



July Events!
7/4 4th of July
Independence Day

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Valencia Road Construction Update

The City of Tucson and its contractor, Borderland Construction, continue to make progress in the widening of Valencia Road between Kolb Road and Houghton Road. The expansion of this segment of Valencia Road will complete the eastern portions of the corridor, from Alvernon Way to Houghton Road.

The project, which started in

November 2024, is on schedule and expected to open to traffic in the summer of 2026. At completion, the project will include a six-lane parkway with bike lanes, sidewalks, a multi-use path, and drainage structures for all-weather access. Upgrades to traffic signals and intersections at Old Vail Road and Nexus Road will also be part of the 4.3-mile roadway corridor improvement. Additionally,

the completed roadway corridor project will include native plant landscaping, public art, and dark sky compliant lighting.

Current activities are focused on the north half of the road, outside the existing roadway. Once the northern half of the roadway is paved, traffic will be shifted onto the new lanes to allow Borderland to start work on the reconstruction

of the southern half of the road (the existing road). This shift is planned to take place in late July or early August, depending on weather conditions associated with Monsoon season.

By Alejandro Angel
PSOMAS





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PIMA COUNTY District Update 4

The latest from Pima County District 4 Supervisor Steve Christy

What do the all of the following properties have in common: the former Bank of America Plaza, the



green-tiled former Home Federal Savings tower, the recently-former Southern New Hampshire University building, the former Wells Fargo downtown headquarters, the recently-vacated Respite/Welcome Center, the former Golden Pins Bowling Alley, the Aerospace Research Campus, numerous working ranches, and thousands of acres of vacant land?

The common thread is they all are owned and operated by Pima County Government.

I recently spoke with a former longtime Pima County official who said that a number of years ago, his agency was looking for a facility to house its operations. He told me that he found it astonishing how much property Pima County owns and controls, and that the public has no idea of the vastness of Pima County's land and buildings portfolio.

Some time ago, our office requested an inventory of Pima County owned properties and the list was staggering. Why does Pima County feel the need to own so much in raw acreage and facilities? Granted, one reason is the County needs space to house operations and its seven thousand-plus employees, particularly the downtown County Attorney and Public Defender's Offices.

Another reason is that the County feels the need to locate many of its departments in neighborhoods in order to serve specific communities, such as the Pima County Health Department's operations at the new Northwest Service Center. Add to the mix several county administration buildings that are currently undergoing major maintenance repairs and renovations, and displaced employees need offices to work. Plus, Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan policies have gobbled up thousands of acres.

Some of the County's property ownership has justification, for sure, and that may be the topic of a future column. And yet, Pima County recently purchased the Wells Fargo Bank headquarters building to relocate the decrepit and under-utilized Joel D. Valdez Downtown Library, as well a 300-acre ranch with N. Oracle Road frontage for conservation.

When we have the sword of federal grant funding clawbacks hanging over our necks, perennial department budget shortfalls and rising property taxes, wouldn't it make sense to liquidate unnecessary properties to raise cash, and reduce overhead and maintenance? Selling numerous county owned properties to the private sector for residential and commercial development would place these valuable locations on the property tax rolls (mitigating increases paid by homeowners, perhaps?) rather than just have them providing no revenue or purpose. An offering announcement of county-owned properties would not only attract attention to our region, it could stimulate economic development, jobs, growth and vitality - all desperately needed in Pima County.

Over the past 30 years, property ownership by Pima County has become embedded in its DNA and

"Steve Christy"
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CITY OF TUCSON Ward Update 4

The latest from Tucson Ward 4 Councilwoman Nikki Lee

We've officially passed the City of Tucson's FY 25-26 budget, which reflects the priorities we



heard loud and clear from the community. That said, we're still facing a significant gap. City departments requested ~\$71 million in supplemental funding for things like equipment, staffing, and technology to better serve residents, and we couldn't fund most of it.

Looking ahead, we need to begin addressing the projected deficit for FY 26-27 right away. In August, we will resume discussions on transit funding. I am focused on finding ways to reduce the financial pressure on our general fund, which currently subsidizes transit at around \$60 million per year, and move toward a more sustainable model. This could include reinstating fares, improving system efficiencies, exploring partnerships, and/or pursuing a future ballot initiative if that is something the community supports.

Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness and the Opioid Crisis

This year, Mayor and Council took several steps to respond to growing concerns around unsheltered homelessness and public safety. We passed ordinances banning camping in washes and parks, and earlier this year made it illegal to stand in medians unless waiting to cross the street. According to TPD Chief Kasmar, we've seen six pedestrian fatalities so far this year compared to 20 at the same time last year. That was the goal of the median ordinance: to keep

people safe, and it appears to be making a difference.

The decision to ban camping in washes and parks came in response to Proposition 312, a statewide initiative that more than 50 percent of Tucson voters supported. It's clear many people want local jurisdictions to do more to address the impacts of unsheltered homelessness, especially on property owners. I know this action was unpopular with some in the community. At the same time, I receive emails and calls daily asking me and my colleagues to take stronger action. This was one of those steps.

Yes, this may lead to more visible encampments in other areas if people can no longer camp in parks or washes. That is why I am working closely with several of my colleagues to address the bigger question: where do they go? We are actively working on solutions that meet the needs of unsheltered individuals while also supporting residents, property owners, and businesses who are impacted. Housing the unsheltered is primarily supported through federal programs and funding, but when those resources fall short, local governments are left to fill the gap. Homelessness reflects deeper societal challenges, including lack of affordable housing, mental health needs, and substance use disorders. While the City plays an important role, we cannot solve this alone. I will be sharing more in the months ahead as we continue to innovate and pursue balanced, compassionate approaches to this complex issue.

Project Blue

You may have heard about a proposed economic development effort known as Project Blue. While I'm limited in what I can share due to a Non-Disclosure Agreement, I want you to know I'm actively in-

"Nikki Lee"
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VUSD
Update



The Latest from Vail School District
Superintendent John Carruth

Summer break in Vail is short—just seven weeks for our elementary students. While it may seem like a quiet time for schools, the reality is quite the opposite. Our campuses, classrooms, and offices have been buzzing with activity as staff, students, and volunteers prepare for the year ahead.



June is one of the busiest months of the year for many in the Vail School District. It's when the work of getting ready for a new school year happens—work grounded in our values of providing parents with safe, nurturing school communities where their children can obtain a high quality education. It's also one of my favorite times of year. There's something energizing about seeing the anticipation of a new year take shape across our district.

We kicked off the summer with a variety of camps designed to keep students moving, learning, and connecting. Cienega High School hosted its first-ever Mascot Camp for students from across the district, while other campuses held sports camps, robotics camps, and creativity-filled programs through our Community Services Department. Thanks to our partnership with Galaxy Theatres, some lucky campers even enjoyed private movie screenings as part of their summer experience.

Summer isn't just a time to play—it's also a time to learn. Nearly 700 students enrolled in high school courses through the Vail Innovation Center. Some worked to

recover credits, while others got a jumpstart on graduation requirements like government, economics, or health, freeing space in their schedules for advanced courses or electives next year.

Behind the scenes, hundreds of staff members have been hard at work getting our schools ready. Our maintenance teams tackled more than 500 projects—from installing HVAC systems to landscaping and deep cleaning—to ensure our schools are safe, functional, and beautiful. Transportation crews serviced buses, repaired seats, and cleaned every surface to be ready for the first day of school. They also continued transporting children to and from summer programs across the district.

Staff training has also been in full swing. Teams participated in safety workshops, including active threat response training with the Pima County Sheriff's Department, ensuring we are prepared for emergencies while maintaining the welcoming, supportive environment our community expects.

Hiring has been another major focus. In June, we hosted a job fair to fill positions with the best talent for the Vail community. This year, we are welcoming 105 new PreK-8 teachers and 23 new high school teachers. Some are brand new rookie teachers while some come with years of experience. Regardless of background, every new teacher participates in Vail's New Teacher Induction. They learn not just the critical components that ensure success in a classroom, they also learn about our unique Vail culture along with why we teach the way we do.

One of my personal highlights each summer is leading new teachers on a bus tour of the Vail community. We visit historic sites and landmarks, helping our new

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GREATER VAILCHAMBER
UPDATE



The Latest from Dr. Denise Bowls,
President / CEO

Vail isn't just a place, it's a community built on vision, resilience, and the entrepreneurial spirit of the people who call it home. From the family-owned restaurants and service providers to the rapidly growing enterprises that are shaping our region's future, local businesses are the backbone of our economy and the pulse of our community.



At the Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce, we believe it's time to recognize the outstanding individuals and businesses that have helped influence Vail's growth and spirit. As we prepare for our Annual Meeting and Southeast Innovation Engine Awards this fall, we are inviting residents, customers, and fellow business owners to nominate those who exemplify excellence, leadership, and commitment to our community.

Whether it's a business that has gone above and beyond to serve during challenging times, a leader who consistently gives back through mentorship or volunteerism, or an entrepreneur who represents the innovation and energy that defines Vail, we want to hear about them. Your nominations help us spotlight those who make a difference, often quietly, without expectation of recognition.

Nominating is easy. Simply email us at info@greatervailchamber.com or visit the nomination website at <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/3LPoS7i> submit the name of the business or leader, a brief description of why you're nominating them, and contact

information if available. Nominations are open through August 15, 2025, and award recipients will be honored at our Annual Meeting on September 18, 2025.

This is more than an award, it's a moment to pause and recognize those who have helped make Vail a better place to live, work, and grow. We look forward to celebrating with you and highlighting the people and businesses who are truly influencing Vail's future.

For more information, visit www.greatervailchamber.com or follow us on social media.

Let's celebrate the best of Vail, together.

Dr. Denise Bowls
 President/CEO
 Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce

Your Hometown Newspaper

Looking to Get Noticed?

Whether you're looking to ensure these quiet sanctuaries are undisturbed by inequitable pricing by Tucson Water, local Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) taken away, and urban sprawl development created by a growing City of Tucson to our north, while wanting conveniences of having services closer to their homes...

Many are looking to ensure these quiet sanctuaries are undisturbed by inequitable pricing by Tucson Water, local Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) taken away, and urban sprawl development created by a growing City of Tucson to our north, while wanting conveniences of having services closer to their homes...

often overlooked, lacking, or not in synergy with the community's requests.

C&T Futures held a public town hall meeting on May 3rd and August 18th to discuss the topic of incorporation and continues pursuing its mission to gain public awareness and support.

"There is so much potential for us here. C&T is a natural for incorporation. We seek to incorporate to have a voice for our community's destiny. We are currently at the City of Pima County when it comes to basic services such as road repair. With almost 10,000 residents in our area, we are far beyond the need to be...

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Our Readers Sound Off!

Our Letters Policy

We welcome a diversity of views in The Vail Voice. To submit a Letter to the Editor, please include your full name, and try to keep letters to 400 words. Anonymous letters will not be published. We will print a maximum of two letters that writers submit on the same subject. Please send by the 15th of every month for publication in the following month's issue. - **Thank you!**

Owner and Publisher

Lucretia Free
Lucretia@TheVailVoice.com

Editor

Editor@TheVailVoice.com

Photographer

Bel Coulson
photographybybel.com

Sales

Sales@TheVailVoice.com
(520) 490-0654

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Dear Editor,

With our growing beautiful area in Vail you would think the owners of this beautiful golf course would want to maintain the course as well as the lakes/ponds on the course. However they seem to be fine with endangering the residents' well being with stagnant water and wildlife that depend on these water features to be maintained. For more than two years the residents have been trying to work with the owners, our HOA's to keep the water flowing into the lakes around the course. Our home values will lose value if these lakes dry up due to the neglect of the golf course owners. Wildlife will leave, the fish will die and all those that like to bring their kids to fish between Wingview and Vista Del Lago will no longer enjoy the beauty of this lake if it goes dry.

By Karen McCormick

Dear Editor,

July is UV Safety Awareness Month. Exposure to UV (ultra-violet) radiation can cause sunburn, skin damage, and increase the risk of skin cancer. The Skin Cancer Foundation suggests the following:

- Seek the shade, especially between 10 AM and 4 PM.
- Don't get sunburned.
- Avoid tanning, and never use UV tanning beds.
- Cover up with clothing, including a broad-brimmed hat and UV-blocking sunglasses.
- Use a broad-spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher every day. For extended outdoor activity, use a water-resistant, broad-spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen with an SPF of 50 or higher.
- Apply 1 ounce (2 tablespoons) of sunscreen to your entire body 30 minutes before going outside. Reapply every two hours or after swimming or excessive sweating.
- Keep newborns out of the sun. Use sunscreen on babies over the age of six months.
- Examine your skin head-to-toe every month.
- See a dermatologist at least once a year for a professional skin exam.

By Candice Mason
Stage IV Melanoma Survivor

Dear Editor,

Pima County is reviewing its ten-year land-use plan--Pima Prospers 2025--for present and future coordinated and harmonious development. They are taking public comments through this Sunday, June 15 via email at pimapros-pers2025@pima.gov. Pertinent documents can be found at the following links: Pima Prospers 2025. Land use map.

