

# West Valley View

The community newspaper of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park & Tolleson, AZ ♦ Phone (623) 535-8439

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## Business Briefcase: March 20, 2012



Rich Ott  
assistant editor

Top of the morning to ya! Hopefully, St. Patrick's Day was kind to you.

You know what else is kind? Mr. Briefcase. Let's see what he's got for us this week, shall we?

First up is another new restaurant, **Gus's New York Pizza and Bar II** at 13824 W. McDowell Road in Goodyear, on the northeast corner of Litchfield and McDowell roads.

The Italian restaurant opened in February, though it has been in the Valley for almost 40 years, first opening up near the campus of Arizona State University in Tempe. The Goodyear spot marks the second with a full-service bar, hence the II in the name. It is the fifth Gus location overall in the Valley.

The Goodyear spot has plenty of televisions to watch while eating in or outside. Counting the bar stools, there are enough seats for 50 inside, and as you read this, employees at Gus's are designing and building a 700-square-foot patio just west of the building that will double the occupancy, said Manager Harsh Modi, who has worked at various Gus establishments for five years.

What about the food you ask?

Well, it is all made fresh daily on site, including the dough and sauces, Modi said.

Pizza is the most popular item and for those of you who are really hungry, you can purchase the 32-inch New York Giant. Some of the specialty pizzas are the Bronx Bomber (meat heavy), the Manhattan (basil, garlic and tomato) and the Downtown (filled with veggies).

Besides pizza, the restaurant has a large selection of salads, toasted sub sandwiches, burgers, pitas, wraps, pasta dishes, wings, calzones, strombolis and appetizers, such as garlic knots and chili poppers.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. Sunday through Wednesday and 11 a.m. to 4 a.m. Thursday through Saturday. The kitchen stays open all hours, Modi said. And get this; the restaurant delivers all hours, too. So next time you can't sleep, order up a pizza at 2:30 in the morning.

And when you visit Gus's, take a look at the artwork on the walls; it was all made by the restaurant's next-door neighbor, Anthony Garcia, co-owner of the skateboard shop next to the restaurant.

**PlayOutsyde** at 13824 W. McDowell Road, Suite 101, has been open for a few months now.

Garcia, along with his cousin, Miguel Samaniego, decided to start the business after the other local Goodyear board shop, **Pulse**, went out of business in July.

"I told my cousin, 'We have to continue,'" Garcia said, as the duo were selling their PlayOutsyde merchandise at Pulse Boardshop. "So we basically took the baton."

Garcia, 34, of Buckeye, began his "small label" company, PlayOutsyde, after he drew a design on someone's board as a 23-year-old living in Avondale and the skaters watching said, "If that was on a T-shirt, I'd buy it."

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ALL SMILES  
*Dentistry*  
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"That stuck with me," he said, though it wouldn't be until 2005 that he actually started designing T-shirts to sell.

Garcia's artistic ability can be seen throughout the store, which he and his cousin designed.

"We designed it like the back of the store is the house and the remainder of the store is outside, PlayOutsyde," Garcia said.

And it looks just like that, as there is the front of a house in the back, with such details as pipes and a garbage can, while the rest of the store has brickwork, grass, faux trees, a fire hydrant and white picket fences.

Garcia's artwork - which he makes using two items, construction paper and scissors - adorns the walls and some of the skateboards. His artwork has been replicated on plenty of T-shirts inside his store, as well.

"It's a grassroots business," he said, which explains the framed artwork of grass made out of construction paper.

The store sells everything a skater could want - shirts, pants, shoes, hats, boards, wheels, bearings, trusses and wax, which is used to make a curb or pole slipper for the board.

"We try to bring in brands that no one else has," Garcia said. "It's like a candy store, except for skateboarders."

Hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to "whenever on Sunday. Sometimes we have an itch to go out and skate ourselves," Garcia said.

Elsewhere in Goodyear, **Sunwest Federal Credit Union** is open at 650 N. Estrella Parkway, Suite 6. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

Moving on, Mr. Briefcase finally got a hold of the busy dance instructor Tristan Peigné, as he happened to be on spring break from teaching courses at Estrella Mountain Community College in Avondale.

Peigné is the owner of **Peigné Dance Studio** at 401 W. Van Buren St., Suite 1-C, in Avondale, which has been open since Valentine's Day.

The Avondale resident has been teaching various forms of dance for 15 years, though he specializes in ballroom.

Since Fred Astaire Dance Studios of Arizona closed its Goodyear location in 2010, there has been nowhere to go for ballroom instruction except driving to the East Valley, Peigné said.

"I thought, 'Why not open one on the west side?' There is a need," he said.

Before opening his dance studio, Peigné taught through the city of Avondale as well as at the Starpointe Resident's Club in the Estrella community in Goodyear. Now with his studio, he teaches from it as well as at the college.

One of his goals is to get elementary-age children involved in ballroom dance. He'll be teaching classes for that age this summer at the community college, he said.

At his studio, Peigné can teach all ages in various dance forms, including ballroom, country western, such as the country two-step, and Latin dances, such as the New York-style and Los Angeles-style of salsa. Peigné can also choreograph wedding and quinceañera dances.

Hours are noon to 9 p.m. Sunday through Friday, however; he advises that people visit the website, [peignedancestudios.com](http://peignedancestudios.com), first for information instead of just stopping by, for he is usually busy giving instruction to students.

And now you know what I know.

*Rich Ott can be reached by email at [rott@westvalleyview.com](mailto:rott@westvalleyview.com).*



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