principal conductor, said part of his goal is to expand the classical music experience and challenge traditional ideas about who can participate in the genre.

“We often overlook people for gender or for different nationalities, because it’s such a Western Eurocentric tradition that, now in the modern age, we’re kind of rediscovering what it means to be a classic musician,” he said. “We are just breaking down barriers and introducing or reintroducing this music to our audiences, and I think that’s just kind of the goal of the season and, quite frankly, the orchestra itself.”

Siu said he also wants the orchestra to highlight Arizona’s musical talent. He selects guest soloists with ties to the state, including musicians who have studied or performed nationally and internationally, while also giving members of the orchestra opportunities to perform solo pieces.

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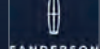
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A Phoenix Zoo spectator stands in front of a giraffe enclosure with a Dalmatian on a leash. (Photo courtesy Phoenix Zoo)

Phoenix Zoo invites dog owners

Who is letting the dogs out? The Phoenix Zoo is. In celebration of National Dog Day, the Phoenix Zoo is announcing Tails on the Trails, a brand new event that will give Valley dogs their very own day at the zoo, 455 N. Galvin Parkway, between Phoenix and Tempe from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14.

For the first time ever, the zoo will open designated trails to four-legged guests for a one-day celebration featuring activities, demonstrations, vendors, photo opportunities and plenty of tail-wagging fun, according to a press release.

Designed for dogs and their humans, the event will transform portions of the Zoo into a dog-friendly experience while maintaining designated areas and strict safety guidelines to protect the zoo's resident animals, participating dogs and all guests.

For humans, regular zoo admission will be required, or the event is included with Phoenix Zoo membership. Cost per dog is \$35. Additional information is available and tickets can be purchased at phoenixzoo.org/events/tails-on-the-trails.

Activities include:

- Dog Parade — Dogs can strut their stuff and compete for awards.

- Paws & Play Zone — Dogs can enjoy enrichment toys and interactive play areas created just for them.

- Cool Canine Club — Doggy pools, shade, water and seating provide a place for pups and their humans to cool off.

- Poses with Paws — Photo opportunities throughout the event give families a chance to capture the perfect picture with their four-legged friends.

- More tail-wagging fun — Additional activities and experiences will be announced as the event approaches.

Dogs attending Tails on the Trails must be at least six months old, current on required vaccinations including rabies, and kept on a non-retractable leash no longer than six feet.

Sick, injured, in-heat, aggressive or highly reactive dogs will not be permitted. Dogs must remain on designated dog-friendly routes, with several Zoo areas remaining off-limits to protect both pets and resident wildlife.



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"Discovery"
by Chris Dellorco

Phoenix rescue to host Vanity Fur gala at Wrigley Mansion

Almost There Rescue will host its annual Vanity Fur fundraising gala at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, at Wrigley Mansion in Phoenix. The event is the nonprofit organization's largest fundraiser of the year, supporting its work caring for pregnant dogs, nursing mothers and puppies rescued from

difficult circumstances.

The Phoenix-based rescue provides veterinary care, socialization and training to prepare dogs for adoption. Dogs spend an average of eight weeks in the organization's care, including participation in its specially designed Puppy Preschool program, before be-

ing placed in permanent homes.

The gala will feature an evening at Wrigley Mansion with catering provided by Pizza to the Rescue. Proceeds will support Almost There Rescue's animal care, education and community programs aimed at addressing Arizona's homeless dog pop-

ulation.

Early-bird tickets are available for \$150 through Friday, Sept. 25. Beginning Sept. 26, tickets will cost \$200, subject to availability. For tickets and additional information,

For tickets, visit atr.betterworld.org/events/vanity-fur-2.

FROM THE COVER

Council

• From page 1

"Make no mistake, the town's inaction has consequences," she said.

Christine Pearson said her property shares a border with the pickleball courts on Caron Drive.

For years neighbors have been fighting for proper enforcement, she said.

During an onsite visit April 23, 2024, town staff measured noise levels with an average of 48.36 decibels. Although some readings exceeded the town's 56-decibel limit, staff attributed the higher readings to possible outside noises, such as cars backfiring or birds flying by, rather than taking action, she said.

"Town council members, you have a leadership problem," she said.

Terry Greene Sterling joined her neighbors in asking for a resolution from the town.

Sterling explained the town had tried to facilitate a mediation between the concerned neighbors and the homeowner in 2024 but they had refused because, "We saw and still see the invitation to mediate as an attempt to characterize our years of struggle as a simple neighborhood dispute," she said.

Sean McCarihan spoke about pickleball courts disturbing peaceful enjoyment in his neighborhood and said he has spent over \$15,000 trying to get it back. They urged the council

to adopt pickleball standards separate from tennis, assess neighborhood impacts before approving permits or variances, and ensure fair variance hearings that hear affected neighbors.