The Rincon Valley Conservancy, an informal group of Vail residents, has developed some talking points below if you would like to support conservation.

It would be beneficial to the Vail community if "Pima Prospers 2025" incorporates conservation efforts in the Rincon Valley, between Old Spanish trail and Saguaro National Park, and between Coyote Creek and Colossal Cave. Please support the following:

- Continue land intensity designation of "low intensity rural" and "resource sensitive."
- Enhance and extend the protective space around Saguaro National Park.
- Preserve a one-mile buffer around the Arizona National Scenic Trail, which bisects the Valley, as recommended by the US Forest Service and National Park Service in the Arizona National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan.
- Protect wildlife corridors.
- Safeguard riparian ecosystems and local aquifers (including seven major streambeds with riparian vegetation).
- Save habitats which support native plant and animal species, including saguaros, chollas, agaves, Sonoran Desert tortoises, Gila monsters, javelinas, and coatimundis, as well as rarely sighted ringtails, American badgers, Vermilion flycatchers, and Whiskered screech owls.

- Maintain the "dark sky" stature of the Rincon Valley (the adjacent Saguaro National Park is a certified International Dark Sky Place). This will continue to contribute to the regional economy by encouraging astronomical research and tourism.

Also, please help leverage Pima County resources to achieve the above goals:

- Pima County Conservation Lands & Resources (and its Conservation Lands Acquisition Team) efforts to sustain the Rincon Valley.
- Pima County initiatives with the Arizona State Land Department to preserve these Arizona State Trust lands.

Thank you for your consideration.

By Sean Toomey

Dear Editor,

Pima County and the City of Tucson have done a disservice to the residents of Vail, the SE side, the East side and the SE side. I am a avid active cyclist that has resided in the Rincon Valley for 39 years and cycle 5000-7000 miles a year throughout this metropolitan area.

I can attest that many of the SE, East & NE roads are in deplorable condition and are a hodgepodge of pothole patches as well as crumbling shoulders. There is a 1/4 mile patch of E Colossal Cave Road by Acacia Elementary School to E Dawn Dr road owned by the City of Tucson which is a feeder to I-10 that has been reported by numerous residents as "dangerous", "crumbling", "pothole patchwork" and a "horrible" introduction to the Vail area. It has been in this condition for over 7 years.

This is unacceptable especially with all the new housing development in that area. East Old Span-

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"Letters to the Editor"
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ish Trail is a nightmare of potholes and expansion cracks due to all the heavy construction trucks barreling their way through this area to the "New Rocking K" development. East Old Spanish Trail is a designated scenic highway and is a "destination" bike way for numerous bicycling tour companies that visit our area to enjoy Saguaro National Park East and Colossal Cave Mountain Park. East Broadway Blvd starting at Tanque Verde Loop Road to Freeman is again a pot hole dodge'em mess with no shoulder for cyclists to get to Freeman Rd which is a feeder to the national park. North Tanque Verde Loop road from Speedway to Tanque Verde will rattle the fillings out of your teeth even if you're driving your vehicle. TV Loop becomes a critical connector during the school year if there are any traffic hazards on Houghton Road and traffic is redirected to this road. Why does it seem that the City & County can't get these roads fixed or at least complete the job? E Broadway Blvd is a perfect example.

What a mess once you pass Tanque Verde Loop Road. I and numerous others have reported these road conditions to "SeeClickFix" too many times to count. I know some people complain about the cyclist but we are all tax paying residents, we own vehicles and drive these roads as well. Embrace the cycling community. They bring in millions of dollars to the Tucson Metropolitan area. Professional teams, tour groups, and winter visitors that own homes here do so because of the cycling. Please repave the roads and add legitimate bike lanes for everyone's safety.

By Marie Geraci

Editor Responds,
This is in response to Lestor Stere and a couple of photos of

Path of the Ancestors at Colossal Cave Mountain Park, a place that interprets the presence of the Hohokam in the Park and this area in general.

Original: *"Pima County has been a corridor for settlement, communication, and trade since the Hohokam farmed along Cienega Creek." I was wondering where she got the information about the Hohokam farming so far southeast and is there any physical evidence remaining today."* By Lester Stere

Dear Mr. Stere,

Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan is nationally recognized for its excellence. This includes its recognition of historic landscapes and the relationships of people to place. There is an excellent Cultural Resources map within the plan that visually demonstrates the prehistoric and historic human use patterns within Pima County to include the southeast region of Pima County.



Here is a link to the map <https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/9ea33363-8a5b-41ea-8192-a30529ddfa04> The Hohokam and their descendants in the Tucson/southeast area, the Tohono O'odham and Sobaipuri lived in harmony and respect within their environment. Before co-founding Vail Preservation Society in 2006 I was the Education Director at Colossal Cave Mountain Park. This included curating the museum and developing educational experiences for Park guests. One of these experiences, Path of the Ancestors,

developed with Pima County archaeologist Loy Neff and a team of volunteers can still be enjoyed at La Posta Quemada Ranch within Colossal Cave Mountain Park. When the weather cools off in September I hope that you will go to the Park and enjoy the about three quarters of a mile hike with interpretive signage through a landscape that was home to the Hohokam and later the Tohono O'odham and Sobaipuri O'odham. And, be sure to also tour Colossal Cave which itself was a sacred place.

By J.J. Lamb, President, Vail Preservation Society

From the Editor

Thank you to those who took the time and initiative to send in your letters and share your opinion. We at the Vail Voice believe in the importance of hearing all voices in the community.

Send your letters to:
Editor@TheVailVoice.com

"Steve Christy"

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culture. Simply stated, property ownership means control and dictates, and I don't believe those are positive or proper attributes for government to wield over its populace. Owning a swath of properties also temps the County to enter into land deals with investors or developers as an active partner in an enterprise. We have seen the dangers of public/private partnerships. Do World View, Vector Launch, and TuSimple ring a bell?

I will continue to vote against Pima County buying up marketable properties and urge County Administrators to review the county's portfolio, with an eye to selling them back to the private sector, rather than its current policy of perpetual acquisition. Just like many of its activities, Pima County should not be in the commercial or residential real estate business and should not be in joint ventures with private capital.

My only hesitation is that if Pima County began liquidating its many holdings, my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors would find new irresponsible ways to spend the proceeds, rather than "just fix the roads"!

Pima County Supervisor Steve Christy, District 4
33 N. Stone Avenue, Floor 11
Tucson, AZ 85701
520-724-8094
district4@pima.gov





Constitution Day

Celebrate Constitution Day 2025 with the Vail Community Saturday, September 13th, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Acacia Elementary School! Jeff Utsch a renown Constitutional scholar is the keynote speaker. 5th grade students will be awarded cash prizes for their First Amendment Essays and Art

Posters and the public is invited to participate in a revolutionary era costume parade! Enjoy the live authentic western music by Rena Randall and the Due West Trio while eating a free hot dog lunch and browsing a variety of interesting booths. We may even see a fly by...you never know! See you there!

By Peggy Gibson

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PIMA COUNTY
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

"John Carruth"

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colleagues understand that Vail is more than a school district—it's a community with a rich history and a deep commitment to supporting one another. As I often remind them, "You can't truly love a place until you know it." Our hope is that every new staff member comes to love this place as much as we do.

Now, as summer winds down, our teachers, principals, bus drivers, custodians, and support staff are all eagerly preparing to welcome students back for what promises to be another fantastic year.

The first day of school for our PreK-8 students is Monday, July 14. Our high school and Vail Academy students return on Friday, July 18. We can't wait to see all the new and familiar faces walking through our doors.

In Vail, education really is a community effort. Whether you have children in our schools or not, know that your support, your pride, and your involvement matter. Here's to another great year together.

John Carruth began his service to Vail in 1995. He has held many roles since and is deeply honored to now serve as Superintendent. He and his wife live in Vail and are the proud parents of two Vail graduates.



Local Resident Receives Naco Heritage Award

Gerald Lamb has been selected as one of the 2025-2026 Naco Heritage Alliance Fellowship awardees. To find out more about these creative and engaging projects, visit <https://www.campnacoaz.org/fellowship> and stay tuned for more updates on their progress throughout this year and 2026.

Gerald Lamb is a historian, award-winning documentary filmmaker, and public history curator based in Arizona. With a master's in history from Northern Arizona University, he brings over a decade of experience in community-centered storytelling, using film to illuminate overlooked histories and amplify underrepresented voices. His proposed project, *Un pueblo chico, olvidado de Dios*, is a bilingual, community-driven documentary exploring the three sieges of Naco during the Mexican Revolution and the layered history of Camp Naco, a historic Buffalo Soldier site. Through a blend of oral histories, archival research, and experimental cinematography, Lamb's project will highlight the lived experiences of borderland communities and challenge dominant narratives of the U.S.-Mexico border. Designed with input from local residents and key collaborators on both sides of the border, the film will culminate in public screenings, a digital oral history archive, and educational materials.



Mickey on a Budget

Do you hear from your kids, "When are we going to Disneyland?" Visiting Disneyland on a budget is absolutely possible with some smart planning! No, you don't have to survive on rice and bread to afford Disneyland: you can do it without breaking the bank!

One of my favorite budget-saving ideas is to choose a good neighbor hotel. Most are budget-friendly hotels. They are generally located across Harbor Blvd., and are walkable and often half the price of Disney resorts. Yes it is fun and wonderful to stay in a Disney resort, but it is a huge budget saver to stay off property! Another huge budget saver: bring your own snacks and meals. Disneyland allows food and drinks to be brought in. Sure, you should treat yourself to a Mickey pretzel or Mickey ears ice cream, but no need to break the bank.

Another smart budget saver that many people forget: Pack smart! Bring in ponchos, portable chargers, and sunscreen to avoid pricey in-park purchases. You can also bring in a refillable water bottle. Bottles can be refilled for free at fountains and quick-service spots.

Are park hoppers necessary? NO. Do you really want to be going back and forth? Both Disneyland Park and California Adventure have enough rides, shows, and dining to fill a full day. You'll spend less time walking between parks and more time enjoying attractions. With a one-park plan, you stay focused and get more done with fewer interruptions.

Here is something else to be

aware of: A full day at Disneyland, you'll walk an average of 8-10 miles.

Go with supportive shoes and pack blister bandages, in case. Why is this under budget saving you ask? Well, you certainly do



not want to have to buy a pair of shoes in Disney because you can no longer walk in what you thought were cute shoes. You need support and comfort over the cute!

I love Disney pins, and you can get some for free. If you're celebrating a birthday, anniversary or first visit, pick up a free button from City Hall. Throughout the day, cast members and guests will sprinkle you with acknowledgments. Did you also know you can take a free drawing lesson? Drawing classes at the Animation Academy are a must-do for me whenever I visit Disney California Adventure. Not only is it a nice break for your legs and feet, but you also receive a thorough lesson on how to easily draw different Disney characters, and you can bring the artwork home with you. This is so much fun for all ages!!

Planning to go to Disneyland should be stress-free from beginning to end. If it is stressing you out then you will not enjoy it!! Go with the flow!! Best advice: It is okay to do it all on a budget!

By Gigi Annunziato
Teacher at Creation School
Agent with Mad Hatter Adventures

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"Nikki Lee"

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volved and asking tough questions to ensure this proposal aligns with Tucson's long-term priorities.

A vote to begin the City of Tucson's annexation process was originally expected in August. However, because the Board of Supervisors is revisiting its zoning decision in July, that timeline may shift. It is also important that we take the time needed to fully understand the details and not rush the process to meet a business's schedule. Our decisions must be right for Tucson, not just timely for others.

This project sits at the intersection of tech, business, and water policy. These are all areas where I bring deep experience. With 25 years in the tech industry, an MBA in IT Management, and ongoing leadership roles in AI and smart cities, I understand how to evaluate complex proposals like this. I also bring water policy knowledge from my work here in Tucson and know how critical water security is to our future.

Project Blue would include significant private investment in Tucson's reclaimed water infrastructure. If approved, it could accelerate system upgrades in our southeast region by nearly a decade, saving millions and strengthening our long-term water security. Let me be clear: I dig deep into the details of proposals like this, and I will not support anything that puts our water or energy future at risk. I am working these proposals to ensure we bring good jobs to Tucson while also balancing the urgent need to protect our water supply for future generations.

While I am disappointed that Pima County did not engage the Southeast community before approving the sale of the property, I am committed to ensuring trans-

parency and meaningful public involvement throughout the City's potential annexation and rezoning process. I believe our residents deserve to be informed and heard every step of the way. Although the County has now pointed to the City to lead, I want our community to know that I take that responsibility seriously and will continue to show up, ask tough questions, and keep residents informed. For now, please know that I'm on it.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team at the Ward 4 Council Office at ward4@tucsonaz.gov and/or 520-791-3199.

-Nikki



City of Tucson Ward 4 Councilwoman Nikki Lee
📞 520-791-3199
✉️ Ward4@tucsonaz.gov
🌐 www.tucsonaz.gov/ward4
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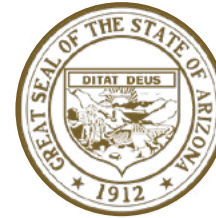
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4 Tips for Planting in July

July brings the heat and the hope of monsoons to our Vail gardens. While it's not the easiest month for planting, with the right strategies your backyard oasis can thrive even in the summer peak. Here are 4 tips (plus a bonus tip) for planting in July:

1. Take Advantage of the Monsoon Season

Monsoon rains are nature's deep watering system. These soaking storms help soften our desert soil, making it an ideal time to plant drought-tolerant shrubs and trees. Just be sure to plant right before or after a storm so new roots can settle in with the help of moist soil.

2. Plant Native & Desert-Adapted plants

Though summer is intense, some desert-adapted plants love the heat and humidity of monsoon season. Consider installing:



Red Bird of Paradise Planting

Texas Rangers / Texas Sage
Desert Willow Trees
Red Bird of Paradise
Native Acacias and Mesquites

These plants are tough, heat-hardy, and respond beautifully to summer rains.

3. Water deeply and add mulch

- Soak the hole before planting. This makes it easier for roots to take hold.
- Water deeply and slowly. Use a hose on a trickle or a soaker hose. Deep watering encourages strong roots.
- Mulch! Add 2–3" of mulch around new plants to help retain moisture and regulate soil temperature.
- Protect young plants. Use temporary shade cloth during the hottest part of the day to reduce transplant stress.

4. Watch for heat stress

Keep an eye out for signs of heat stress—wilted leaves, dry tips, or leaf drop. Deep watering once or twice a week is better than shallow daily watering. And be sure to check your irrigation system for clogs or leaks, especially after a storm.

Bonus Tip:

Install rain basins around trees and shrubs. Catching even a little



Texas Ranger Shrub Planting

rain can save gallons of water and help your plants grow stronger, faster.

With a bit of planning, July can be a productive month in the desert garden. Embrace the monsoon magic!

Questions? Come visit our team at Four Arrows Garden Center right here in Vail. We're happy to help!

By Linsay Chavez
Owner, Four Arrows Garden

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Way Back When

By Chuck Colbath

From a young age I loved cars. Thanks to my grandfather's fondness for them my first word was "Buick" but came out like "boo-ick"! That set the stage for my future career in the car business. When I was twelve I bought my first "car", a 1954 Chevy pickup left out to rust behind one of our neighbor's barns. He wanted \$50 for it, but after bartering I paid him \$12.50. His son, Mr. Zeller to me, was my 6th grade teacher and principle of our new school. He used his tractor to pull the old truck, with me steering and braking, to our house a short distance away. I worked and worked on that truck trying to get it running. I never succeeded but I did sell it to a friend for \$150, and my career was launched! By the time I was old enough to drive I had owned five cars, and made money on every one.



At eighteen a local new car dealer gave me a chance to sell cars, and within eighteen months I was in management, and things only got better. I learned from great folks along the way how to provide services in an honest and proper manor. Most every day I would go out of my way to pick up a customer's car, leaving them mine, and take their car in for service on their behalf. My boss observed in amazement, but I did it with a smile and I sold a lot of cars because of that level of care.

A snowplow hitting me, and the resulting injuries, made the feasibility of continuing in that career unrealistic. After much discussion with my doctors they thought a dry, warm climate might help pro-

vide a better quality of life. A trip to Arizona from New Hampshire proved the doctors were right! After building our house here, John and I found Babilon Salon which needed a new owner. I knew John would be perfect for the job of running the daily operations, and when I asked him what he thought of owning a salon together he didn't hesitate and said "I would love to do that!" Fourteen years later we couldn't be more pleased.

Together we built a better salon, a welcoming and friendly shop filled with talented, caring stylists with great energy and positivity. We take the utmost care of our family of stylists and our clients, and we love what we do.

In a time when old fashioned caring service seems to be a thing of the past, you can still find it at Babilon Salon. Free unhurried consultations with the stylist of your choice is a great way to get acquainted. It is a co-operative

environment in which the stylists recognize they all have different approaches, and work as a team to best satisfy clients' varying needs.

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ADOT Seeks Public Input on Sonoran Corridor in Pima County

The Arizona Department of Transportation is seeking public input as it begins an engineering and environmental study of the Sonoran Corridor, a proposed freeway in the Tucson region that would connect Interstate 19 and Interstate 10 south of Tucson International Airport.

ADOT has formally initiated a Tier 2 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Sonoran Corridor. The Notice of Intent to prepare a Tier 2 EIS is currently available on the study website at azdot.gov/SonoranCorridor.

The study will evaluate potential build alternatives for the Sonoran Corridor alignment, interchange locations and other features, as well as a no-build – or do nothing – alternative. The study will ultimately

identify a selected alternative based on public, agency and tribal government input and technical analyses.

During the current study phase, ADOT is seeking public input on the project’s preliminary purpose and need, preliminary range of alternatives for the freeway alignment and other considerations to be evaluated in the study. ADOT held public meetings in June to provide an overview of the study and seek input on a preliminary range of alternatives for the highway alignment and the project’s purpose and need. The public comment period lasts through July 18.

The corridor, also known as State Route 410, is under study to: improve vehicle mobility and the transportation system, improve access to existing and future activity centers, reduce persistent traffic backups and road congestion, address existing and future high-

growth areas, improve and shorten east-west freight movement to and from Mexico and southern Arizona, add a faster connection to Tucson International Airport and shorten east-west freight movement between southern Arizona and Mexico.

Ultimately the study will:

- Refine the purpose and need of the proposed project
- Develop and evaluate a range of 400-foot-wide freeway alignment alternatives within the 2,000-foot corridor, including a “no-build” alternative
- Evaluate environmental considerations and proposed mitigation
- Develop design concepts and features, such as interchange locations and bridges
- Provide opportunities for public and stakeholder input throughout the process
- Select a preferred freeway alter-



native, which would include the alignment, interchange locations and other design features

Comments may be submitted in any of the following ways through July 18:

Take the online survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/c/SonoranCorridor>

Call the Bilingual Project Information Line: 855.712.8530

Email the project team:
sonorancorridor@azdot.gov

Mail to:
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c/o Gordley Group
2540 N Tucson Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85716

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Special South East Area Council (SEAC) Board Meeting June 3, 2025

A special SEAC board meeting was held at the Rincon Valley Fire District off Marsh Station (14550 E. Sands Ranch Road). The Board welcomed Paul Casertano from Pima County Transportation, Tracy Warner from Pima County Development Services, and Brigham Stevens, Development Manager with Bourn Companies.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposed concepts for the future Vail Crossing project. Anne Gibson, SEAC President welcomed the invited guests and board members to the meeting. She also highlighted the importance of maintaining a professional atmosphere to encourage ongoing dialogue.

Bourn Company is a local Tucson development company with 30-35 years of experience and is responsible for major projects like The Bridges (Keno & I-10), Sprouts & Main Event area (I-19 & Irvington), and the redevelopment of Foothills Mall.

Two years ago, Bourn Company acquired a 400-acre property in the Vail area to be split into two sections. Both developments are mix-use with 20% remaining open land:

—I-10 & Hwy 83 Site: 300 acres planned for 700 homes and com-

mercial land. Infrastructure improvements include:

- 4-mile sewer extension
- 800,000-gallon water storage tank
- New TP power loop
- Expanded gas & fiber services
- Traffic signal installation at Colossal Cave & frontage road

—Success Road Site: 100 acres for 250 homes. Site to be built in four phases (first two phases will be residential, last two phases will be industrial/business). Bourn Company has been working with Pima County to determine safe egress and ingress for Success Road. Data has been collected regarding roadway traffic, train traffic and safety information for the area. Three possible solutions with pros and cons were presented (all proposed solutions are still in their concept phase):

- Traffic signal at Success Road and Colossal Cave Road
- Roundabout between the railroad tracks
- U-turn design (similar to the Grant/Oracle and Ina/Oracle intersections in Tucson)

It was also discussed that many of the undeveloped properties along Success Road are zoned for business use and their actual development could impact traffic at Success Road and Colossal Cave Road depending on the times the businesses are open. Another consideration for traffic in the area is St. Rita in the Dessert Catholic Church. This is primarily a weekend-use facility and will not impact Monday through Friday traffic, however, will have an impact on weekend traffic.

Traffic management of congestion created by past development appears to cause health and safety issues on the following roads: Camino Loma Alta, Mary Ann Cleveland, Colossal Cave, Trotter Sisters Drive, Old Spanish Trail and Valencia. The congestion



occurs mainly when school is in session as starting and stopping times of the schools vary depending on location. Additionally, there is not an adequate flow of traffic and safety for emergency situations.

Pima County presenters offered encouragement for outside the box ideas “because if there’s enough, direction from the Board of Supervisors can at times open up doors in terms of funding sources and legislative opportunities that provide a little bit more leeway than we have currently.” The County is working on a traffic management plan; however, it will take some time to get the consultant which is expected to take 15-18 months.

Considerations discussed:

- Safety of students going to school and parents dropping the students off
- Safety of the public using the roads, which were not developed for an influx of traffic that has come because of development
- Ability of emergency personnel to get to people in need of medical help, fire or accident
- Connecting the east ends of Success Road and Dawn Drive would eliminate traffic crossing one of the railroads and may decrease response time to emergen-

cies and alternatives to getting in/out of Success Road

- Use of master plan results to make decisions about traffic flow/patterns
- Provide input to Pima Prospers – information is due from the community June 15, 2025
- Drainage issues concerning historic buildings (there are 4) in Vail that have significance to the history of the community – the buildings are on the historic register and built with adobe
- Consideration of the solutions presented and use of the solutions in the master plan
- Wildlife corridors to assist displaced animals due to development

At the end of the meeting, thanks were given to the presenters. Anne extended an invitation for them to return and share some more information as things progress, especially with the Traffic Management Plan. The presenters thanked SEAC for the opportunity to present.

By Elaine Schmerbeck
seac@seacouncil.org
<https://www.facebook.com/SEArizonaCouncil>
South East Area Council (SEAC),
Serving the Communities of
Southeastern Pima County

Skyward



Star Gazing

Skyward for July 2025

Of Minerva the telescope, Edward Fitzgerald's translation of The Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám of Naishápúr, and Messier 40

Last month I sent some of you a photograph of Eureka, the 12-inch Dobsonian reflector that I claimed I now use for most of my comet hunting. That statement, I am afraid, is not entirely true. Since May 18, 1967, the day after I very nearly got expelled from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada for arguing with Miss Isabel Williamson, its Director of Observational Activities, I have enjoyed and loved this little 6-inch



f/4 reflector for more than 58 years. Even though I have not found a comet with it, I have used it to sight many known comets, and I must say that I use it for at least half of my comet hunting. I was using it while I was a student at Acadia University in Nova Scotia, where, in Dr. Roger Lewis's Victorian Literature class, I was introduced to The Rubáiyát

of Omar Khayyám. Omar was a resident, probably the most famous resident, of Nishapur, a city in northeastern Iran, and there exists a beautiful mausoleum in his memory there. I concentrated on the first stanza only, and it was well worth my trouble, and I add to it the penultimate 100th stanza:

*Wake! For the Sun, who scatter'd
into flight*

*The stars before him from the
Field of Night,*

*Drives Night along with them from
Heav'n, and strikes*

*The Sultán's Turret with a Shaft of
Light.*

*Yon rising Moon that looks for us
again—*

*How oft hereafter will she wax and
wane;*

*How oft hereafter will she look for
us*

*Through this same Garden—and
for one in vain!*

At the time this poem's translation appeared, interest in science was at a height, especially with the appearance of Darwin's *The Origin of Species* in 1859, the same year as the Fitzgerald translation and reinterpretation. Academically, this poem attracted most of the members of the Pre-Raphaelite movement, though the English population of the time thoroughly embraced the poem's thought and feeling. Even today, this poem encourages many people to enjoy both the poem and the Sun, Moon, and stars that it embraces.

A few years before I began my time at Acadia, and before my near-expulsion, I was completing my observations of Messier's 109 object catalogue. "It was Messier's mistake," Miss Williamson explained. "When you locate the

"Skyward"

continued on page 22

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Better Together:

Why (Positive) Socialization is Essential for Your Dog's Well-Being

Whether at the dog park, daycare, or just lounging in a backyard with a buddy, dogs thrive on connection. At Camp Jimmydog, we've seen how socialization isn't just a fun extra—it's a core part of a happy, well-balanced dog's life.

Our pups are more than pets—they're family. And just like people, they benefit greatly from regular social interaction. That doesn't always mean full-speed play and wild romps (though we love that too!). Sometimes, just being around other dogs in a relaxed environment is exactly what they need.



The Power of Positive Socialization

Dogs are pack animals by nature. Social time with other dogs—whether it's structured play or quiet companionship—helps keep them emotionally and mentally healthy.

- **Improved behavior** – Social dogs are more confident, less anxious, less reactive and more adaptable to new environments.
- **Reduced stress** – Dogs that have an outlet for energy and companionship are less likely to develop nervous habits or destructive behavior.