Ashley Wallace spoke about her many issues with a short-term rental property, with what she called an "amusement park" in the backyard.

Wallace also noted the capacity the property is listed at on sites like Airbnb is much higher than would be allowed in other cities.

"Scottsdale caps at six adults per resident per dwelling," she said. "Phoenix is six adults or two per bedroom, whichever is smaller. Paradise Valley, what is going on?"

Berkeley Danelski spoke about construction she has tried to get town staff to stop due zoning and code violations she said the town has ignored.

"I tried to give the stop work order to your building official earlier and he refused to accept it," she said. "He threw it in the trash right in front of me."

Danelski asked the town staff and council to allow her to file a zoning and code appeal and for the town to issue a stop work order to the property.

Council Member Julie Pace responded to residents' comments, noting that council members are permitted to address criticism directed at them. Pace did not respond to any specific criticisms of herself directly, but agreed with resident's criticisms of the town council and staff.

Pace encouraged residents to continue documenting suspected violations and seeking assistance from council members and town staff and acknowledged the challenges of navigating code enforcement.

Council Member Karen Liepmann proposed to add an item to a future agenda to address the issues residents had brought to the council.

"After listening to so many really upsetting and heartbreaking appeals from residents ... I would like to request something go on the agenda to discuss enforcement," she said.

Pace seconded the proposal with the caveat that the council can speak on the specific instances brought to them on Oct. 8.

Council Members Moore, Ellen Andeen Keller, Anna Thomasson and Vice Mayor Christine Labelle all agreed the residents' concerns need to be addressed.

"The whole infrastructure seems to be unraveling a little bit," Thomasson said.

The council unanimously approved two future study session topics: one to address the specific concerns brought to the council that night and one to discuss and address larger scale ways to improve code enforcement.

Allison Kotzbauer can be reached at akotzbauer@iniusa.org. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines



Paradise Valley Town Council Member Julie Pace during the council's study session on Oct. 8, in Paradise Valley. (Independent Newsmedia/Allison Kotzbauer)



Paradise Valley Town Council Member Anna Thomasson during the council's study session on Oct. 8, in Paradise Valley. (Independent Newsmedia/Allison Kotzbauer)

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Civility Checklist

How to engage in respectful, honest & civil dialogue about public issues

- ☐ **Take the high road.** Respond to the topic — not the person. Refrain from demonizing others for their opinions. Assume those you disagree with are, like you, genuinely interested in improving the community.
- ☐ **Be respectful.** Bullying, public humiliation, insults, name-calling, harassment, and threats directed at another person — or that person's race, gender, religion, ethnicity, etc. — have no place in civil discussions. Find ways to respectfully disagree without questioning someone's character or motives.
- ☐ **Be truthful.** Base your opinions/arguments on facts. Value honesty. Make only accurate statements when making your point and avoid exaggeration and stereotypes. When appropriate, cite your sources of information that others may question.
- ☐ **Don't misrepresent.** Always identify your opinions as opinions (not stating opinions as facts). Never misrepresent the views of others or falsely claim your opinions represent someone else. If quoting the words of others, identify and credit the source.
- ☐ **Listen & learn.** It's both polite and respectful to listen to those we disagree with (as well as those we support) and be genuine in our attempts to understand their point of view. Expand your mind by thoughtfully seeking out views that don't agree with your own.
- ☐ **Look for common ground.** When disagreeing with others, look for even small areas of agreement — which can be the gateway to working together for the greater good.
- ☐ **Respect privacy.** Keep private things private — whether it involves your own information or those with whom you disagree. Revealing private information about someone else is rude, unethical, potentially harmful and, in many cases, illegal.
- ☐ **Set a good example.** Practice civil behavior online as well as in public and in your interaction with others. Encourage others to practice these civil behaviors. And it's OK to challenge disrespectful behavior — but be courteous, respectful and helpful in your approach.



Now that you've read the checklist, take the Civility Pledge at yourvalley.net/civility-pledge.

FROM THE COVER



Supporters of Martin Galbut's work and Paradise Valley town residents view his work and mingle at the artist in residence opening on Oct. 13, in Paradise Valley. (Independent Newsmedia/Allison Kotzbauer)

Artist

• From page 1

ing Galbut's work displayed throughout the building.

For Galbut, the evening marked the culmination of years of dedication to his art and an opportunity to share it with the community.

"It feels wonderful. I'm really thrilled," he said. "I've had so many people helping, and it's been terrific. Tonight's really fun."