- **Better communication skills** – Dogs learn from each other: body language, boundaries, and respectful play.

- **Mental and physical enrichment** – Whether it's a game of chase or just observing from the sidelines, there's always something stimulating going on.

- **They learn from each other** – They will learn good or bad. It's important to make sure they are in social situations with dogs and humans that will provide good experiences and proper guidance.

Why Cage-Free Boarding Makes a Difference

Since we started our cage-free boarding business nearly 20 years ago, we've seen a growing shift in how people care for their dogs. What was once a unique approach has become increasingly popular, with more pet parents seeking out environments that offer freedom, comfort, and positive socialization.

Dogs should be given the space to interact, play, and relax, safely and comfortably. Cage-free environments allow dogs to do just that. Some pups LOVE to play but not all dogs are social butterflies—and that's okay. Some are happiest just relaxing on a comfy bed, or soaking up sunshine. That's why we focus on providing a **low-pres-**

sure, cage-free home environment.

In smaller, less crowded facilities:

- **Dogs aren't overwhelmed or pressured**
- **Supervised and guided socialization**
- **Encourages and reinforces positive behaviors**
- **Feels less confined, more at ease**
- **Personalized care based on their individual needs and preferences.**
- **More affection, more fun, and way less boredom**

Even dogs who prefer people over play often enjoy being near their own kind—it's part of who they are. Just lying in the same space as other dogs offers a sense of pack connection that brings comfort.

The Downside of Traditional Kennels

While traditional kennels may seem convenient, they can have real drawbacks:

- **Limited social interaction**
- **Increased stress and anxiety**
- **Noise and overstimulation**
- **Less human touch**

While kenneling may be the right choice in some cases, it's important to understand how environment affects your dog's well-being.

Let Dogs Be Dogs—In Their Own Way

The Green Valley and Sahuarita area is a community of pet lovers, and we're lucky to live in a place where dogs can enjoy sunshine, fresh air, and friendly faces—both human and canine. Whether it's a playgroup, or a walk with a friend's dog, giving your dog opportunities to socialize is one of the best gifts you can give them.

Dogs with strong social skills are not only easier to live with—



they're happier, healthier, and more connected to the world around them.

About Camp Jimmydog

Camp Jimmydog has been a cage-free boarding and daycare facility in Southern Arizona since 2006. Founded by Kristen, a longtime trainer and behaviorist, the business began by caring for clients' dogs while they traveled. That experience inspired a better approach—one focused on comfort, freedom, and connection. Today, we offer a relaxed, safe, and social environment where dogs can play, rest, or just enjoy the company of others.

Learn more or schedule a visit at **CampJimmydog.com** or call **520-710-6667**.

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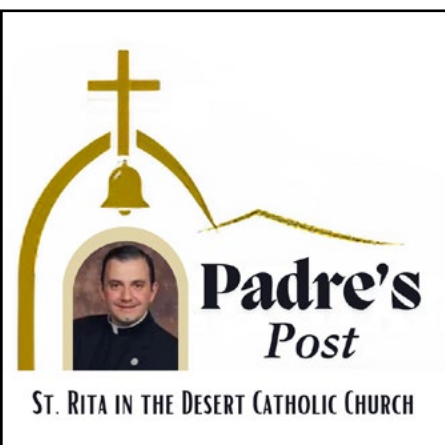
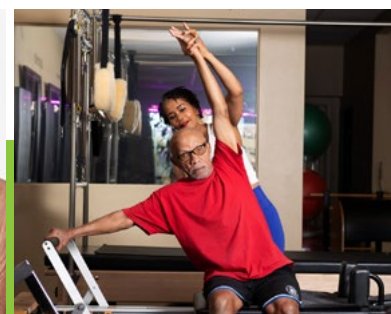
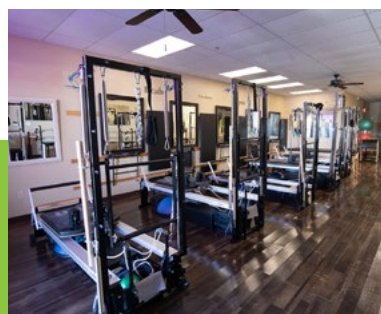
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Dear Vail Community,

As I write this post, much has transpired, and as we enter the Fourth of July weekend with all its celebrations and fanfare, it isn't lost on me that freedom, as such, is never truly free. The exercise of choice, expression, and the ability to assemble without retaliation from the government is the hallmark of the constitution of our nation. In truth, we are not pure democracy. We are a constitution-

al republic, which is entirely different from some democratic-run nations.

However, freedom as such is never truly free because many had to die amid wars or battles and shed their blood for change to take place. Many nations throughout the human experience who desired freedom from oppression, slavery, brutality, and injustices fought for the rights and freedoms of others. In a real sense, these men and women gave their life-blood freely without counting the cost of their actions.

In a profound and deeply salvific way, Jesus Christ, who is the Son of Man and the Son of God, chose the path to die upon the cross to set humanity free. He was and is the Messiah prophesized in the ancient Hebrew Scriptures to bring about a new way of life in love. God exposed Himself to human injustice, inhumanity, and selfishness to prove the point that His

love is greater than all our collective sins!

The deeper question we as a human race need to ask is how advanced we have become since the time of Adam and Eve. Jesus Christ is the only path to freedom and love. While we are free to sin, hate, and despise one another for petty differences such as national, political, and otherwise, we are not free from the consequences of our choices. Therefore, we ought to choose wisely.

By Reverend Alonzo M. García



Your Hometown Newspaper

Looking to Get Noticed?

g southeast Tucson, Corona de Tucson and Vail for over
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le Tucson Ponders Incorporation

Many are looking to ensure these small sanctuaries are under-
served by inequitable pricing by
Tucson Water, local Highway User
Revenue Funds (HURF) taken
away, and urban sprawl develop-
ment created by a growing City of
Tucson to our north, while waiting
inconveniences of having services
closer to their homes.

often overlooked, lacking, or not
in synergy with the community's
requests.

CdT Futures held a public town-
hall meeting on May 3rd and
August 18th to discuss the topic
of incorporation and continues
pursuing its mission to gain public
awareness and support.

reg Lubell and Glenn Taylor,
residents and founders of the CdT
Futures movement, have stepped
forward to lead and guide local
residents in seeking information
about the drive towards incorpo-
ration.

"There is so much potential for us
here. CdT is a natural for incorpo-
ration. We seek to incorporate to
have a voice for our community's
destiny. We are currently at the
mercy of Pima County when it
comes to basic services such as
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SE Transportation Group Advocates RTANext Recommendations

The majority of all transportation planning and allocated funding for Vail, the southeast and our entire region comes through Pima Association of Governments (PAG) and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). The decisions of PAG and RTA are based on federal and state requirements, needs of member organizations, public input and voter approvals. The PAG and RTA Board is made up of a Board with 9 representatives of local elected governments and Arizona Dept. of Transportation: Tohono O’odham Nation, Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Pima County, City of Tucson, Marana, Oro Valley, Sahuarita and South Tucson. PAG is required to adopt a 20-30 year Regional Mobility and Accessibility Plan. An ad hoc group of volunteers has evaluated the draft RMAP2055 advocate for investment in greater Vail and the Southeast.

The copy of this Letter has been reformatted for this publication.

Dear Pima Association of Government Leadership:

The Southeast Transportation Working Group is an unofficial ad hoc group of volunteer stakeholders representing public, private, and non-profit groups with interest in advocacy for improved mobility and accessibility in the growing southeast geographic region of Pima County and the City of Tucson.

This letter is to provide input and share perspective on the draft \$16.2 billion 2055 RMAP Regional Mobility and Accessibility Plan and project list.

The assumption of modest population growth in the southeast (City of Tucson and unincorporated Pima County) including the Census Designated Places of Vail, Rincon Valley and Corona de Tucson is not consistent with U.S Census data of historic population growth trends for these areas, the approved land use plans for future residential and job growth for this area, or the Pima Prospers Comprehensive Plans. The low 2055 RMAP population projections for the southeast are not consistent with known demographic data.

Between 2020 and 2024, the Vail, Rincon Valley and Corona de Tucson areas represented 47% of all residential building permits issued by Pima County per the recently approved Land Use Assumptions of the Pima County Impact Fee program. The Arizona State Land Department is progressing in the entitlement of large tracts of land for employment centers, and the County is considering major projects at the Southeast Employment and Logistics Center (SELC).

Despite this demonstrated growth, regional investment in transportation infrastructure in the southeast region has been disproportionate to actual and projected need.

We support the following projects as currently represented in the 2055 RMAP draft plan:

612.03	\$136.6M``	Valencia Rd. and I-10 Traffic Interchange Low Priority and Late Timeframe
5.14	\$600M	Sonoran Corridor I-19 to I-10 in the vicinity of Rita Rd connection Medium Priority and Middle Timeframe
29.18	\$28.1M	Southeast Employment and Logistics Center roadway improvements to support economic development High Priority and Early Timeframe
11.02	\$122.2M	Houghton Pkwy I-10 to Tanque Verde widen, bridges, greenway High Priority and Early Timeframe
429.03	\$57.6M	Aerospace Parkway expansion Nogales Hwy to Alvernon, widen roadway
153.08	\$44.5M	Valencia Rd. Kolb Rd. to Houghton Rd. widen roadway High Priority and Early Timeframe
13.23	\$99M	South Country Club from Milber to Los Reales widen roadway Medium Priority and Middle Timeframe

We request jurisdictional priority and/or timeframe changes to the following In-Plan projects:

93.23	\$160.4M	Colossal Cave Roadcorridor I-10 to Camino Loma Alta widen roadway. New bridges over RR tracks and Pantano Wash • Change from medium priority and middle timeframe • To High Priority and Early Timeframe NOTE: Project description should read “in the vicinity of Colossal Cave Rd.” to allow for alternative alignments to address UPPR, public safety, historic and cultural preservation, public schools, and cost savings
102.00	\$22.5M	Mary Ann Cleveland Way Red Iron Tr. To Colossal Cave Rd. widening • Change from medium priority and middle timeframe • To High Priority and Early Timeframe
100.00	\$64.9M	Old Spanish Trail Valencia Rd. to Camino Loma Alta widen roadway • Change from low priority and late timeframe • To Medium Priority and Early Timeframe
611.03	\$69.7M	Valencia Rd. Houghton Rd. to Old Spanish Tr. widen roadway • Medium priority and late timeframe • To Medium Priority and Medium Timeframe
6.23	\$60.3M	Mary Ann Cleveland Way, Houghton Rd to City Limit widen roadway • Change from low priority and N/A timeframe • High Priority and Early Timeframe

We also request the following Southeast Region Mobility and accessibility projects in the City of Tucson and Pima County be added to the list of 2055 RMAP In-Plan projects:

<u>RMAP ID</u>	<u>Est. Cost</u>	<u>Name, Location Description</u>
TBD	TBD	I-10 and Rita Road Traffic Interchange
TBD	TBD	I-10 and Colossal Cave Traffic Interchange
TBD	TBD	Houghton Rd from Southeast Employment and Logistics Center Sahuarita Rd., widen and make an all-weather roadway
TBD	TBD	Swan Rd. from Valencia Rd. to Butterball Rd. widen roadway
TBD	TBD	Wilmot Rd from I-10 to Sahuarita Rd. widen and make an all-weather roadway
TBD	TBD	Camino Loma Alta from Old Spanish Trail to Mary Ann Cleveland widen and make an all-weather roadway
TBD	TBD	Old Vail Connection from S. Nogales Hwy to Wilmot Rd. widen and make an all-weather roadway

Finally, when the opportunity presents itself to allocate portions of categorical funds, we respectfully ask that Pima County and the City of Tucson prioritize a portion of the in-plan regional funds for the southeast, particularly in Vail, Rincon Valley and Corona de Tucson CDPs.

We highlight the following regional categories as areas where equity in distribution, including the southeast is warranted.

63.18	\$75M	All-weather access improvements region-wide
556.08	\$400M	Bicycle facilities connectivity regionwide
202.98	\$250M	Bridge improvements regionwide
30.08	\$50M	Intersection improvements regionwide
20.18	\$325M	Multimodal mobility and safety improvements regionwide
222.08	\$21.7M	New Park & Ride lots throughout the region

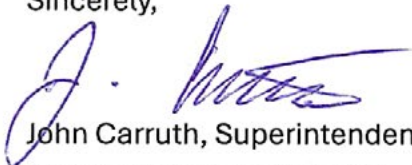
"Letter to PAG" continued from page 17

433.98	\$400M	Pedestrian facilities and sidewalk gaps throughout the region
220.23	\$430M	Roadway rehabilitation, pavement repair regionwide
194.08	\$86M	Shared use paths, bicycle, and pedestrian bridges
35.18	\$6.8M	TAA Business Industrial Park Aerospace & Old Vail connection
659.03	\$30M	Transportation studies regionwide
234.08	\$85M	Transportation technology, traffic data collection regionwide
139.98	\$60M	Transportation planning regionwide – RMAP and TIP
102.23	\$50M	Countywide intersection improvements
3.06	\$65M	Wildlife linkages and environmental mitigation
566.08	\$1000M	Expand fixed route bus system regionwide

Thank you for giving serious consideration to our input. We look forward to 2055 RMAP focus including more projects in the southeast region.

The Southeast Transportation Working Group is comprised of volunteers representing public education and public safety, 501(c)6 and 501 (c)3 organizations, private and public landowners in southeast Tucson and Pima County, individuals with technical expertise in transportation infrastructure and economic development. Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



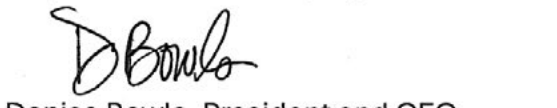
John Carruth, Superintendent of Schools,
Vail Unified School District



JJ Lamb, President and CEO,
Vail Preservation Society



Jim Tucker, Fire Chief,
Rincon Valley Fire District



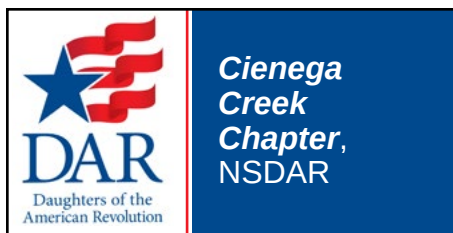
Denise Bowls, President and CEO
Greater Vail Area Chamber of Commerce



Steve Lunde, Fire Chief,
Corona de Tucson Fire District

The copy of this Letter has been
reformatted for this publication.





Firefighter Appreciation

International Firefighter's Day is observed annually on May 4th to appreciate and honor firefighters globally. To celebrate the bravery, dedication, and sacrifices of our local firefight-ers, a joint appreciation event with the Cienega Creek Chapter, NSDAR (National Society Daughters of the American Revolution) and Corona de Tucson Community Alliance was held at the American Legion Post 109 in Corona de Tucson on Monday, May 5th.

Corona de Tucson's two fire stations staff an 18-person crew led by Chief Steve Lunde. Chief Lunde received thank you cards and posters crafted by Cooper Ridge Elementary School students and presented by Principal, Krista Fields.



Our chapter partnered with the local woman-owned Caffeine Dealer coffee/food truck, and provided a free beverage to each firefighter. Other recognition and appreciation gifts and cards were presented from the American Legion Post 109, Boy Scout Troop 770, Corona Cares, and Corona de Tucson Community Alliance.

The Corona De Tucson Fire District was established in Sep-

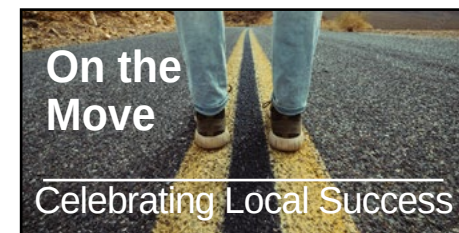


tember 1975 as a volunteer fire department. The first fire station was built in 1982 and provided a training ground for the firefighters and a central location to house fire apparatus. In 1985, the Board of Directors voted to hire the district's first full-time and volunteer fire-fighters. In 2005, the department became a full-time career fire department. As the community continued to grow, so did the need for more services. In December of 2008, the fire district opened their second fire sta-tion.

The Corona De Tucson Fire District provides many services such as fire and rescue, emergency medical services, desert pet removal, vehicle and home lockout, smoke detector checks, and home safety surveys. Thank you, Corona de Tucson Fire Department and all fire-fighters, for keeping our community safe and protected.

For more information, go to <https://www.coronafire.org/>. The National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) is a non-profit, non-political, worldwide service organization devoted to Historic Preservation, Education, Patriotism, and family history. If you are interested in joining, contact Registrar, JoAnne MacInnis at cienegacreekregistrar@gmail.com. Questions and inquiries for the Regent, Kelly Hansen please email cienegacreekregent@gmail.com

By Jane Russ,
Constitution Week
and Flag Committee Chair



Daniel Montana of Vail took part in the May 3 graduation celebration held in the Clayton Center for the Arts, earning a bachelor of arts in Psychology (Counseling track).

Dean's List

Adriana M. Drossos, Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies, Cum Laude. Iowa State University. Class of Spring 2025.

Kapualani Magnani. Sam Houston State University. Dean's List Spring 2025 3.5 GPA or higher.

Lauren Fields. Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. Dean's List Spring 2025 3.60 or higher.

1/4 Page Ad.

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Corona de Tucson Ponders Incorporation

and Asserts Itself as a Sovereign Entity

By Glenn Taylor, Kreg Lulluff, Edward Buster, Elizabeth Potter, & Manuel Chavez

Many are looking to ensure these tranquil sanctuaries are undisturbed by inequitable pricing by Tucson Water, local Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) taken away, and urban sprawl development created by a growing City of Tucson.

Kreg Lulluff and Glenn Taylor, residents and founders of the Cdt Futures movement, have stepped forward to lead and guide local residents in seeking information about the drive towards incorporation. Currently, Pima County governs Cdt for its public services such as roads, sidewalks, parks, and other local needs which are often overlooked, lacking, or not in synergy with the community's requests.

Cdt Futures held a public town hall meeting on May 3rd and August 18th to discuss the topic of incorporation.

There is so much potential for us here, Cdt is a natural for incorporation. We seek to incorporate to have a voice for our community's destiny. We are currently at the mercy of Pima County when it comes to basic services such as police and road repair. With almost 10,000 residents in our area, we are far beyond the need to be come our own entity with the best interest of Cdt to pursue owning

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As each school year comes to a close, we take time to celebrate our successes—and the incredible people who made some of the most talented and accomplished educators in Arizona. Please join us in congratulating all of our 2024—

And the winners are...

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ACTEAZ CTE Teacher of the Year

Ariana Hernandez - Empire HS

American Chemistry Society, So Az Teacher of the Year

Kim Scheerer - Empire HS

Arizona Athletics Teacher of the Year – Finalist

Shannon Woolridge - Empire HS

Arizona Daily Star Coach of the Year

Noel Craver - Cottonwood

Arizona Educational Foundation Top Ten Teacher of the Year

Brett Darling - Mica Mountain HS

Broyles Award – Best Assistant Coach in the State of AZ

Abby Countryman

Christie Wissinger

Fawn Slade

Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation of So Az Recognition

Ethan Hurley

Pima County Metro Education Commission Administrator of the Year

Gayle Morrison - Empire HS

Pima County Metro Education Commission Counselor of the Year

Lisa Scott - Esmond Station K-8

Pima County Metro Education Commission Exemplary Educator

Katie Anderson - Desert Willow

Derek Collinsworth - Empire HS

Victoria Wilson - Rincon Vista MS

Whitney Brown - Esmond Station K-8

Extra Yard for Teachers Snoop Dogg Arizona Bowl Recognition

Cameron Diggs - Rincon Vista MS

HSL Properties Teacher Appreciation Award

Stephanie Radspinner - Desert Willow

KISS-FM Radio, Teacher of the Month

Isaac Walko - Pantano HS

LPKNC Community Champion Award Winner

Richard Gremel - Empire HS

Monte Awards Best Director

Stevie Johnson - Cienega HS

Monte Awards Best Choreography

Kathleen Greenwood - Andrada HS

Ohio State Scarlet & Gray Excellence in Teaching Award

make them possible. Vail is proud to be home to
2025 awardees!

Sandra Crusa

Presidential Award for Excellence in Math & Science Teaching

Lisa Scott - Esmond Station K-8

Presidential Award for Excellence in Math & Science Teaching
State Finalist

Nancy Webber-Graff - Andrada HS

Jeanne Wages - Andrada HS

Raytheon Leaders in Education Award Finalist

Michael Keck - Cienega HS

State Industrial Arts Award – AZ Technical and Industrial
Education Association

Zenia Hernandez - Desert Sky MS

Teacher Excellence Award – Tucson Values Teachers

Justin Villard - Andrada HS

UofA High School Amazing Teacher of the Year Winner

Katrina Myers - Cienega HS

UofA High School Amazing Teacher of the Year Finalist

Kim Scheerer - Empire HS

UofA High School Amazing Teacher of the Year Finalist

Danielle Neumann - Mica Mountain HS

UofA High School Amazing Teacher of the Year Finalist



CREATIVITY MEETS WELLNESS

Life Through a Kaleidoscope: Embracing Change and Beauty

The kaleidoscope, invented by Sir David Brewster in 1816, is more than a toy—it's a powerful metaphor for the human experience. Its name, from the Greek kalos (beautiful) and eidos (form), means "observer of beautiful forms." Each turn reveals new patterns, just as life constantly shifts, shaped by memories, choices, and the people around us.

Like a kaleidoscope, we each hold unique, ever-changing patterns. In different lights—environments, challenges, or relationships—different aspects of ourselves are revealed. Poet Lord Byron once called people "constantly changing patterns," a phrase that perfectly captures our evolving nature.

Songs like "Kaleidoscope World" encourage empathy and unity, reminding us that diversity isn't something to fear, but to celebrate. Our shifting identities and perspectives offer endless potential for growth and connection.

Perhaps the most profound message of the kaleidoscope is this: beauty is not found in perfection, but in transformation. Even when life feels broken or chaotic, turning the lens just slightly can reveal a whole new pattern of hope and possibility. Our attitudes—how we choose to view and respond to circumstances—have the power to reshape everything.

Even in difficult times, a shift in attitude—like turning a kaleidoscope—can reveal unexpected beauty. Reflect on the people and



moments that shaped you. How can you be a light in someone else's life? What legacy will your patterns leave behind?

We live in a kaleidoscope world. Let's choose to see—and create—beauty.

Lisa's passion is to help people discover their soul-purpose through therapeutic art practices. Kindie is fascinated at how color serves to assist in revealing a person's life path through creative wellness mentoring. She is the queen of creativity!





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"Skyward"
continued from page 13
rest, we credit you with M40."

I saw Messier 40 the last three nights. Messier himself found it in 1764 while searching for a nebula discovered near Megrez, in Ursa Major, by Johannes Hevelius. Hevelius, who was not using a telescope, noticed a touch of nebulosity. Messier could not confirm this but he did record two faint stars. Today most of us call M40 Messier's mistake, but I disagree with this. He probably understood his friend's naked eye view of the two stars, which even to him could show some nebulousity, and left the pair in his catalogue. Could the pair look nebulous to us when viewed without a telescope, just as groups of stars like the Beehive and Pleiades look nebulous to today's viewers when seen without a telescope?

To find M40, simply locate Megrez and move a little more than one degree to its northeast. There will be 70 Ursae Majoris. Continue another quarter degree to the two stars that form Messier 40. Remember that this is not a double star, but instead two stars at different distances from Earth.

Finally, Messier 40 offers a bonus. Close to the east of the two stars lie two very nice spiral galaxies, NGC 4290 and NGC 4284. You need a very dark sky to catch these, but they are lovely.

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So what do Minerva, The Rubáiyát, and Messier 40 have in common? Nothing, you might say. Minerva is a pile of metal and glass loosely held together with glue and pressure. The Fitzgerald is a poem. Messier 40 is a mistake.

No. Not at all. Minerva has given me 58 years of passion and pleasure being under the sky, whose rising Moon only adds to the joy. And over centuries, people like Charles Messier and Hevelius shared that same incredible craving for the stars, including the tiny pair of distant suns collectively called Messier 40.

By Doveed

David H Levy is arguably one of the most famous amateur astronomers of our time. He has written over three dozen books. Among David's accomplishments are 23 comet discoveries, the most famous being Shoemaker-Levy 9 which collided with Jupiter.



To place an ad call: 520-490-0654



Congresswoman Greenway and New Vail Postmistress Part One

Mary Jane left a promising position as an executive secretary for an Oklahoma City car dealership in 1933. She is remembered fondly by the community that she served for 39 years (April 22, 1934-May 1973). Mary Jane's mother was Dovie Woolsey, Vail's postmistress. Dovie became ill with cancer in 1933 and wrote her daughter asking for help. The young woman from the city could never have envisioned the direction her life would take. She moved in with the family and began helping with the work. Dovie told her daughter Mary Jane that, "With every three cent stamp sold, we get thirty minutes entertainment." Dovie died on April 21, 1934, about six months after her daughter arrived. Mary Jane was left to care for her three younger siblings and a country store and post office.

With the encouragement of Caroline Beach, the woman who funded and built the Shrine of Santa Rita in the Desert, Mary Jane decided to stay. She was appointed temporary postmistress of Vail in 1934. Another potential candidate, or "eligible", wanted the position and was not going to give up easily. Mr. George Allen was a loyal Democrat and active member of the local Democratic Party. He had invested a great deal of time working on Mrs. Greenway's Congressional campaign. It was 1934 and the Great Depression was in full force. Mr. Allen had been out of work for three years. Allen hoped that his and his son's work for Greenway's campaign



Mary Jane Woolsey Warner in Oklahoma before moving to Vail. Courtesy Vail Preservation Society

and their loyalty to the Democratic Party might tip the decision in his direction.