During remarks at the reception, Galbut encouraged attendees to find a passion outside their careers, whether painting, photography, dancing or another creative pursuit, and to begin exploring it early in life.

"Just picking something that they love doing that is not their profession," he said. "And as the years go by, it can become more prominent and more fulfilling or rewarding."

Galbut also praised Paradise Valley for its artist-in-residence program, saying he hopes other communities will establish similar opportunities for local artists.

"Every town in our community should have this. They could do it," he said. "And this is the template for it."

Council Member Karen Liepmann, who serves as the council

liaison to the arts board, said she was delighted to welcome Galbut and his work to Town Hall.

Galbut's paintings often reflect places he has visited, allowing viewers to connect his work with their own travels and memories, Liepmann said.

"My grandmother, my mother, and my sister are all artists, and his work reminds me of my grandmother's art," she said.

Colleen Steinberg, chair of the arts board, said the artist-in-residence program offers a way to showcase the diverse talents of Paradise Valley residents. She was also pleased to see previous artists in residence attend the opening to support Galbut.

"We're thrilled to have Martin this year," Steinberg said. "Seeing his work is like traveling around the world without having to leave Town Hall. He just has visited so many exotic places and captured it so well."

Through the program, Galbut's paintings will remain on display at Town Hall for the next year, giving residents and visitors an opportunity to experience his work long after opening night.

Allison Kotzbauer can be reached at akotzbauer@iniusa.org. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines.

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Intersection closed for storm drainage work

The intersection of Invergordon Road and Mockingbird Lane will be closed through Nov. 23 for storm drainage infrastructure work, according to the town manager's Oct. 16 weekly update.

Achen-Gardner Construction will complete the work on behalf of the town. The intersection will be fully closed to traffic, and drivers should use alternate routes. Detour signs and traffic control devices will be in place, according to the town manager's update.

The closure dates are subject to change because of weather or unforeseen conditions.



For questions, call the project hotline at 480-903-4838 or email info@pvroadproject.com.

OPINION

Opinion

• From page 8

think how we recognize and respond to bullying. That starts with taking children's online experiences as seriously as what happens in person.

Bullying can unfold in group chats, online games and social media accounts that adults never see. A private message may be circulated to embarrass someone, or a fake account created to mock a classmate.

Telling a child to "just put your phone away" does little to address a rumor they will face at school tomorrow. Make online friendships part of everyday conversation. Who do they play games with? How do people treat each other in their group chats? Showing interest before a problem arises can make it easier for them to bring up something uncomfortable later.

An argument between friends is not automatically bullying. Young

people can disagree, behave thoughtlessly and need help repairing a relationship.

Bullying involves aggressive behavior that repeats, or could repeat, and a real or perceived imbalance of power. That power may come from popularity, access to embarrassing information or several students targeting one peer.

Ask whether the behavior has happened before, whether your child feels able to speak up and what they fear might happen next. Understanding the situation helps determine the response. Still, parents should not get so caught up in defining the behavior that they overlook the harm.

This opinion was edited for length and can be read in full online at yourvalley.net. Frida Ponce Duran is a program specialist at notMYkid, a Valley nonprofit focused on mental health, family support and substance-use prevention.

Frida Ponce Duran
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International School of Arizona chooses new head of school

INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA STAFF

The International School of Arizona Board of Trustees has appointed Nathan Walker as the school's next head of school, effective July 1, 2027.

Walker succeeds Jason Smith, who will continue to lead the school through June 30, 2027, to ensure a seamless transition, according to a press release.

Walker's appointment follows a comprehensive national search led by the board of trustees, a search committee and the Educators Collaborative consultant. Following extensive interviews and campus visits with faculty, staff, parents, and trustees, the board unanimously approved Walker's selection.

"In Nathan, we have found an executive leader, lifelong Spanish educator, and global citizen who brings over two decades of leadership ex-



Nathan Walker will take over the school head position at the International School Arizona next July. (Courtesy International School of Arizona)

perience across PK-12, multilingual, day, and residential international communities worldwide," Errin Simpkins Travers, Chair of the ISA Board of Trustees and Search Committee, said in the release. "He pos-

sesses a deep appreciation for ISA's dual French and Spanish pathways, our close-knit community, and our mission of opening doors to success in a constantly changing world."

Walker brings more than 30 years of educational experience to ISA. His administrative career includes serving as director general at the American Institute of Monterrey in Mexico, head of School at Istanbul International Community School in Türkiye, associate superintendent for Saudi Aramco Expatriate Schools in Saudi Arabia and Head of School at Schutz American School in Egypt. Most recently, Walker chose an intentional return to the classroom as a middle and upper school Spanish teacher, dorm parent, and student advisor at Shattuck-St. Mary's School in Minnesota to stay closely connected to the daily experience of students and families.