Within days of Dovie's death, the correspondence and campaign for her position began. On April 24th, Isabella Greenway had already sent a response to the head of the local Democratic Party in Tucson, Mr. Leslie C. Hardy whose office was in the impressive Consolidated National Bank building in downtown Tucson. There was a rule relating to residency stating that a postmaster's home address must lie within the delivery area of the post office they would be serving. This rule became the deciding factor. George Allen alleged that Mary Jane was from Oklahoma.

(Part 2 of this story in the August Vail Voice)

Big Changes at the Old Vail Store and Post Office

If you've driven over the railroad tracks recently, you've probably noticed the remarkable transformation underway at the Old Vail Post Office. One of the most striking updates is the "new" old tin roof. Crafted from historically sourced tin roofing, thanks to our partners at Means Design Build,

Canoa Ranch and L & L Manufacturing. Progressive Roofing generously donated their time and skill to install it, bringing genuine age and rustic charm.

Inside and out, the progress continues. Every window and door has been carefully rebuilt and installed. On the building's east end, damaged plaster has been repaired and restored. Soon, Wiese Painting will bring their expertise to the project, donating labor to paint both the trim and interior. So much is happening, but none of it would be possible without the support of our incredible partners: Lloyd Construction Inc., Means Design Build, the State of Arizona, the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area, Vail Preservation Society members, and many others.

Want to help preserve this piece of Vail's history? Learn more or make a donation at vailpreservationsociety.org.

J.J. Lamb is President & CEO of Vail Preservation Society. A U of A graduate, her family has lived in Vail since 1971. She was named an Arizona Culture-keeper in 2011 and an Arizona Friend of the Humanities in 2020.



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Summer Pest Problems in Southern Arizona

Southern Arizona summers bring heat, monsoons, and increased pest activity. As temperatures rise, pests seek food, water, and shelter inside homes. Here's a guide to three of the most common summer pests in the Vail area and how to prevent them.

Scorpions are most active during hot summer nights, hiding in cool, damp places.

Scorpion Prevention Tips:

- Seal cracks and crevices
- Shake out shoes and towels

Spiders, especially black widows and Arizona Brown spiders, thrive in summer. They prefer dark, quiet areas like sheds and garages.

Spider Prevention Tips:

- Declutter storage spaces

- Wear gloves when working in sheds
- Eliminate other pests

Ants are most active after rain, invading kitchens and indoor spaces.

Ant Prevention Tips:

- Keep food sealed
- Fix leaks and moisture sources
- Use professional pest control

Professional Protection

DIY tips help, but expert pest control may be needed. For protection, call Bill's Home Service at (520) 346-4564 or visit: BillsHomeService.com.

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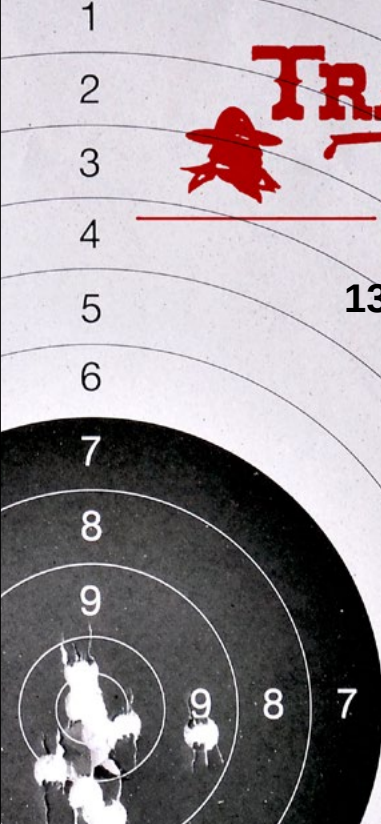
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Events

During July the Art Wall at the ASA* will continue to feature works by Academy Village residents enrolled as students in village art classes.

Saturday, July 5, 3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
VPS**. Launch of "Hot to Trot for Tannat" Tasting and Blessing of the Harvest. Charron Vineyards, 18585 S Sonoita Hwy, Vail, AZ 85641. Collaboration with VPS: every bottle sold will bring a donation for VPS!

Monday, July 7, 3 p.m.
ASA*: Lecture by Attorney Melissa Ahlers, "Technology-Facilitated Threats and Abuse." This lecture will focus on estate planning from a specialist in Aging and the Law.

Tuesday, July 8, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
VPS. July Volunteer Meeting. St. Rita in the Desert Church, 13260 E Colossal Cave Rd, Vail, AZ 85641, St. Teresa Room. Topics include the Old Vail Post Office Restoration progress and upcoming reception; Pima County Pima Prospers draft. All are welcome to attend.

Friday, July 11, 11:30 a.m.
ASA* Concert: Female barbershop quartet "Havin' a Blast" brings stellar a cappella harmonies to the ASA: Molly Jean Gerbi (tenor), Elissa Fazio (lead), Becky Clowers (baritone) and Teresa Taylor (bass).

Friday, July 11, 11:30 a.m.
ASA* Concert: Grams & Krieger with Ralph Gilmore return with guitarist/slide guitarist Danny Krieger, bassist Steve Grams, and drummer Ralph Gilmore, bringing their special style of blues and roots music.

Monday, July 14, 3 p.m.
ASA*: Lecture by Martin Welker, Ph.D., U of A Associate Professor of Anthropology and Associate Curator of Zooarchaeology at the Arizona State Museum, "Dog Bones: Exploring the Human Past in the Southwest Through Archaeological Dogs." Dr. Welker explores dogs' roles within human societies over the millennia that followed domestication.

Friday, July 18, 11:30 am.
ASA* Concert: The Porch Rockers make their first ASA appearance, with Steve Jonas (harmonica), Michael Blommer (guitar), Larry Lee Lerma (bass) and Justin Donaldson (drums).

Sunday, July 20, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
TCC Coin Show with 38 tables of dealers. Admission free. Event Location: Tucson Woman's Club, 6245 East Bellevue St., Tucson, Arizona 85712. Contact: www.tucsoncoinclub.com - The Tucson Coin Club is a non-profit organization

Monday, July 21, 3 p.m.
ASA*: Lecture by Bill Peachey, independent ecologist and botanist, "What Your Mother Never Told You About Saguaro Blooming." This speaker will explain his research on the importance of insects to saguaro blooms, as well as what affects saguaro bloom times, the number of blooms and their position from year to year.

Friday, July 25, 11:30 a.m.
ASA* Concert: Solo jazz guitarist Matt Mitchell presents a tour of jazz guitar from its roots in the 1920s to today.

Monday, July 28, 3 p.m.
ASA*: Lecture by Martin Randall, Independent Arts Scholar and Speaker, Tucson Art Talks, "Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Moran – American Landscapes." Bierstadt and Moran were among the first artists to journey to the largely unexplored West, creating defining images of the rugged territories of Yellowstone, Yosemite, and the Grand Canyon.

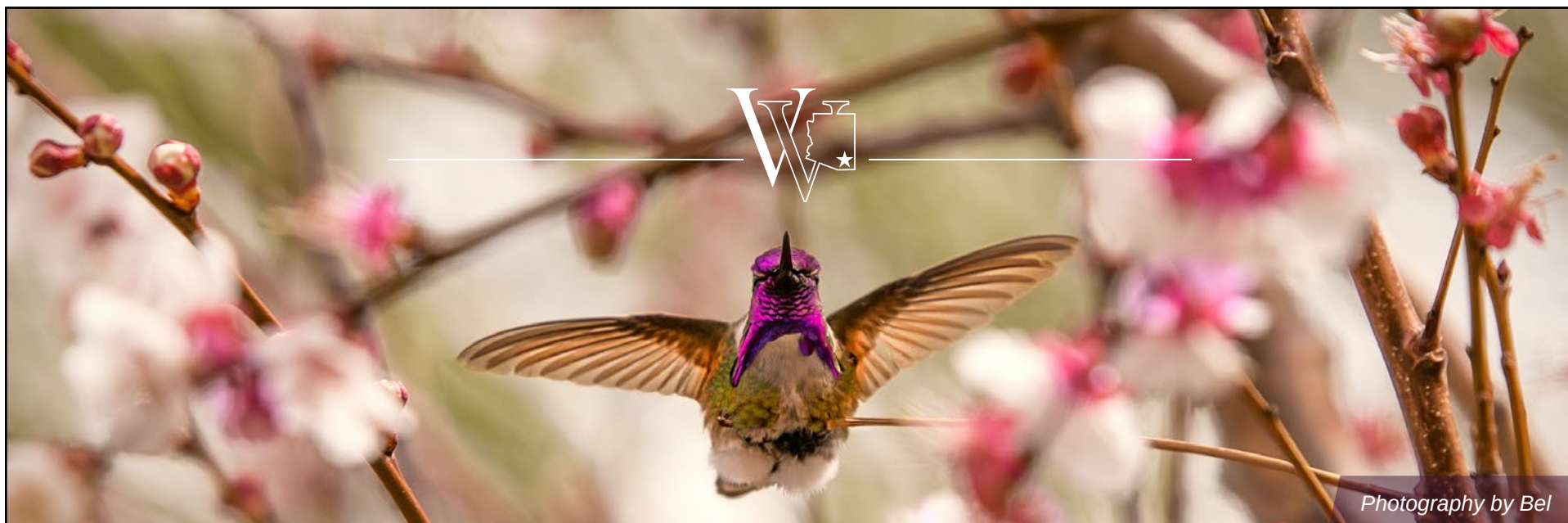
Friday, August 1, 11:30 a.m.
ASA* Concert: Midnight Blue returns with master harmonica player Paul Green, guitarist Frank Filipo, bassist Jack Wood, and drummer Les Merrihew.

Friday, August 8, 11:30 a.m.
ASA* Concert: Mamma Coal is Carra Stasney, in her solo show, "Women in Country Music."

**The Arizona Senior Academy is located at 13715 E. Langtry Lane off Old Spanish Trail. The latest ASA program information is available under "Schedule" on the academy's website: arizonaseniioracademy.org. The lectures are available via Zoom using the link at the end of detailed lecture descriptions.*

***VPS. The Vail Preservation Society has been Connecting Community in Vail through Heritage, History, and Education Since 2006. Address questions to <vail-preservationociety@gmail.com>.*

If you have an event to submit and the event is taking place in zip code 85747 or 85641 please email to: events@thevailvoice.com



Photography by Bel



Cienega's NJROTC Marksmanship Team Chasing the Title

Cienega's NJROTC Marksmanship team continued its chase for the National title in the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), and this came to an end this weekend with improving scores and rankings, and a promise for the next 2025-2026 season.

First, we'd like to thank some military organizations who helped us get to Ohio to compete: The American Legion Post 109, The Legion Riders from Post 109, and The VFW Post 549. Let's say without these organizations our travels wouldn't have been so successful and enjoyable.

The journey started with the Postal competition from October 24, with Cienega placing second in the 20 Area postal. Next was the Arizona State CMP Championship on Jan



Camp Perry, Ohio

25 and Cienega won, and then we traveled to Utah on April 25 to win the Western Regional Championship. Cienega was then fully qualified to compete in the CMP National Championship in Ohio against the other two Northeast and Southeast regions.



Team's Scorecard

The first day of practice went well, but the cadets and I had our first fear with tornado alarms going off as we were driving back to our hotel. We were without power at the hotel for hours as we got ready for bed and the first day of two days of competition. They were nervous and it showed as the cadets didn't perform at their top level of shooting. Day two came and so did our cadets, finishing in the Top 5th place in Scholastic, and 6th place overall in the competition. We had Cadet Bryant Fletcher who was in the final Top 8th of shooting and finished 7th as an Individual, and age group under 17th he was first. Cadet Ella Johnson was awarded her Distinguished Shooting medal, and she finished 13th underage of 17, while Cadet Rylee Ottersbach finished 24th and Maia Mallett finished 33rd in an outstanding performance.



Ready to Go.



Top 8 Shooters

Each year these cadets surprise me with their effort and desire to compete at the highest level of marksmanship. This is the highest score and ranking at the CMP our cadets have achieved and each year we get closer to the top.

I want to thank our CTE for sponsoring us on our travels, the district, and Yes, Cienega's Principal Mrs. Middleton.



The Team

Again, the cadet's teamwork and determination earned them all the respect highlighting the excellence of Cienega's NJROTC marksmanship program.

At the end of June, I will be retiring from Cienega's NJROTC program. It's hard to put into words my feelings on departing Cienega. The support I've received from the parents and especially the cadets is beyond words, just from my heart.

Thank you.

By MSgt Willie Jordan





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HAVE A HAPPY

Independence Day

from your friends at The Vail Voice.

July 4, 2025



July, 2025 - Time to color!



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Celebrate the Season Early with Christmas in July at the Vail Depot Thrift Store

As the Arizona sun scorches the desert landscape in the heart of July, the Vail Depot Thrift Store is offering a refreshing escape from the heat with its beloved annual tradition — Christmas in July. This festive event brings a delightful dose of holiday spirit to the summer season, transforming the cozy community thrift store into a magical winter wonderland. From the Second Saturday of July through the end of the month, shoppers are invited to step into a world of holiday treasures.

Operated by Greater Vail Community ReSources, the Vail Depot Thrift Store is more than just a place to shop — it's a hub of community support and generosity. Visitors can browse a thoughtfully curated selection of gently used holiday decorations, unique and vintage gifts, seasonal apparel, and home décor, all offered at unbeatable thrift store prices. Whether you're hunting for a rare ornament, a cozy holiday sweater, or a one-of-a-kind gift, there's something for everyone.

"We love bringing the community together with a little mid-year magic," says Tabitha Johnson, assistant manager of the Vail Depot Thrift Store. "It's a fun way to beat the heat, find some great deals, and support the Vail Food Bank efforts."

Indeed, every purchase made during the event and throughout the year directly supports the ReSources Vail Food Bank, helping to provide essential food assistance to over 650 families each month and weekend meals to



local school children. It's shopping with a purpose, where every dollar spent helps put meals on tables and hope in hearts.

Another meaningful way to support ReSources is by donating your gently used items that are in good condition to the thrift store. Every item donated helps stock the store and generates funding for Food Bank programs. If you are looking for an opportunity to connect in the community, consider volunteering at the Thrift Store or Food Bank. Please visit www.resourcesvail.org to register.

The store welcomes both shoppers and donors during its regular hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM. Donations are always appreciated, especially items such as:

- Small home appliances
- Cookware, bakeware, and dishes
- Home décor, artwork, and bedding
- Small furniture pieces
- Toys and games

Whether you're a die-hard holiday enthusiast or simply looking for a fun and meaningful way to spend a summer afternoon, Christmas in July at the Vail Depot Thrift Store promises to warm your heart and lift your spirits. Come for the festive finds, stay for the community connection, and leave knowing you've made a difference.

By Tabitha Johnson, Assistant Manager, Vail Depot Thrift Store



AZ District Optimist Oratorical Contest Winners

The Heat Optimist Club sponsored two students in the Arizona Optimist District Oratorical Contest. The contest was held on May 3rd at the Desert Diamond Casino and Convention Center. Ten students from Arizona competed for scholarship prizes. Each contestant spoke for 5 minutes on the topic "How Optimism Has Guided Me Through Trying Times". Rene Cruz won first place and a \$2500 scholarship. He will go on to compete in the Regional Optimist Oratorical Contest in July, with the opportunity to win a \$15,000 scholarship. Maxwell White won



Maxwell White (left) and Rene Cruz (right)

second place and a \$1500 scholarship. Both are Tanque Verde H.S. Students and were sponsored by the Heat Optimist Club. The Heat Optimist Club meets the third Thursday of each month at Denny's in the Houghton Town Center. Guests are welcome. Visit our website <https://heatoptimistclub.org> for more information about our organization.

*By Marcia Aurand
President, Heat Optimist Club*



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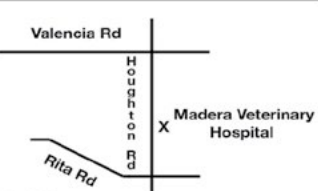
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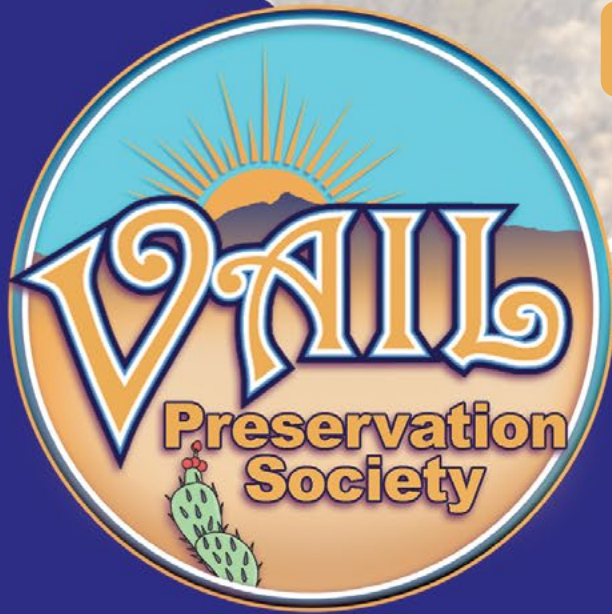
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Independence Day: A History

The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution. On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. The Fourth of July 2023 is on Tuesday, July 4.

When the initial battles in the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775, few colonists desired com-

plete independence from Great Britain, and those who did were considered radical.

By the middle of the following year, however, many more colonists had come to favor independence, thanks to growing hostility against Britain and the spread of revolutionary sentiments such as those expressed in the bestselling pamphlet "Common Sense," published by Thomas Paine in early 1776.

On June 7, when the Continental Congress met at the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, the Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion calling for the colonies' independence.

Amid heated debate, Congress postponed the vote on Lee's resolution, but appointed a five-man committee—including Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman



of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York—to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain.

Did you know? John Adams believed that July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence, and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest. Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826—the 50th anniversary

of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

On July 4th, the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence, which had been written largely by Jefferson. Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on the 4th became the day that was celebrated as the birth of American independence.

History.com

Game Time! DIRECTIONS: Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

Easy Sudoku

Solution - No cheating!

4	6	9	7	5	8	1	2	
8	1	7	9	2	4	5	6	3
5	3	2	8	1	6	9	4	7
9	4	6	5	3	7	1	7	8
1	5	3	4	7	8	6	2	9
7	2	8	6	9	1	4	5	3
6	7	5	1	8	3	2	9	4
2	8	1	5	4	9	7	3	6
3	9	4	2	6	7	5	8	1

Medium Sudoku

Solution - No cheating!

6	1	7	4	8	3	9	5	2
4	5	2	9	1	7	6	8	3
9	8	3	6	2	5	7	1	4
2	6	4	7	9	8	1	3	5
1	3	9	2	5	6	4	7	8
5	7	8	1	3	4	2	6	9
3	4	6	5	7	9	8	2	1
8	9	1	3	6	2	5	4	7
7	2	5	8	4	1	3	9	6

Hard Sudoku

Solution - No cheating!

9	7	5	6	4	2	3	8	1
3	2	8	7	1	9	6	5	4
1	6	4	8	5	3	9	7	2
2	8	1	9	3	5	4	7	6
7	9	6	1	8	4	2	5	3
4	5	3	2	6	7	1	9	8
6	1	2	7	9	8	5	3	4
8	3	9	5	4	6	1	2	7
5	7	4	3	1	9	6	8	5

A History of Vail

Bounded by the Rincon, Empire and Santa Rita Mountains, the Vail area is a point of convergence for many cultures. Seasonal migrations of prehistoric Hohokam and later the Tohono O'odham took them along the Cienega Creek riparian corridor. Early military reconnaissance forces and surveyors passed nearby. The Mormon Battalion built a wagon road through what would become Vail in 1848. This wagon route was well-traveled by westward-bound emigrants looking for a new life. Following the Gadsden Purchase in 1854, the region was transferred from Mexico to the United States. Seneca Station built by the Butterfield Overland Mail in 1858 alongside the cool waters of Cienega Creek was followed by freighting companies, like Tulley and Ochoa who used long freight wagon trains pulled by mule teams to haul goods between California and Missouri.

Vail gets its name from brothers Walter and Edward Vail. Walter Vail stepped out of a stagecoach onto the dusty streets of Tucson in 1876. Twenty-four years old, with a keen sense of purpose, he intended to become a successful businessman and rancher. Edward arrived in 1879 with the same goal. Walter Vail and partners purchased the Empire Ranch, near Sonoita, and built it into one of the most important ranches in southern Arizona. Edward operated the Vail Ranch in the Santa Rita Mountains.

In 1880 the Southern Pacific Railroad forged a ribbon of steel across Arizona. Walter and business partners purchased land along the proposed rail line and negotiated right-of-way agreements with the Southern Pacific Railroad. One of which became Vail. The tracks were the catalyst

for Vails Siding where a passing track, a Siding, was built on the last flat piece of land before the tracks followed the old wagon road into Cienega Creek. The community first appears as Vails, on the Roskrue Map commissioned by Pima County in 1893. The section of track from Vail eastward to Dragoon Summit was the most difficult and expensive to build and maintain along the entire southern Arizona route. Vail became a break-of-bulk site, a point of transfer for commercial activities: stagecoach travel, freighting, mining, and ranching throughout southeastern Arizona.

In 1927, Highway 80, The Broadway of America, the first southern, all-weather coast to coast roadway came right through downtown Vail. Old Vail Road contains remnants of this important roadway. In 1912 a second set of tracks were laid by the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad. Soon Vail became known as the Town Between the Tracks. Vail has grown dramatically since those early years when the population hovered between 25 and 150. The beautiful landscape, great schools and friendly community have been a catalyst for explosive growth; about 550% since 2001. Today, the greater Vail community encompasses about 425 square miles. The train no longer stops in Vail but the double set of railroad tracks that bound the original founding site are a reminder of the community's roots as a railroad service point.

J.J. Lamb, Vail Preservation Society





Save Water in the Garden

If you are new to Tucson and have been used to water flowing freely from the sky, you will need to adjust to the fact that we get very little rainfall, and we shovel sunshine daily. Here are newbie tips

Install Drip Irrigation

One of the best ways to water plants efficiently is with drip irrigation. The result is water being delivered directly to the root zone of plants, eliminating runoff and losses through evaporation. Using a hose works as well with a little more planning, **also be sure to run the hose as water can be scalding hot at this time of year** – keep this in mind as well with small children or when you go to wash down the dog.

Build a Rain Garden

Include a rain garden on your property to slow down and help filter pollutants from storm runoff. Rain gardens can be large or small and designed to include plants that appeal to your home's design aesthetic.

Install Water Need Plant Zones

Planting water needs zones is very helpful in saving water usage. Adding a shade tree is a great way to assist in the cooling of the garden and so doing reducing water for under story plantings.

Install Porous Hardscape

Consider porous materials when designing outdoor living areas. Gravel or pebble patios combine good looks with low-maintenance upkeep that's also easy on the environment. Porous surfaces allow water to drain freely, instead of creating storm runoff during monsoons. Remember organic mulch if used to maintain moisture around new plantings may need to be contained and replaced - as rain; your hose or extreme dryness may make it travel. Depending on the plant, you may improve the soil with garden compost mixed back with the native soil, or create a raised bed. If in doubt ask a garden professional as there are lots of different garden circumstances and preferences.

Special Note: Some neighborhoods have restrictions on what can be planted and even the gravel that can be installed. If in doubt check it out.

 **DON'T FORGET TO WATER THE PLANTS**



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Staying Safe in Vail's Peak Summer Season

As we move into the heart of summer, the Rincon Valley Fire District wants to remind residents to stay vigilant as we face intense heat, active monsoons, and elevated wildfire risk throughout the season. This year, our firefighters have responded to 27 brush fires, 6 hiker rescues, and two children locked in vehicles. Let's work together to protect what matters most this summer.

Extreme Heat: A Silent Danger

Southern Arizona heat can be relentless. Whether you're working outdoors, hiking, or simply running errands, it's vital to:

- Hydrate before you're thirsty, drink water frequently, even if you're not active.
- Avoid peak heat hours and wear light, breathable clothing.
- Check on vulnerable individuals, older adults, children, and pets can overheat quickly.



- Never leave anyone or pets in a parked vehicle. Temperatures inside can become deadly in minutes.

Monsoon Safety: Flash Floods and Lightning

While monsoons offer welcome relief from the heat, they also bring hazards. Every year, our firefighters respond to weather-related emergencies that are entirely preventable. Remember:

- Turn around, don't drown. Never attempt to cross flooded washes or roads.
- Stay indoors during lightning. If you can hear thunder, you're close enough to be struck.
- Secure outdoor items, high winds can turn unsecured furniture or debris into dangerous projectiles.
- Stay alert for emergency notifications via local alerts or weather apps. Go to MyAlerts.pima.gov to sign up and start receiving emergency notifications.

Wildfire Awareness: One Spark is All It Takes

Dry grasses and brush are common in our area. During monsoon season, lightning and human activity can quickly ignite a wildfire. Here's how you can help reduce the risk:

- Avoid outdoor burning of any kind.
- Create defensible space around your home by clearing flammable vegetation at least 30 feet out.
- Use power equipment early in the day when humidity is higher and winds are lower.
- Report smoke or suspicious activity immediately to 911.

Jim Tucker started his career with Rincon Valley Fire District in 2005 where he rose through the ranks. Currently serving as the District's Fire Chief, he has a strong commitment to the community.



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In CdT

News From Corona de Tucson



CdT Summer 2025

Summer is here which means less activities in the community. The Corona de Tucson Community Alliance performed the road cleanup of Houghton from Sahuarita to Camino del Toro as well as the cleanup in front of Sycamore and Corona Foothills in May just before the hot weather set in. The annual spring BBQ was held to celebrate the summer break. They are now on hiatus until September.