"Learning additional languages opens doors to friendships, cultures, and ways of seeing the world," Walker said in the release. "During our visit, my wife Ambrest and I felt ISA's vision come to life through the welcoming spirit and pride across the community. I look forward to supporting both the French and Spanish tracks, honoring ISA's distinctive strengths, and working alongside the Board, faculty, and families to build on the school's success."

Over the coming months, a structured transition plan will be executed collaboratively between Smith, Walker, and the board of trustees.

The International School of Arizona offers a PK-8 multilingual education through dual French and Spanish language tracks in Scottsdale, preparing students for a globalized world through academic excellence, empathy, and cultural understanding.

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Time Mission to open first Arizona location in Scottsdale



Players will journey through time in fully themed missions designed to challenge both the mind and body in the Time Mission theme room set to open in late spring or summer of 2027. (Courtesy Time Mission)

Time Mission, an immersive, team-based time-travel adventure experience, is expanding to Arizona with plans to open an approximately 10,000-square-foot venue in Scottsdale, 15745 N. Hayden Road in late spring or summer of 2027. The new location will mark Time Mission's first venue in Arizona.

The Scottsdale location will be developed by LOL Entertainment, the franchising team that helped bring Museum of Illusions and Cluville Kids Escape Room to the Valley, according to a press release.

Players will journey through time in fully-themed missions designed to chal-

lenge both the mind and body. From dodging lasers and cracking codes to navigating unexpected twists, teams will race against the clock to complete each mission and climb the leader board. Each experience transports players to a different point in time across the past, present and future, with challenges testing speed, agility, problem-solving and communication. Teams can tackle missions in any order and return to their favorites, with the freedom to choose their own adventure.

For more information, visit timemission.com.

Orchestra

• From page 18

He said Arizona has a wide range of players around the country or internationally.

"We have just these fantastic players within our own orchestra as well," he said. "Arizona is not only a hot desert, but we are also a small hotbed of classical musicians with different backgrounds, different capacities."

The orchestra's next concert, "Color Comes to Life," is scheduled for Nov. 22 and will feature music from "How to Train Your Dragon," "The Pink Panther" and "My Neighbor Totoro," along with works by Johannes Brahms, Robert Schumann

and Gioachino Rossini.

The orchestra will perform holiday classics and seasonal favorites during "Light in Motion" on Dec. 13. On Feb. 7, "Circles of Connection" will feature Brahms' Concerto for Violin and Cello, with violinist Jason Issokson and cellist Peter Eom, and Edward Elgar's "Enigma Variations."

The March 21 concert, "Winds and Wanderings," will feature guest conductor Tiffany Lu, flutist Robert Heiligenberg and music by Anna Clyne, Carl Reinecke and Felix Mendelssohn. The season will conclude May 9 with "Symphony Untux'd: Mahler's First Revealed," featuring Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 1 under Siu's direction.

All concerts begin at 4 p.m. at

Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. The Feb. 7 and March 21 performances also will feature a "Behind the Baton" program at 3:15 p.m. Tickets and additional information are available through the venue's website, scottsdalearts.org.

Allison Kotzbauer can be reached at akotzbauer@iniusa.org. Please submit comments at yourvalley.net/letters or email them to AzOpinions@iniusa.org. We are committed to publishing a wide variety of reader opinions, as long as they meet our Civility Guidelines Education

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Guests at The Other Art Fair interact with John Paine's huge color-in mural. (Photo courtesy of The Other Art Fair, presented by Saatchi Art)

The Other Art Fair makes Phoenix debut in November

The Other Art Fair, presented by Saatchi Art, will make its Phoenix debut Nov. 12-15 at On Jackson in the downtown Warehouse District. The event will feature 65 local and international emerging and mid-career artists selected from more than 300 applicants.

Unlike a traditional gallery setting, participating artists represent their own work and interact directly with visitors and collectors. Original and limited-edition pieces will be available for purchase, including curated collections priced under \$500 and \$2,000 and a "Blind Date with an Artwork" selection featuring concealed works priced at \$150 or less.

The fair also will feature interac-

tive art experiences. Visitors can help color a mural by Sydney illustrator John Paine, receive a quickly drawn portrait from artists Aileen and Jef at the Faux-To Booth or participate in "The Karmacy," an installation in which visitors exchange written messages with strangers. Local poets The Haikuists will create complimentary typewritten haikus based on prompts from visitors.

Opening Night runs from 6 to 10 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, with a free drink for the first 500 guests and music from local DJs. The fair continues with a Friday evening session and daytime hours Saturday and Sunday.

For tickets, visit theotherartfair.com/phoenix/tickets.



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