Fellowship at American Legion Post 109 is also on hiatus until September. Watch their webpage (Post109.org) and local forums

and Facebook pages for any activities they may host.

Corona Cares will continue to serve the community through the summer albeit with less requests for services. Volunteer appreciation volunteer training will be held in July during this quieter season.

If you are looking for activities during the hot summer times, keep an eye on social media for postings of what may be taking place. Enjoy your time to rest, relax, travel, whatever you have planned.

By Author

Climate Review



A Look Back

May 2025 and Full Spring Climate Report

May, the driest month in Southern Arizona, was a mixed bag, rainfall wise. Some areas were below average, some average, and some above average. I only recorded 0.01", which is below my 15-year average of 0.05." The Tucson airport only recorded 0.03", which is below its 30-year average of 0.20." Rainfall amounts in the Tucson metro area varied from a trace to about ½."

The far east side of Tucson, against the Rincon's, received the higher amounts, and part of northern Tucson and Oro Valley received about ¼ of an inch. Most of Vail and Tucson received between 0.01 to 0.10." The precipitation occurred during the three days of May 4-6.

On the temperature side, the average monthly high temperature of 91.8 degrees was exactly normal and the low of 63.2 degrees was 1.4 degrees above normal. So, May was slightly above the 30-year average and was Tucson's 20th warmest May since the 1880s.

For the entire spring (March – May), I recorded 0.55" of rain, which is below my 15-year average of 0.89." The Tucson airport recorded 0.31" which is below its 30-year average of 1.00" even. For the Tucson metro area, spring rain varied from about 0.2" to 1.5" with the higher amounts against the Catalina and Rincon mountains, which is typical. See rainlog.org and filter by day, month, or date range to see rainfall amounts in the area.



On the temperature side, spring 2025 was the 13th warmest on record for Tucson, with the average high and lows being about 1 degree above average when you average each day of the entire season. At the time of this writing in early June, a rare rain event occurred on the 1st and lasted until very early June 2nd. Parts of central and northern Arizona received additional rainfall on June 3 and 4th. This rare rain event dropped ¼ to 1" rain amounts in the Tucson area. Parts of North Phoenix and Nogales received around 2." Due to this, my June rainfall will be above average. In fact, the rain I received Sunday evening, June 1, equals what I typically receive in April, May, and June combined. I will discuss this in next month's issue. Since this rainfall occurred before June 15, it will not count towards the monsoon. The climate prediction center is still forecasting an above-normal monsoon this summer. We shall see.

John Simpson has lived in southern Arizona the past 36 years and Vail for 20 of those years. John has a bachelor's degree in



Atmospheric Science from the University of Missouri and a master's degree in Atmospheric Physics from the U of A. He loves exploring the outdoors with his family and photographing weather and the beauty of southern Arizona.

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(520) 490-0654

Word Search

Weather

F O R E C A S T Y W F O G R T O
D P C W N T R T I N V T E B H D
R I T H O T E N H E N T S L E A
I S H G O N D M R U E U F I R N
Z U G N H Y S C P M N A S Z M R
Z I U I P E A H O E H D C Z O O
L S O N Y S I R U R R I E A M T
E L R T T R A E E M M A L R E P
I E D H S B U N N A I L T D T F
E C O G R O H O N A A D I U E R
N O O I A E R U P U C M I A R E
O L L L I T S F Q N T I R T H E
L D F T N T A S H O W E R O Y Z
C Y T I L I B I S I V O E R T E
Y T I M O N S O O N O N D L U S
C C L O U D S E I R R U L F S H

BAROMETER
BLIZZARD
CELSIUS
CLOUDS
COLD
CYCLONE
DOWNPOUR
DRIZZLE
DROUGHT
FAHRENHEIT

FLOOD
FLURRIES
FOG
FORECAST
FREEZE
FROST
HAIL
HOT
HUMIDITY
HURRICANE

ICE
LIGHTNING
MIST
MONSOON
OVERCAST
RAIN
SHOWER
SLEET
SNOW
SQUALL

STORM
SUNNY
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THUNDER
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WINDY

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Monsoon Photo by Tanner Curtis, 2024

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Children in foster care who have a CASA volunteer are more likely to succeed in school, adjust to change, and they're half as likely to re-enter the foster care system. Be that caring adult to Change a Child's Story.

Get Involved Today!



CASAofPimaCounty.org

520-724-2060

Healthy Guidance

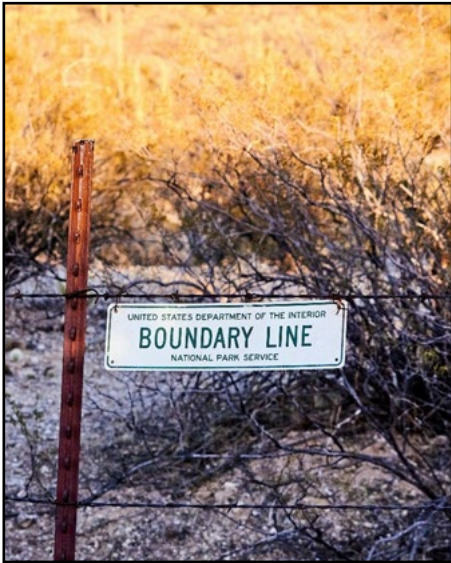
Transforming Lives



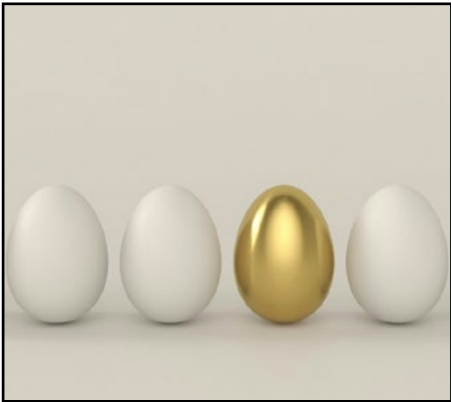
Independence and Differentiation

A key component of independence is differentiation. When we look at our Nation’s history, we see how we distinguished ourselves from Great Britain. Many other breakaway countries have separated themselves based on the contrasts between themselves and the country that previously ruled them. These variations create the wide world that we live in.

And it starts within ourselves first. It can take knowing who we are not before we realize who we are. Differentiation is a major step towards independence for children, relationships, communities, and countries. In order to differentiate, we must broaden our perspective. Taking a step back, we begin to see where we end and others begin.



Differentiation is about boundaries, not only physical ones, but mental, spiritual, financial and more. When speaking of countries, it means creating laws,



managing resources, importing and exporting goods. When it comes to ourselves, it’s similar. We make rules about our personal energy (laws and resources) and we decide what comes in and out of our boundaries at what cost (import/export). In a Nation, we often count on government leaders and committees to set up these limits. In our own lives, we must be the highest authority regarding our boundaries and resources for our independence to be successful.

It is highly beneficial to have guidance from a wise elder. This may be an individual or a whole community. I offer personal sessions that assist you in discerning your Inner Voice and True Self. Use your own discretion to determine what is in your highest greatest good for your own sovereignty and evolution.

Hollie Warnick is a Behavioral Kinesiologist and Reiki Master utilizing behavioral health concepts, applied kinesiology, and energy medicine to help clients love themselves and their life forward, backward, inside, and out. Join her world via podcast, personal transformation sessions, classes and more at HollieWarnick.com or call (520) 800-4383.



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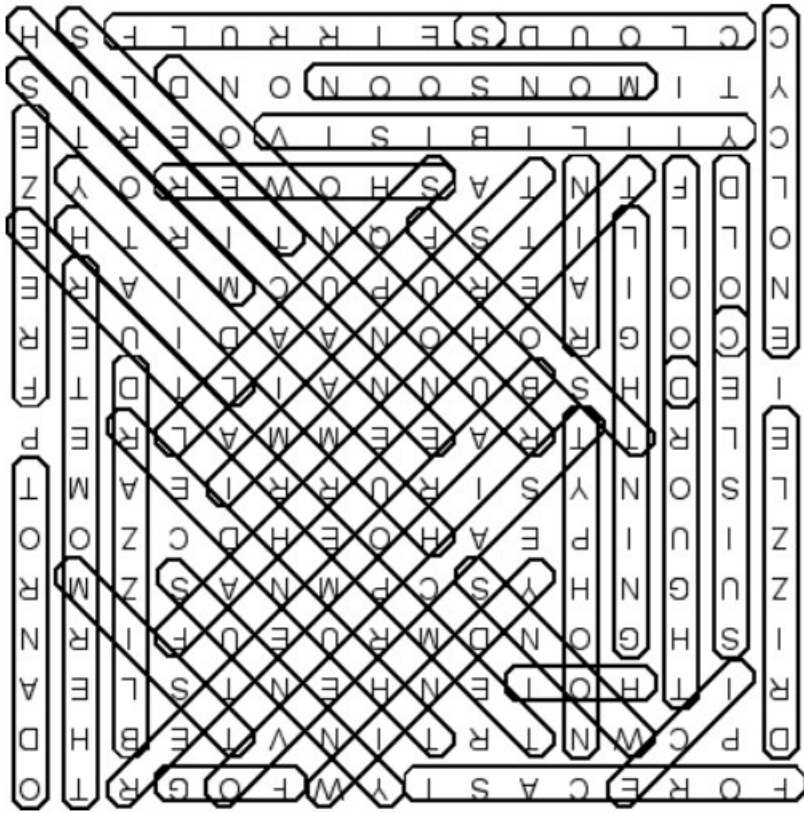
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Word Search

Solved

The hidden word is: PRECIPITATION

WINDY	SQUALL	HURRICANE	FAHRENHEIT
VISIBILITY	SNOW	HUMIDITY	DROUGHT
TYPHOON	SLEET	HOT	DRIZZLE
TSUNAMI	SHOWER	HAIL	DOWNPOUR
TORNADO	RAIN	FROST	CYCLONE
THUNDER	OVERCAST	FREEZE	COLD
THERMOMETER	MONSOON	FORECAST	CLOUDS
TEMPERATURE	MIST	FOG	CELSIUS
SUNNY	LIGHTNING	FLURRIES	BLIZZARD
STORM	ICE	FLOOD	BAROMETER



Weather



How to Help Your Teen Open Their First Checking Account (Without Taking Over)

Your teen's earning money—whether from a part-time job, allowance, or side hustle—and suddenly, the piggy bank isn't cutting it. It's time for a checking account. But how do you guide them without taking over?

Start with a Conversation

Before filling out forms or ordering debit cards, talk. Ask open-ended questions like:

- “What do you think a checking account is for?”
- “What would you use a debit card for?”
- “What worries you most about managing money?”

This sets the tone for partnership, not a lecture and helps you understand where they need support.

Pick the Right Account—Together

Not all teen accounts are equal. Look for one with no fees, solid mobile tools and features that support beginners. Hughes' Free Checking offers:

- No monthly fees
 - No minimum balance
 - A free Visa® debit card
 - Access to mobile banking and myCards tools
- thevailvoice.com

Compare options side-by-side and ask what matters to them. Alerts? Mobile deposits? Giving them a say builds ownership from the start.

Set It Up Side-by-Side

Let your teen take the lead while you guide. Walk through:

- Entering personal info
 - Activating and securing the debit card
 - Downloading the mobile app
 - Setting up notifications and alerts
- They'll feel confident using their account and less likely to ask you every time they get stuck.

Teach the Tools

Swiping a card is easy. Knowing what that swipe means? That's the goal.

Explore tools together:

- **Mobile banking:** View balances and track spending
- **Transaction alerts:** Spot fraud and understand patterns
- **myCards:** Freeze/unfreeze cards, set spending limits
- **Direct deposit:** For job income (major milestone!)

Then step back and let them manage it.

Let Them Learn (Even If They Mess Up)

They might overspend or forget a transaction. That's okay. Instead of jumping in to fix it:

- Ask what happened and what they'd do next time
- Discuss tools like low balance alerts
- Guide them through contacting support if needed

A \$5 mistake now teaches lessons that prevent \$5,000 mistakes later.

Set Boundaries, Not Ultimatums
Trust them while setting healthy limits. Consider:

- Agreeing on spending thresholds
 - Encouraging auto-transfers for savings
 - Reviewing account activity with them, not behind their back
- You're not controlling the account; you're co-creating structure and accountability.

Celebrate the Win

Opening a checking account is a big step. Celebrate it!

- Let them choose a first debit card purchase
 - Send a congrats message
 - Talk about their next money goal
- This reinforces responsibility as something exciting, not stressful.

Keep the Door Open

You're not disappearing, you're stepping aside. Check in without hovering:

- “Want to go over your statement together?”
- “Set any savings goals this month?”

Remind them you're always here if questions pop up.

Ready to Start?

Opening a checking account is just the beginning. Tools like MoneyCoach and teen-friendly features from Hughes help your teen learn financial independence, with your support just a conversation away.

Explore youth accounts and take the first step today at HughesFCU.org



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